



WINTER CHURCHWIDE STUDY

ACTION AND COMPASSION | WEEK 4

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **I Know That I Know** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **None Like You** (*Jesus Culture*)
- **Worthy** (*Elevation Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Mark 1:29-42
- Mark 8:1-3
- Isaiah 58:6-7

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application of His Word.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share about a time when someone showed you unexpected compassion or helped you in a practical way. How did it impact you?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

Key Theme: The gospel is not just about salvation from sin; it includes service and compassion. Jesus came as a Shepherd and Doctor who cares for the whole person—body, soul, and spirit. When we follow Jesus, we join in his work to transform our communities through action-oriented love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

1. Understanding Compassion in the Kingdom

Read Isaiah 58:6-7 together

- Pastor Brian said, "The Kingdom of God is action-oriented." What does this mean for how we live out our faith day-to-day?
- How does this passage challenge a "private faith" mentality?
- What's the difference between the gospel being "a plane ticket to heaven" versus "a message of how to enter into God's holy presence on earth"?

2. Jesus as Our Model

Read Mark 1:40-42

- The text says Jesus was "filled with compassion" and touched the leper. Why is the detail about Jesus touching him significant?
- Look at the list of Jesus' compassionate actions (eating with outcasts, forgiving the sinful, healing, feeding the hungry, etc.). Which one stands out to you most? Why?
- Pastor Brian said, "Jesus could have used his power to do anything. And what did he use it for?" How does Jesus' use of power challenge our culture's view of power?

3. Compassion Remakes the World

Reflect on the story about the Christian agency in Busafi.

- The team's answer to "Why are you doing this?" was simply, "Just to be with you." What does this tell us about the nature of Christian compassion?
- How does "doing good deeds show a skeptical world what our Father looks like"?
- Pastor Brian asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" How does Jesus reverse Cain's compassionless heart in us?

4. Restoration to Community

Read Mark 1:29-31

The sermon emphasized that "when Jesus restores people, He restores them to be a meaningful part of the community." Why is community restoration as important as individual healing? Who in your life or community might need to be restored to meaningful connection?

5. A Complete Gospel

- Pastor Brian said, "A gospel that doesn't respond to human needs isn't a whole gospel." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- How can we balance truth-telling with compassion? Where have you seen the church lean too heavily in one direction?
- What's the danger of having "compassion fatigue"? How do we resist it while also knowing our limitations?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- Is there an area of your life where you haven't fully submitted to Jesus' Lordship?
- Are you living in the authority Jesus has given you, or are you living a powerless Christian life?
- Is there unconfessed sin you need to bring before Jesus for forgiveness?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Personal Reflection:

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- Where is God calling me to show compassion right now?
- What practical need in my community could I help meet?

Group Action Steps:

Choose ONE of the following as a group:

1. Identify a local need — Pick one practical way your group can serve together in the next month (examples: serve at a shelter, help an elderly neighbor, provide meals for a family in need, clean up a local park)
2. Personal commitments — Have each person share one specific action they'll take this week to show compassion (be specific: who, what, when)
3. Prayer walking — Plan a time to prayer walk your neighborhood or town, asking God to show you needs and opportunities to serve

Accountability Questions:

- Who will you tell about your commitment?
- How will we check in with each other about following through?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Have each person share which of these resonates most:

1. Compassion remakes the world in our Father's image — God is "the compassionate and gracious God" (Exodus 34:6)
2. Jesus restores people to be meaningful parts of community — Healing is relational, not just individual
3. Jesus uses his power to set people free and heal — His priorities show us what matters most
4. A gospel without response to human needs isn't a whole gospel — Faith requires both truth and action
5. Know your limitations, but resist compassion fatigue — We can't do everything, but we must do something

CLOSING THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence:

"This week, I can 'be Jesus' to _____ by _____."

Examples:

- "I can 'be Jesus' to my elderly neighbor by shoveling their driveway."
- "I can 'be Jesus' to the single mom at church by cooking her family a meal."
- "I can 'be Jesus' to the homeless in our community by volunteering at the shelter."

Closing Prayer

Read Exodus 34:6-7 together, then pray:

Thank God for his compassion toward us. Ask Him to:

- Fill you with His compassion for others
- Show you specific needs you can meet
- Give you strength to serve without burning out
- Make your community reflect His power and love