Journey into Compassion
A Study Series

Session VI

Chapters 9 and Conclusion

Theme: Walking with God

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assemble</th>
<th>Participants handouts placed on seats</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flip chart and markers</td>
<td>Worship page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name tags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flip chart on What is Compassion? from first session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chime (Singing Bowl or Bell)</td>
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<td>Candle, placed on center table</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bible, placed on center table (selections marked)</td>
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<td>Cross, placed on center table</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Suggested Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Worship</td>
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<td>Opening Sharing and follow-up discussion</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity 1</td>
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<td>Activity 2</td>
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<td>Sending prayer</td>
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Gathering Time

Before session begins make reading assignments.

Play quiet reflective music to indicate the start of the session.

Light the candle, take your seat and ring the chime, after a moment turn down the music.

Opening Worship

Facilitator: Fleeing Bethlehem, into Egypt...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: Out of Nazareth, to the River Jordan...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: Off of the shore, onto the water...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: Into the lives of the suffering and fearful...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: From the upstairs room, to the cross...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: From the tomb, through the closed doors...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: On the road to Emmaeus...

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: I invite you each to describe, in one or two sentences, the place where you left your stone during your neighborhood walk.

All: Jesus walked.

Facilitator: Into our hearts and through our lives...

All: Jesus walks.
Reader 1: Matthew 8:18-20

Facilitator: I now invite you to take a few minutes to simply walk. You may take off your shoes. Concentrate on your own presence, your own breathing, the feel of your feet on the floor, the air moving around you. Quiet your mind and pay attention. “It is solved by walking.” - Augustine (3 minutes at most. Ring the bell to reconvene.)

Opening Sharing
Welcome group and invite participants to respond to the incomplete sentences regarding their reading for the week.

Discussion
Facilitator leads discussion of the commonalities or most important issues raised in the above dialogue.

Activity 1 you may not have time for all three scenarios - be sure to save time for Activity 2

Facilitator: I will read a scenario, then invite you to share with the group how you would respond applying the information gleaned from your reading this week such as: Have we moved away from one situation to create a new situation we feel more comfortable with? (p. 115) Do we have “pure motives”? (p. 120)? Where is the self-confrontation? (p. 124) and do we see God's presence revealed in each scenario? (p. 126)

Scenario 1: You and a group of friends are walking down the street of a big city. Approached by a homeless man for food. What do you do?

Scenario 2: The doorbell rings and a man asks you for gas fare and his pregnant wife is waiting in the care and if you could give him twenty dollars. What do you do?

Scenario 3: You decide to take the bus on a lark. The bus driver won't make change for your $20. An elderly woman from the back of the bus offers to pay your fare. What do you do?

Activity 2

Facilitator Let’s revisit our original thoughts of compassion.
• Has anything changed?
• How do our new definitions lend themselves to action?
• Have our definitions of “compassionate action” changed?
Sending Prayer

**Facilitator:** Out of this room and into the broken world...

**All:** *We will walk.*

**Facilitator:** With new vision...

**All:** *We will walk.*

**Facilitator:** Filled with God's compassion...

**All:** *We will walk.*

**Facilitator:** Holding others in our hearts...

**All:** We will walk.

**Facilitator:** Where Christ leads us...

**All:** *We will walk.*

**Facilitator:** I now invite your intercessions and thanksgivings...

**Reader 2:** Matt. 28:16-20 (The Great Commission)

**Facilitator:** We invite you to take one more walk. Bring to this walk, the same intentionality, but this time, remember the place where you left your stone, walk while reflecting on your compassionate response to this spot. Walk with compassion in your heart. *(Ring bell when you are ready to reconvene for final prayer.)*

**All:**

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;*  
*where there is injury, pardon;*  
*where there is discord, union;*  
*where there is doubt, faith;*  
*where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;*  
*where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;*  
*to be understood as to understand;*  
*to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;*  
*it is pardoning that we are pardoned;*  
*and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*
Facilitator: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord with compassion. Let us share the peace as we prepare to continue our journey.

Everyone shares God's Peace