



Faith Community Church
Sovereign God

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Ask God to open our eyes to see where we are allowing personal preferences and comforts to distort God's love for all humanity.

Key Takeaways:

1. Compassion requires us to see, feel, and act to relieve a situation.
2. When we show compassion, we mirror God's compassion for the lost.
3. God may confront us by removing temporal things we allow to define our happiness.
4. God leads us to have His heart for humanity by serving instead of spectating.

Discussion Questions:

1. Last week you were to write a letter to God expressing your honest feelings of anger, then respond to yourself from God's perspective based on biblical truths. Would you like to share?
2. Compassion is described as to see, feel, and act in order to relieve a situation. Read Acts 3:1-8 and outline those steps. Do you have a personal example?
3. If you were Peter or John in the Acts passage, what might keep you from stepping out in faith as they did? What puts you in "spectator mode?" (Philip 2:13, Prov 31:8)
4. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in loyal love. How *should* this affect our actions toward others? (Exodus 34:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)
5. Consider the truth that God is sovereign over both "good" things and "bad" things. How might this change how you respond to circumstances? (Deut 32:39, Hosea 6:1)
6. In the Jonah story, Jonah cared more about a plant than an entire city that was destined to hell.

- a. What “plants” are in your life? What kinds of things affect your happiness?
 - b. Is there a specific group of people that you would cheer if God destroyed?
 - c. How does God feel about your plant, and people group? (1 Timothy 2:4, Isaiah 49:6, Revelation 22:17)
7. What steps can you take - individually and as a group - to develop God’s heart for humanity? (John 3:16, John 4:34-38)

Practical Applications:

1. Watch for a “compassionate” situation one day this week. Journal how you see and feel, and then determine and write down a way to act and relieve. Oh yeah. Then DO IT. Share next week!
2. Analyze your own heart. What is keeping you from serving in God’s Kingdom? Anger? Frustration? Anxiety? Insecurity? Make a list of Bible verses that apply to your specific “bench attitude.” Choose to “work out” that bad attitude and “step out” by faith in some area of service.
3. Plan a group activity where you can demonstrate compassion to a person or group you would normally shun. (Seriously. Don’t choose an easy target.)
4. Make a list of the “good” things happening in your life, and then a list of the “bad” things. Pray over those lists daily - thanking God for being Sovereign over both lists. Ask Him to show you how He is shaping you, and WATCH for His answer.
5. As the Pastor mentioned, pray these 3 prayers every day. Journal how you see God answer.
 - a. Lord, help me to live in gratitude for the gifts You give; and to hold them lightly, not tightly.
 - b. Lord, help me to love You and those created in Your image... more than the gifts You give.
 - c. And Sovereign God, help me get off the spectator bench, and to use Your gifts to serve others.

Closing Prayer: Father, You have made us look at hard truths about ourselves and about Your Sovereignty. Help us to trust You and join You in what You are doing - both in us and in the world You love. In Jesus’ name.