

SESSION 01 — BONUS CONVERSATION

Begin With Love

The word “compassion” emerges all throughout Scripture — especially as a way to describe God. The Gospels, in particular, make it abundantly clear that every sign of the kingdom of heaven brought about by Jesus — every opened eye, demon cast out, and meal shared with a stranger — was motivated by compassion. In today’s passage, we see Jesus’ mission: to proclaim the good news of the kingdom through words and deeds, side by side with his motivation: not duty, but sincere love. And ultimately, we see his desire for us to make his same mission and motivation our own.

Read Matthew 9:35-38

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Discuss the Scripture

- 01 Prior to following Jesus, in what ways did you feel most “helpless” or “like a sheep without a shepherd”? Try to remember and describe what life was like without God.
- 02 Jesus had compassion on the crowds. What needs in the lives of those around you who don’t know Jesus most engage your sense of compassion?
- 03 Do you believe that “the harvest is plentiful” in your immediate world today? Why or why not?
- 04 What do you notice tends to hold you back from being one of the “few” workers being sent out into the harvest? What do you feel you need from Jesus in order to join him in that work?

Discuss the Practice

- 01 What have you been specifically praying for your three to five people in the last couple weeks? Are there any new attitudes or perspectives you’re seeing God form in you as you pray?
- 02 Thinking about just one of these people specifically, what do you sense is your part to play in their current spiritual journey? How is that going so far?
- 03 How has praying for these individuals impacted or changed your interactions with them?
- 04 Who on your list do you have the hardest time believing could enter life in the kingdom? What do you think God might be saying or inviting you into through that relationship specifically?

Repeat the Exercise

For this week, we invite you to repeat the exercise on page 29, or to try the reach exercise there if you have not already.