

Discussion Guide

Discussion Guides accompany the [weekly message](#).

Opening Activity:

When you look at the world, your workplace, or your relationships—what is something that genuinely burdens your heart?

Read:

Matthew 9:35-38

John 10:11-16

Romans 10:14-15

Psalms 34:18

Discussion Questions:

1. The Greek word for “compassion” refers to an intense, physical feeling—almost like grief felt in your gut (Matthew 9:36). What do you imagine Jesus saw in the crowds that stirred such deep compassion?
2. Shepherdless sheep often walk straight into danger—they cannot navigate or defend themselves, symbolizing spiritual vulnerability (Matthew 9:36). What does it look like today when people live “like sheep without a shepherd”?
3. Ancient harvest seasons were short and urgent, communicating that Jesus sees spiritual readiness that we often miss (Matthew 9:37). Where do you see “harvest opportunities” in your everyday life?
4. Surveys show most believers never share their faith—not because they don’t care, but because they feel unprepared or afraid (Matthew 9:37-38). Why do you think Jesus says there are many ready hearts, but few workers willing to respond?
5. Studies indicate regular prayer increases empathy and emotional capacity—literally shaping us into more compassionate people (Matthew 9:38). Why does Jesus say our first response should be prayer—not strategy or effort?
6. When has God opened your eyes to someone’s need—and how did it affect you?
7. Why do you think Jesus wants our hearts to be moved *before* our hands begin working?
8. What fears, insecurities, or assumptions keep people from engaging in spiritual conversations today?
9. What would it look like for our group to become “workers in the harvest” right where we live?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask God to burden your heart for one specific person this week. Reach out intentionally—with encouragement, prayer or a meaningful conversation.