



Journal

Chapter 8: COMPASSION

Personal Study

Last week you explored your beliefs about humanity. Were you able to identify why it's naturally easier for you to love some people more than others? Maybe you learned something about yourself or about God that will help you see others as God sees them. That's great! This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 8: Compassion*. Then spend some time allowing the Scripture to take root in your heart and praying that God would help you develop compassion for those around you.

Read

Read *Believe, Chapter 8: Compassion* and answer the following questions.

1. What patterns do you observe in these Scriptures?

2. As you read these passages, what thoughts or questions came to mind?

3. What did you read that excited you?

Surprised you? _____

Unnerved you? _____

Confused you? _____

4. In your own words, briefly describe your understanding of compassion?

5. Reflect on a time of need when someone showed compassion by “suffering with” you. What did they specifically do that was comforting?

6 List examples of God’s compassion toward humanity from this chapter and other places in the Bible.

What environments are you a part of that provide an opportunity to emulate his compassion?

7. What mental or physical barriers, if any, are keeping you from living a lifestyle of compassion?

How can you conquer them? _____

Evaluate

Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 8: Compassion, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).

_____ God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering.

_____ I believe I am responsible before God to show compassion to the sick and imprisoned.

_____ I believe that I should stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.

_____ I believe that Christians should not purchase everything they can afford, so that their discretionary money might be available to help those in need.

Take Action

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week's Key Verse to memory.

Key Verse: "Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3-4)

Recite this week's Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?

Key Idea: I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week's Key Idea to your own life.

1. What behaviors help you recognize someone who believes he or she is called by God to show compassion to those in need?

2. What, if anything, hinders you from showing compassion to those in need?

3. What is something you can do this week to demonstrate this belief?

Journal

Bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message.

