



The Heart *of* Generosity

SMALL GROUP SERIES

WEEK 4:
**Be moved by
compassion**



The Heart of Generosity

Today we will explore what it means to be compassionate in how we give to others. Using the example of the Good Samaritan, we'll explore how we can be moved to compassion and give of our time, our energy, our talents and abilities, our resources and finances to God and to those in need.

Share

- What pictures or ideas come to mind when you hear the word 'compassion'?
- Share about a time when you saw compassion in action.

Pray

Today's Scripture passage is a story Jesus told in response to a lawyer who seems to want to do just enough to obey the law and be in God's 'good books', but no more. Before we read it, let's pray the Holy Spirit would speak to us.

Pray the Holy Spirit would speak through God's word.

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Read

Luke 10:30-37. You might like to read it in a couple of different translations.

Luke 10:30-37 (New Living Translation)

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.

³¹ "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. ³² A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

³³ "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, [\[b\]](#) telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'

³⁶ "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

³⁷ The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same."

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Share

- What words or ideas in this passage stand out to you the most? Why?
- In the story, two men see the injured man but choose to walk by without helping. What thoughts or feelings do you think they had as they passed by? What stops people from helping others in need?
- How would you describe the man who stopped and helped?
- In these verses, Jesus is highlighting that true compassion requires an action. Can anyone share about a time when someone took action to help or support you?¹
- How could someone with heartfelt compassion make a difference in today's world?
- In the story, the injured man is ignored by people of his own background and is instead rescued by an 'enemy'. Why do you think Jesus told this part of the story? What is Jesus saying about who we should show compassion to? Do you find it easier to show compassion to people you can relate to?

¹ Compassion in action could be taking the time to stop and listen, using our talents and skills to help someone, and/or using our finances and resources to bless people.

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- The Good Samaritan had resources – money and equipment – to help the injured man. Why is it a good idea to manage our finances and resources well?
- How can we continue to grow hearts of generosity? What steps have helped you become more generous?
- What is one thing each of us could do this week to be generous and show compassion to someone?
- What would it look like if every person in our church continued to grow in generosity, managed their resources well and acted on the compassion they have for those in need?

Pray

Thank God for his generous compassion for us, in giving us Jesus.

Thank God for everything he has given us to live, love and serve him.

Ask God to help us manage our resources well and to supply all our needs.

Ask God to help each one of us to grow in generosity and to act on our compassion.

Spend some time praying for each other. Ask if there is anything specific someone would like prayer for.

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Thank you, Lord, that you are always with us, to help us with the things we are learning, growing in and doing for you. Help us to show your love and compassion to others, and to trust in you for all we need.

In your name, Jesus,

Amen

Notes
