

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## Compassion Stew

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We hope you all have a great Thanksgiving week! Take some time to reflect on all that God has blessed you with! Our offices will be closed this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

## MEMORY VERSE

*“So which of these three do you think was a neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?” And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’ Then Jesus said, ‘Go and do likewise.’ - Luke 10: 36-37*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – COMPASSION STEW

### GETTING STARTED

This week’s message was titled “Compassion Stew”. If you were to receive “Compassion Stew” from someone else, what would you like it to contain? Name whatever elements you would like to have in your stew.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week’s sermon dealt with compassion and pity. Though they are similar, there is a distinct difference between the two. What do you feel is the difference? Is it ever wrong to have either of them? Why or why not?
2. As said in the sermon, pity “looks down”, but compassion “comes down”. Though we are called to have compassion, are we ever called to have pity? Explain your thoughts.
3. When having compassion, their (the person you have compassion on) pain becomes your pain. Is this an easy thing to do? Can you truly have compassion if you don’t feel their pain?
4. For most people, taking on extra pain is not always the easiest thing to do, so having compassion takes sacrifice. Go around and have some people share a time that someone had compassion them. Also, if some want to share, tell of a time where you had compassion on someone else.
5. Feeling someone’s pain can include allowing them to share their feelings and relating to someone’s struggle. Inevitably, people are going to vent their problem to you and let you know what is on their

- heart. But what if the person's "venting" becomes complaining? Are we to validate their complaints? If not, then how can we have compassion while still not encouraging their complaining?
6. The above question can be very difficult to handle. Though we want to bear burdens with others, we do not want to get into the habit of endorsing complaining attitudes. We always want to tell the truth with love and grace. If someone has had an experience with doing this, go around and share how you handled it.
  7. The point was made that with compassion, our resources become their resources. This really puts compassion into action. Many people are willing to listen, pray, and give advice to others, but when it comes to giving someone something that belongs to them, all kinds of excuses begin to surface. Are you one of these people? Be honest and share with the group.
  8. If someone needs your help, and it is completely within your power to help them with the resources that you have, if you do not share with them, then did you really have compassion on them? Why or why not?
  9. In everything, God calls us to have discernment. When giving compassion, explain how we can use discernment and wisdom to prevent us from making dangerous mistakes.
  10. Jesus is the King of compassion. Can you explain why? Go around and share your thoughts.
  11. God knew our sin separated us from Him, but rather than looking down with pity, He came down to show compassion and save us. Not only did He save us, He literally paid for our sins, though He had no sin. If we are Christ's followers, and he modeled compassion in this fashion, what responsibility do we have? Is compassion a suggestion or command?

### **BRINGING IT HOME**

***“FOR HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN FOR US, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD” – 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 21***

1. This Thanksgiving week, many of us will celebrate with family and friends, but there are many who do not have joy this holiday week. This week, be pro-active in finding someone to help out and have compassion on. It is a guarantee that God will bring you at least 1 person to help out. Keep your eyes open for that person this week, and help them! (there will probably be more than one)
2. The compassion that Christ showed us is unbelievable. We should be seeking people to help in the outside world, but we can't forget to show the same love to our families. Make an effort this week to have compassion on someone in your family and someone in your small group. Make yourself available to them.