

Discussion Questions



Small Group Guide: Making Compassion Your Story

Overview

This sermon explores the biblical call to compassion through the ministry of Compassion Canada, examining how Jesus was moved with compassion and how we can follow His example in our daily lives and through supporting children in poverty.

Key Takeaways

1. **Compassion is more than a feeling—it's action.**
Compassion means recognizing suffering, deeply caring, AND taking action to help.
2. **Jesus lived a life moved by compassion.** He had compassion for the spiritually lost, the physically needy, and those requiring healing.
3. **Small acts of obedience can have generational impact.**
One man's response 70 years ago has grown into a ministry serving 2.3 million children.
4. **God's compassion for us never runs out.** "His compassions never fail. They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

5. **Investment in a child sparks generational change** that impacts families, communities, and nations.
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Discussion Questions

Section 1: Understanding Compassion

1. The sermon defined compassion as "recognizing the suffering of others, deeply caring, and then taking action to help." How does this definition challenge or expand your understanding of compassion?
2. Read Mark 6:34, Matthew 15:32, and Mark 1:40-41. What do these passages reveal about Jesus' character? How did His compassion lead to specific actions?
3. Shelly said, "Compassion without action is just observation." Can you think of times when you've observed suffering but struggled to take action? What held you back?

Section 2: Personal Reflection

4. The sermon shared several stories of compassion—from a PSW supporting a grieving daughter, to Craig leading homeless outreach. Which story resonated most with you and why?
5. Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us that God's compassions "are new every morning." How have you experienced God's fresh compassion in your life recently?
6. What does it look like for compassion to be a "thread running all the way through" your life story? What would need to change for that to be true?

Section 3: Responding to Global Need

7. The sermon mentioned that looking at global needs can feel overwhelming, but "we can't do everything, but we all can do something." How do you balance awareness of global poverty with feeling paralyzed by its scope?
8. Compassion's approach is Christ-centered, child-focused, and church-driven. Why is each of these elements important? How does this model differ from other approaches to poverty relief?
9. The video showed how a \$49/month sponsorship transformed Nora's entire life and family. Does this challenge how you think about the impact of "small" financial gifts?

Section 4: Local Application

10. The sermon emphasized that compassion isn't just for overseas—it's for wherever God has planted us. What needs exist in our local community that we could respond to with compassion?
 11. Pastor Ike mentioned your church's Antioch series and expansion. How can compassion be woven into the identity and mission of this church in Leamington?
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Practical Applications

Individual Commitments

Choose one action to take this week:

- **Pray daily** for one specific need you've become aware of (local or global)
- **Research** a child sponsorship opportunity through Compassion Canada
- **Reach out** to someone in your life who is suffering and offer practical help

- [] **Examine your budget** to identify \$49 you could redirect toward compassionate giving
- [] **Write a letter** to someone who has shown you compassion, thanking them
- [] **Volunteer** for a local ministry serving vulnerable populations

Group Challenge

As a group, commit to one of these actions:

1. **Sponsor a child together** as a small group, sharing the monthly cost and letter-writing responsibilities
2. **Organize a compassion project** in your community (food drive, homeless outreach, etc.)
3. **Host a prayer gathering** focused on praying for children in poverty and local needs
4. **Invite a speaker** from a local compassion ministry to share with your group

Accountability Partner

Pair up with someone in the group to check in with during the week about your commitment.

Scripture Memory

Lamentations 3:22-23 "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Closing Reflection Questions

- What is one way God is calling you personally to make compassion part of your story?
 - How can this group support each other in living more compassionately?
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Closing Prayer

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for His never-ending compassion toward us
 - Ask for eyes to see suffering around us (near and far)
 - Pray for courage and obedience to take action
 - Lift up children in poverty and the work of local churches serving them
 - Ask God to make compassion a defining characteristic of your group and church
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"Love is an action and it's never just a feeling." - Bell Hooks