



WITNESS

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 15:32, Mark 6:34, and Ephesians 4:32

Over and over we see the word “compassion”, or some form of it, echoed throughout the Bible. In the New Testament Jesus constantly felt compassion for the people around him, and this led him to accomplish many miracles, such as the feeding on the 5,000. Since we are told to be like Christ, then we too should be filled with compassion. There is a whole world out there full of hurting people. Some we walk past every day, while others may seem distant and live “surreal” lives. We aren’t required to show the whole world compassion, but we are expected to show it to whomever comes across our paths throughout our daily lives. Whether it’s a homeless person on the street, our next-door neighbor, or a picture on a piece of paper, there are countless lives that we could touch if only we took a few moments to notice and care.

Pray

Lord, we are naturally selfish people. Jesus is the ultimate model of selfless compassion, and we ask to find a small glimpse of that within our own lives. There are so many people around us who are hurting, and we can do something about it. Please help us to be brave; give us the courage to be compassionate towards the brokenness around us. Guide us where you would lead, and give us the joy to cheerfully follow your call out into the darkness of a world desperately in need of your light.

Getting Started

- Have you ever sponsored a child, or personally known someone who has? Share your experience with the group.
- Take turns talking about someone you know or have seen lately that you think needs some compassion.

Digging Deeper

1. Thinking about these people you just discussed, have you yet to show them compassion? Have you shared Jesus?
2. If you haven’t done either, explain what it is that you think is holding you back.
3. What are the most common things in our lives that “limit” us in taking the time to reach out to the broken people we come across?
4. What is one way to remove or get past some of these common barriers that hold us back?
5. Does anyone have any stories of getting past their barriers and sharing Jesus with someone?
6. Identify someone that God has specifically put on your heart as someone you need to share Jesus with.
7. How could the group, as a whole, take time to reach out and share compassion and Jesus with a local group or ministry?

Living Jesus

Since Jesus was the perfect example, then it would make sense to read the Bible and examine what he did when looking for inspiration. Although, the truth is that most of us already know what we need to do. Most, if not all of us, have felt the call of the Holy Spirit at various times to act in a certain situation. Sometimes we respond, sometimes we ignore the call or try to create reasons why we can’t. It’s time to stop making excuses...Pay attention and keep your heart open to the Spirit’s call. Don’t let the brokenness of the world pass you by without action. Let the Holy Spirit guide your actions and show you how to be compassionate in a real way with the people that he leads you to. Jesus first, Jesus often. Don’t just stop at being compassionate. Share Jesus with people, and let the Spirit do his work through you!