



DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3
(April 19th – 25th)

COMPASSION

This four-week vision series for 2026-2028 is titled **KINGDOM CULTURE**. Each week, we will look into four purposes entrusted to the church: to keep preaching Christ (Gospel), keep building community (Fellowship), keep living out Christ's love (Compassion), and keep reaching people far from God (Mission)!

WHAT IS COMPASSION?

In the Bible, compassion is more than a feeling; it is a deep, visceral emotion—often likened to a parent's love or genuine lingering empathy—that drives action to alleviate suffering.

It is a central attribute of God (Exodus 34:6, "*The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,*") and Jesus. Compassion is characterized by empathy and mercy, that leads to action.

WELCOME.

What energizes you: being on your own or being with a big crowd?

WORSHIP. *Goodness of God*

WORD. Read *Matthew 9:35-38*

Pastor Luke shared these sermon points this past weekend:

- I. **Jesus sets the pattern for compassion (35-36).**
 - a. **He did not wait for people in need; He went out to seek them.**
 - b. **He had a heart, not just pity, that moves to action.**
 - c. **He saw beyond the need, he identified the true condition.**
- II. **Jesus sees the opportunity for compassion (37).**
 - a. **There is an abundance of opportunities.**
 - b. **The real need is for willing workers.**
- III. **Jesus shows the imminence of the solution (38).**
 - a. **Start praying for more workers.**
 - b. **The answer to your prayer is you.**
 - c. **See people and situations as gospel opportunities.**

What is your biggest takeaway from the sermon?

1. According to verse 35, what three main activities did Jesus engage in, and what does this show about his priorities?
2. Why did Jesus feel compassion for the crowds? What does the description "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" mean?
3. How does Jesus view crowds of people compared to how the world usually views them? The Harvest Metaphor (v. 37): What is the "plentiful harvest" Jesus refers to, and why are the "workers few"?
4. What instruction does Jesus give to his disciples regarding the harvest?
5. In what ways are people today still "like sheep without a shepherd," and how can we adopt Jesus' perspective to respond with compassion?

WORK. Apply God's Word:

1. Biblical compassion sees beyond the immediate need. When we look around our city, we see so much need. Christians can sometimes be so engrossed in addressing immediate physical needs but forgetting the deeper spiritual need. If we provide only bread for the body, but neglect to provide bread for the soul, we are not exercising biblical compassion.
2. Every act of compassion should lead to bringing others to the Shepherd, Jesus. Who is one "sheep without a shepherd" in your life that you need to bring to Jesus the Good Shepherd this week?
3. Our church's goal for the next 3 years is for us to engage in ministries of compassion around our city and the world with a mission to bring the Gospel to more people.

Upcoming Mission Trip to the Philippines:
December 14-18, 2026 (Banaba House Ministries)