

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.

Study Questions:

1. Looking through some the scriptures from our daily reading, what is the one theme about Jesus that comes through over and over again? **I find that Jesus was a man of compassion. His gut hurt for hurting people. He couldn't pass by someone in need without reaching out to them. This is not only a glimpse into the character of Christ but is also a message about how we are to see and respond to people. Colossians 3:12 reminds me I am to clothe myself with compassion.**
2. What do you think Jesus saw in the crowd that filled him with compassion? (read Matthew 9:36-38) **We don't know specifics but based upon his words, I am sure he saw lost people who needed him as their Lord. I also believe he saw people who were hungry, those who were sick, some who were dying. He probably saw broken hearts from broken relationships. He probably saw people being tormented by Satan and by the world. He may have saw people stuck in sin that was destroying their lives. Whatever he saw, it hurt him deeply, so deeply he gave his life for these lost sheep so that he could be their shepherd.**
3. Do you have a compassionate heart like Jesus? Do you want one? **As a group leader, allow people to share openly. Let God work in the hearts of people to express their need to see people the way God does. I believe most of us know we are lacking in compassion and that it is going to take an act of God to transform our thinking.**
4. What would it take to move you to become more compassionate and broken for people just like Jesus? **It is important that individuals understand that "it is God who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose." Philippians 2:13. Prayer is a starting point. But beyond that, like Jesus we must make a move to put ourselves in the middle of a hurting world. Christianity is not a spectator sport. Church is not for the consumer but for the servant. We are called to love our neighbor and that message is about as clear as it gets. Jesus is asking us to obey his command. Are we willing?**
5. According to Colossians 3:12, what is our motivation for clothing ourselves with compassion? **We are God's chosen people holy and dearly loved. Let's show the world! The workers are few but the harvest is plentiful so we are called to respond. God will do the rest.**

Share how your group can specifically pray for you as you step out in action to show compassion on those God has placed in your path. **Spend extra time this week praying for one another and asking the Lord to move in the lives of each person so that they might respond in compassion to whoever He places in their path.**

Daily Reading Schedule:

- Day 1 Matthew 9:36-38
- Day 2 Matthew 15:29-39
- Day 3 Matthew 20:29-34
- Day 4 Mark 1:40-45
- Day 5 Matthew 28:16-20