



Message by Pastor Jeff 8-14-16
Message Based Questions to help your personal Study & LifeGroup Discussions

CONNECTING: *Connecting to one another with a warm up question or through worship.*

Who is the best neighbor in your neighborhood and why?

EXPLORING IT: *Review the sermon outline and explore the message by using the following Q's which will help you dig in a little deeper and make sure you get the message.*

*The mission of the church is to transform the world through the life-changing message of Jesus for the glory of God.
By loving God, loving God's people and then loving the world.*

To Listen to Message (CTRL + Click the Link)

<http://www.northlakeonline.org/messages/index.html>

How would you describe the personality of Northlake?

If someone were to ask you to describe some characteristics about Northlake—what would they be? Would compassionate be one of them?

How does our relationship with God affect our relationship to others?

Can you think of a time where you were so filled with God's living water you just started sprinkling onto others? Explain.

What is your favorite Bible story about compassion? (Example Good Samaritan)

Who is characterized by being compassionate?

What motivated the act of compassion?

What action was inspired by their compassion?

Could or would you have done the same? Why or why not?

In showing compassion which is the harder part and why?

Walking towards the awkward when it seems crazy to help out?

Treating others the way you want to be treated?

Finding a partner like innkeeper to share the load?


Leaning into the compassion of Jesus for strength?

Who in your life needs some Good 'Samariting' from you?

As we wrestle with what living lives of compassion look like in our world today, what things or circumstances cause us to pause? What are you afraid of? What's keeping you from sprinkling God's love?

What limitations are keeping you from a life of active compassion? Can you imagine what might happen if you surrendered these obstacles to God and allowed his strength to shine in your weakness?

How can we pray for you?

 **PRAY IT:** *Now that you have connected, explored and applied it—it is now time to tap into the power of prayer individually throughout the week as well as corporately praying for one another. Perhaps by sharing the real life challenges and blessings with one another this will help people see what God can do in their lives and will lead them into a plan of action.*

More Food for thought

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”
— Helen Keller

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him. -Psalm 103:13

Compassion is motivated from deep within, and happens when we put ourselves in someone else's place. In that moment, we see them as they are and we ask ourselves, “If I were in that position, what would I want someone else to do for me?” Paul reminds us that as we exchange the old life for new life in Christ, we are to live a lifestyle that is consistent with that new life. Among other things, he tells us to ‘put on’ hearts filled with compassion (Col 3:12-13). Consider the following examples from Scripture:

Upon seeing his brother Benjamin for the first time in twenty years, Joseph was moved with compassion. From that moment on, Benjamin received preferential treatment from Joseph (Genesis 43:30).

In his song of celebration, Moses reminds God's people that He will vindicate His people and show them compassion when He sees them in a helpless condition (Deuteronomy 32:36; see also Psalm 135:14).

God looked upon His people with compassion as they were being oppressed by the king of Syria, and protected them from being totally destroyed (2 Kings 13:22-23).

God promises His people that their captors will treat them with compassion if they will turn back to Him. In effect, God shows His compassion through the compassion of the enemies of His people (2 Chronicles 30:9).

God is described as compassionate because He provides atonement for His people (Psalm 78:38; Micah 7:18-19).

God promises restoration to His people because of His compassion (Zechariah 10:6).

Jesus' compassion moved Him to action on many occasions (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; Luke 7:13).

Compassion motivated the forgiving father's response when his prodigal son returned home (Luke 15:20).

In every instance above, compassion led to action. Compassion isn't static, it's active; true compassion *always* inspires action. God pursues us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3) that compelled Him to action (John 3:16). If our Heavenly Father is a God of compassion, shouldn't we be too?

Keep Pressing On!

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