

Home Group Leader's Notes

October 22, 2017

Beautiful People - week #7

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** The focus this week is on growing in compassion for the people in our worlds. If nothing else, lead a conversation of 'How' we can grow in this way. (more below)

### Share it

When do you remember someone showing compassion towards you? When do you remember showing compassion towards someone?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Throughout my life, people have reached out and cared about me in ways that I didn't deserve. Followers of Christ have shown me grace upon grace. Think of times for yourself and share it if people don't get started with sharing from their own lives.

### Study the Bible

Jesus' passion to rescue sinners has always generated a powerful reaction. Read through the following Scriptures and consider His motivation, His actions, and the reactions.

Like 7:36-50 - **NOTES TO LEADERS:** Compassion for a Pharisee, for a woman wiping his feet. Notice how was showing compassion on both.

Luke 15:1-7 - **NOTES TO LEADERS:** Tax collectors and sinners were included in Jesus friendship meals. Jesus was not afraid of his reputation nor did He shy away from people who were living an unrighteous lifestyle.

Jesus' compassion towards sinners resulted in actions. Read the following verses and consider these questions: What did Jesus' want for sinners and what did it cost Him?

John 17:13 - **NOTES TO LEADERS:** Jesus wants people to experience the fullness of His joy. For Him, this meant that He would sacrifice Himself.

Galatians 3:13-14 - **NOTES TO LEADERS:** Jesus became cursed of God because He took on our sin. What He wanted was for us to know God's blessing and receive the promised Holy Spirit (that is, God living in us as one with us).

Hebrews 12:2 - **NOTES TO LEADERS:** Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Since Jesus already had joy, and Jesus' reason for coming was for us, He showed compassion on us with the prospect of what His death would accomplish, i.e. our salvation and reconciliation making it possible for us to enter into His joy. The next verse challenges us to endure and not grow weary of heart as we continue His mission.

### Discuss Together

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Sometime in this evening, ASK THIS QUESTION: HOW DO WE GROW IN COMPASSION? I was able to ask this question of people and this is what they said:

- 1) Pray and ask God for compassion
- 2) Read and reread how Jesus treated people and ask God to help you be like Him
- 3) Expose yourself to people in need
- 4) Reflect back on how God has shown you compassion

- 5) Reflect back on how people have shown you compassion
- 6) Look for opportunities and practice compassion daily

Some would say that one of the key reasons that we don't reach out is because of a lack of compassion. Is this true? If so, how does compassion relate to our fears about reaching?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Compassion should help us overcome our fears. If we care enough, our love for God and for people will motivate us to do whatever is necessary.

Jesus' compassion motivated Him to action. His desire was two-fold: to rescue us from the penalty of sin (God's wrath) and to help us enter into the fullness of His joy.

How does [THIS] relate to our mission and us?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** This question asks about "motivation." There are many good motives that should propel us into action. (1) The glory of God, (2) the rescue of people, (3) the prospect of eternity with others, (4) and the joy of being one with others.

What might be the costs for being a "reaching" person? To be like Jesus, what must happen in us?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** Self-sacrifice, willingness to be inconvenienced, putting others first, putting myself into training, giving of time and resources, etc.

Read Hebrews 12:2 together. What did Jesus' want? What should we want?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** See above.

#### **Apply It This Week**

We see Jesus full of compassion throughout the gospels. Pray and ask the Lord to help you and your Home Group friends and the Trinity church family grow in compassion for the lost.

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** As a way of keeping this before one another, we can call to pray for each other this week.

**Grace to you,**

**Steve**