



Week 1 - A Vision for Compassion

December 6, 2020

Group Discussion Guide

Begin with 5 minutes of silence + prayer (7-10 minutes)

Begin your gathering with five minutes together in prayerful silence.

Why silence? Our world is so busy and distracted, with technology filling in any gaps in between. With all that moving, it can be hard to hear others and hear the voice of God. As we gather together, let's press pause and enter into a moment of quiet so we can hear what God is saying to us and through others.

Once you've sat in silence, acknowledging each other's presence and God's presence, centering yourselves on Him, have someone pray to open your time together.

Read this overview (1 minute)

It's always good to look forward and hope for clarity (as we started in 2020), but in reality, it's typically looking back that we see with the greatest clarity. Using Isaiah, we'll look at the story of God's people in crisis and calamity and how God turns their tragedy (exile) into blessing (purification/refining). Through the eyes of faith, God refocuses our vision to see compassion, justice, hope, joy, and renewal.

This week we're focusing in on having a vision of compassion.

Scripture + Debrief in small groups (30-40 minutes)

Split your group into smaller groups to read the following Scriptures and go through some of these questions:

- Take turns reading the following passages: **Exodus 34:6-7; Isaiah 49:8-26, 13; Luke 6:36.**
- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your level of compassion? Explain.
- How would you define compassion? How do the Scriptures seem to talk about compassion?
- What is the difference between being polite and actually being compassionate? Is there a difference?
- Was compassion expressed towards you growing up in your family? How did that affect you?

- What did Sunday's message teach you about compassion? What particularly challenged you or resonated with you?
- In Sunday's message, Dan said that, "When God's people are in distress, he shows us compassion." How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
- Dan also said, "When others are in distress, God calls his people to show them compassion." In what way have you seen this to be true recently?
- If compassion consists of two parts (one part feeling and another part action), which side do you tend to lean towards? How can you tangibly pursue growth in the area you are perhaps lacking in?

Transition back to one large group (20 minutes)

Ask a few questions about each person's time in their smaller groups:

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions?
- How can we as individuals and as a group practice compassion?

Finish with prayer (10 minutes)

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.