

## A CALL TO COMPASSION The Vision #3

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* **Matthew 9:35-38**

*... He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."* **Luke 10:1-3**

**Real life is a life of \_\_\_\_\_!**

**A. Compassion calls us to minister to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*(Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 15:11; Proverbs 19:17; Luke 12:33; Matthew 25:37-39; Galatians 2:10)*

*"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."* **John 12:7-8**

*(1 Corinthians 13:3)*

**B. Compassion draws us to the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*(Luke 15:1-7; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)*

## C. Compassion demands \_\_\_\_\_.

*So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"*  
**1 Corinthians 14:23-25**

### **Small Group Discussion Notes**

*These small group notes are a tool, not a curriculum to be completed. Use them as you see fit!*

#### **Opening Questions**

- Describe the most compassionate person you have ever known?
- On a 1 to 10 scale (from not at all to completely), how compassionate are you?

#### **Launching Questions**

- In Matthew 9:35-38, what was Jesus' response to his time of healing and teaching? What did he see, and why did it cause that response?
- When Jesus sends out the 72 disciples in Luke 10:1-3, what does he send them out to do, and how is their mission similar to ours? How is it different?
- Jesus' compassion was for lost people. In response to his compassion, he prayed for workers in the harvest. Why is his response to compassion, to pray for Harvesters?

#### **Guiding Questions**

- Is there something that breaks your heart? Why does that impact you? How do we get desensitized to compassion and feeling broken for others?
- Have you ever been burned by someone you reached out to? How did that affect you, and how has it affected your ability or desire to extend compassion again?
- What is the difference between the biological function of seeing people, and seeing people as Jesus did? Why do we sometimes choose not to see people?

#### **Application Questions**

- How can we best help the poor? Have we done this as a small group? Should our response to compassion cost us something (not just financially)? How has it?
- What role does the small group play in expressing the compassion of Christ through evangelism?
- What if 10 lost people showed up here over the next 3 weeks? Would they feel like this was a comfortable place for them? How would 10 lost people impact our meetings? Would we be OK with the changes? What if 25 people needed space? How could we accommodate them?
- If evangelism indicates compassion, how compassionate are we as a group? Are we OK with that, and how can we change it if necessary?