

## Engaging in God's Compassion for Our World

Message 6 of 6 in the series: "Engage: Participate, Join, Get Involved, Take Part"

"Compassion" = to show God's grace to others, have mercy, feel sympathy, have pity.

### A. The Lord is compassionate to us.

**"The Lord is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love...** He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. The Lord is like a father to his children, **tender and compassionate to those who fear him.** For he knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust."

Psalm 103:8 & 10-14 (NLT)

### B. Jesus told us to be compassionate to others.

"One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus replied, 'What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?' The man answered, **"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind."** And, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** 'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!' The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, **'And who is my neighbor?'** Jesus replied with a story: 'A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, **he felt compassion for him.** Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, "Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here." **Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?'** Jesus asked. The man replied, **'The one who showed him mercy.'** Then Jesus said, **'Yes, now go and do the same.'**" Luke 10:25-37 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** Our neighborhood is bigger than we thought. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. **And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth.**" Acts 1:8 (NLT)

### C. Four important ways we can engage in showing compassion to others:

1. We can help someone in need.

"If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows **no compassion**—how can God's love be in that person?" 1 John 3:17 (NLT)

2. We can tell someone the Good News about Jesus.

"Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.'"

Matthew 9:35-38 (NLT)

**IMPORTANT!** The greatest need everyone in the world has, is a personal relationship with Jesus.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for **there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**" Acts 4:12 (NIV)

3. We can pray for someone.

**"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.** Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

4. We can share our lives with someone.

“We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News **but our own lives, too.**”  
1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

“**Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them...** Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.” Romans 12:9a & 15 (NLT)

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### Connect Group Questions:

Read Psalm 103:8-14 and Luke 10:25-37. Then discuss the following questions:

1. What does the word “compassion” mean to you?
2. Describe a time in your life when you experienced God’s compassion. How did this experience impact you?
3. Who is the most compassionate person you know? What makes them so compassionate?
4. Discuss the following ways we can show compassion to others:
  - We can help someone in need. (James 2:14-17, 1 John 3:17)
  - We can tell someone the Good News about Jesus. (Matthew 9:35-38)
  - We can pray for someone. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)
  - We can share our lives with someone. (Romans 12:9 & 15, 1 Thessalonians 2:8)

What would our lives look like if we did all four? What would our world look like?

5. Have someone in your group look up the homepage for Compassion International ([www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)) on their phone. Spend a few minutes in the “about us” section discussing what they do and why they do it.
6. This past Sunday we heard Jonathan Almonte’s testimony. What moved you about his story?
7. Read Acts 1:8. Then spend some time as a group praying for the Holy Spirit to give everyone in our church the desire and the power to show compassion to others locally, regionally, and globally.

### Quotations to consider:

“We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need – regardless of race, politics, class, and religion – is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.”  
Tim Keller

“Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.” Henri J.M. Nouwen