

Matt 9:35-38

Introduction--Invite members of your small group to share about a mission trip or a local ministry project that they have participated in, then ask them the following questions:

- What were some of the health and socio-economic circumstances that you saw? What were some of the worst living conditions that you saw?
- What are some of the emotions that you have felt in seeing people in those situations?
- What are some of the things that you did to help the people that you were ministering to?
- Were there any that you saw and had compassion for, but did not have the opportunity to minister to them? Explain.
- How did this experience help you to see people at home differently than you did before the experience?

Core Truth: This week's discussion challenges us to be moved with compassion in order properly respond to Jesus' commission of going to the lost. We will never be moved with compassion if we do not see people in the condition that Jesus saw them in or go where we can see them.

Questions:

1. Where is one area you see the brokenness of the world every day? Why does this stand out to you?
2. How are people both "oppressed and oppressors, victims and perpetrators"? Is this true for everyone? How does this shape the way we treat people as those who are sent into the world?
3. Matthew summarizes Jesus' ministry with 3 words. Teacher, proclaimer, Healer, what do they mean? Which do you tend to gravitate towards? Which do you tend to ignore?
4. How does Jesus' response to the people challenge you?
5. Jesus sees, feels, and acts in light of the hurting crowds. What might it look like for you to reflect his heart in one of these ways?
6. Why is it so striking that Jesus looks at the desperate crowds and talks about a plentiful harvest? Why should this give us optimism in evangelism?
7. Why do you think God chooses to use prayer to mobilize him to send laborers? What steps can you take to incorporate this prayer into your prayer life?
8. Praying for laborers often opens our eyes to the harvest field we are called to. Where has God called you to labor? Who has he put in your path that you can pray for, share Christ, and serve?