



WEEK 2

JESUS.

COMPASSIONATE

HEALER.



WEEK 2

GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION:

To open your group time, read the following introduction aloud.

Compassion is a powerful word. It is an action word. Compassion means feeling the pain of another. It's empathy plus concern plus action. The Greek word is *splangidzomai* and it literally means to feel something in the deepest part of your guts. This feeling can't be contained; it must express itself. Compassion always leads a person to **do something** to help. Compassion motivated Jesus to heal, to set free and to save.

The Gospels record over 26 instances of Jesus' healings. In addition to specific encounters, there are numerous references to Jesus' healing ministry.

Compassion led Jesus to...

- Heal the sick
- Feed the hungry
- Cleanse the lepers
- Teach the lost
- Grant paralyzed people the ability to walk
- Grant blind people the ability to see
- Grant mute people the ability to speak
- Set free the demon-possessed
- Raise the dead

Jesus felt compassion for people. This compassion led Him to action.

VIDEO SEGMENT

Now, as a group, turn on your TV or Laptop and watch the video for Week 2,
JESUS THE COMPASSIONATE HEALER

2 ways to watch:

1. Go to crosslinechurch.com/mml
2. Go to vimeo.com/album/5382165

After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.

READ:

Matthew 9:35-36

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Mark 1:40-42

And a leper *came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and *said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Luke 7:12-14

As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the

town was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Mark 2:1:10

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Answer the following questions together in your group time.

1. Moved with compassion, Jesus healed and delivered people. What does this truth reveal about Jesus, His character, emotions, concerns, ability?
2. In Mark 2, why do you think Jesus first pronounces that the paralytic's sins are forgiven before he grants him the ability to walk?
3. Has compassion ever personally moved you to act upon something or for someone? Explain.
4. Our culture often falsely portrays compassion as weakness. In Jesus' case, why was his compassion such a pivotal part of his influence and leadership?
5. If Jesus were to know everything about you and still feel compassion for you, how would that make you feel?

Now take some time to talk about any additional question or thoughts that came from the video, the reading, or the discussion

APPLY POINT

This week, look for opportunities to allow compassion to stir you to action.

GOING DEEPER

To have a deeper group or personal study around Jesus as the Compassionate Healer, go to the "Going Deeper" section of week 2 starting on page 57.

PRAYER REQUESTS



NOTES:



WEEK 2

DAILY READINGS

DAY 6: HEAL ME!

Greg Munck

Compassion is a precious thing in this day and age. The top 3 things people search for on the internet late at night are: Porn, Loneliness and Suicide. In a world where selfies, likes and posts of our seemingly perfect lives on Instagram, Facebook and Snap Chat would have you believe we are more connected than ever before, in all actuality we are more disconnected emotionally than any time in history. Depression, anxiety and suicide are at epidemic levels! The way of the world is not working out for us. The world is longing for the answer to the meaning life and you have that answer. The answer is in a book found in most homes across the US and in the top drawer of the nightstand in your hotel room, the BIBLE (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth, just a fun acronym I like to use). I will let you in on a little secret found in this book, the meaning for life is a relationship with God! We have a relationship with God by accepting Jesus Christ as our savior. He is the bridge between a holy God and an unholy people. The world is sick and crying out for help and you have the cure. We need to have compassion for those who are far from God as God has compassion on us.

Who does Jesus see when he looks at you? Does he care how successful you are? Does care what sex you are? Does he care what color you are? Does he care how you dress? Thank God he does not care about anything of those things. When he sees you, he has compassion for you because he knows apart from him you are separated from God for eternity. Of course, He wants to heal you physically but more importantly He wants to heal you spiritually by healing the divide between you and God. Matthew writes in his book,

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29)

I can remember the time when our son Elijah was 5 years old, his appendix burst, and he went septic, he was in ICU for 11 days and we didn't know if he was going to make it. That coupled with financial pressures from going into full-time ministry (taking

a 75% decrease in income) we found ourselves at one of our lowest points emotionally. Sitting in the cafeteria at Mission Hospital in a point of total weakness one us spoke the words, "We were better off before." It was something we were both feeling but afraid to verbalize because we felt like it was a slap in God's face for the amazing journey he took us going into full-time ministry. Broken before the Lord we cried out for God to heal our son. Elijah soon recovered and our financial situation improved. God answered our prayers specifically at that moment, God's timing is not always our timing, but he is always there to carry us through it.

If you're looking to be healed turn to the only source in the universe that truly has the power to heal you: Jesus Christ!

PRAYER

Loving Father, thank you for your amazing compassion.

Help me to fully accept it and live in it.

Lord, I ask that you would heal me physically and spiritually, even when I don't realize I need it. Give me opportunities to show compassion to others around me.

In Your name, amen.

DAY 7: COMPASSION CALLING

Jordan Gash

"Okay, fine, I'll come and take a look." I said to Kreig. At that point, I had no idea what that look would set in motion for my life. I had recently graduated with a Degree in Youth Ministry, but had confidently decided that the route I was going to take was not in Youth Ministry or church ministry at all. I was only months away from starting a graduate program for another occupation when Kreig, a family friend of mine called me up. Kreig was acting as interim senior pastor for a church and had been asked to find a youth pastor. He knew my plans, but convinced me to come and look. When I walked into that youth room and saw those students, who had experienced 4 different youth pastors in the previous 4 years, I couldn't help it. I tried to suppress it. I wanted to ignore it. It completely interfered with my plans. Nonetheless, compassion had its way and I told them I'd do it that day. That set me on an 10-year journey in youth ministry.

Compassion is the way of Jesus. Jesus regularly allowed compassion to interrupt his schedule, even when it was inconvenient. Consider our passage today,

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (Matt 9:35-36)

In ourselves, we often fail to see the needs of others around us because we are looking more at our needs or our desires. However, when we come into relationship with Jesus and he places His Holy Spirit inside us so that the eyes of our heart are enlightened (Eph. 1:18), we tend to see things differently. When we are moved in our gut toward compassion, in moments and times where you normally wouldn't, that is the evidence of Jesus' Spirit alive and you. Furthermore, you can be assured that when we follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit, life is so much more full. I cannot imagine having missed out on the immense blessings I have experienced over the years in ministry if I hadn't let compassion call me out. As you go through today,

don't suppress the opportunities to act on Spirit-enabled compassion—you never know where Jesus may lead you in it.

PRAYER

God of compassion, Your love is overwhelming! Your kindness leads me to repentance. Thank you for seeing me and calling me to Yourself. Thank you for the plans you have for me. Lord, give me eyes to see things like you do and a willingness to act upon Your Holy Spirit's leadings.

*I am Your servant. Correct me when I resist and seek my own will.
I love You. Amen.*

DAY 8: MORE THAN HEALING

Nancy Matossian

During my time leading in children's ministry, I have experienced many opportunities to visit little ones in the hospital to pray for healing. One in particular, I remember very clearly. Since he was fighting for his little pre-mature life, they had to get special clearance for me to even enter his space. After praying with the family in the hospital chapel, his dad took me upstairs to pray for his son. The NICU had other patients in protected beds and as I prayed over every part of Jackson's tiny being, others observed. Most of the time, I do not get to see how God grants healing, but in this case it was different. I was approached by a crying man 18 months later, in a completely separate setting, sharing how I prayed for his boy who is now fully healed and hitting all the markers of a boy born full term.

What does Jesus bring? Yes, he brings healing, but it truly is so much more. Let's look at Mark 6:52-56 and witness more than just healing.

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

(Mark 6:52-56)

More than healing...

People recognized Jesus: Hope. Jesus brought hope to all who heard His name. While standing in the NICU praying for Jackson, the place was filled with a hope only Jesus provides.

They ran...to wherever they heard he was: They ran to Him. Although we are innately drawn to our Creator, we choose mostly to run to Him in times of need. What a beautiful practice to run to Him at all times. Today I get to witness Jackson's dad pointing his heart and toes toward Jesus (through social media).

All who touched it were healed: Touch. A touch is all it takes. I

was moved and healed myself that day I placed my hands on a tiny baby and asked God to move.

The healing power of Jesus calls us to a big faith, a faith willing to recognize Him and experience His hope, to run to Him wherever and whenever, and to reach out and touch the cloak of our Savior. That is a great and healing faith. Healing doesn't always look like we pictured, it can be so much more.

PRAYER

Lord, give us an unfathomable faith in You. Give us Your hope and Your touch. And Lord, as the Great Physician, give us Your healing.

We believe and trust in Your greatness and love for us.

Amen.

DAY 9: HE SEES ME

Gigi Johnson

My 7-year-old plays hard with her little friends all day long. They have a blast crafting, imagining, dressing up, and running a pretend hair salon. The hours of her day fly by. Come bedtime, though, all she desires is time with me, on the basis of “I haven’t seen you all day, Mom.” “Well, sweet girl, I’ve literally been home with you all day long. I can tell you everything that happened. I was there. You just didn’t see me.” She’d hardly noticed my presence during the day simply because she was consumed in her play.

We don’t always recognize someone’s presence or feel someone’s closeness when we’re consumed by our own stuff, do we? Sometimes, we have to pause from what we’re doing to notice, recognize, and connect with the reality of what (or who) is going on around us. In Luke 7, we catch up with Jesus traveling to a new town to minister and love on the people there. Some noticed his arrival, while others did not. It says,

As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’ Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:12-15)

Jesus raised a man from the dead. Just chew on that for a minute. He was dead. Then he was alive, by the power Jesus has over death. Though, what I really love about this miracle is the amount of compassion Jesus has for this woman. Jesus saw a mother consumed by her grief, rightfully so, as she’d just lost her only remaining son. She was mourning, crying, distraught. I doubt she even looked up through her tears to notice Jesus standing there. Yet Jesus saw her and knew how she was feeling. His heart broke with hers, and He had sincere compassion. That compassion moved Him to dry her tears and perform a miracle—one she didn’t ask for, but one He knew would bring her broken heart immense joy.

Jesus sees us in our pain. Just like He did with the mother, He dries our tears and gives us hope and a future, even when we don't think it's really possible. Notice His love and His presence surrounding you each day, and allow Him to bring joy to your heart.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the compassion you've shown in my life over the years.

Thank you that you see me and meet my needs, even at times I don't necessarily see you. Help me not to miss what you're doing because I'm consumed by other things.

Rather, I desire to be consumed by you! I love you. In Your name, amen.

DAY 10: ARE YOU SEEING OBSTACLES OR THE OPPORTUNITY?

Kenny Luck

Compassion gladdens the hearts of those who travel the road of pain.

As a prisoner of war, I know that my mother felt trapped in her circumstance with no relief in sight. But small acts of kindness on the part of a Japanese officer were like emotional tsunamis of the soul in the midst of war. Compassion provides hope because someone sees you and moves toward you. The message is: you have not been abandoned.

Every day Jesus walked the earth there were plenty of battles being fought – physical, emotional, relational, and psychological - into which his compassion found a powerful place and purpose. Without compassion filling and informing His character, Jesus could not have met the demands which he came to address among us. This is what makes Jesus, Jesus! That is why - against all odds - people made a way to get to Him.

*Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. **Seeing their faith**, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." (Mark 2:2-4 NLT)*

What exactly did Jesus see that filled him with eagerness to bless the paralyzed man?

He saw something cool, unconventional, and inspiring. Most importantly, Mark records, Jesus labeled it **faith**. Circumstances (lifelong paralysis) or the odds (big crowds) were not in charge in that moment. Instead, **a strong hope** in a compassionate healer pushed them to **a strong behavior** of faith that defeated those potential obstacles. Fixing their hope on Jesus alone, they came,

they saw, they dug a hole in the roof!

Jesus wants you to know that you have access to Him, His healing, and His compassion right now! No crowds. No obstacles. No pre-qualifications. Only Him and you if you come letting no preconceived notion or fear stop you. "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." **(Heb. 4:16 NLT)**

PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for encouraging me to come to You today. Forgive me for listening to other voices in my head that prevent me from being here.

I need Your compassion and mercy today. In spite of my circumstances and perceived obstacles, I come. I bring to You my insides - touch me and forgive me - I need healing and transformation. I bring to You my outsides - apply Your loving authority and compassion to my seemingly unfixable conditions. You alone are able to give me what I need.

Here I am - speak Your will over me as your child.

I remain here and receive Your blessing in faith today because it is in Your name that I come. Amen.



WEEK 2

GOING DEEPER

FOR DEEPER GROUP OR PERSONAL STUDY, GO THROUGH PASTOR JP'S STUDY OUTLINE:

Jesus the Compassionate Healer

Compassion motivated Jesus to heal, to set free and to save. Consider the following passages:

Matthew 14:14

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.

Matthew 15:32

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have **compassion** on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way."

Mark 1:40-42

And a leper *came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and *said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed

Mark 6:34

When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Mark 8:2

"I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat."

Luke 7:12-14

As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."¹⁴ Then

he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

Matthew 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:53-56

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. ⁵⁴ As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. ⁵⁵ They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Jesus healed lepers, paralytics, the blind, the mute, the demonized, those with issues of blood, disabled limbs, seizures, comas and even death. To understand the real Jesus, we must see Him as the Compassionate Healer.

Look at it

Mark 1:40-42

And a leper *came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and *said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Mark 2:1-10

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the

paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, ¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." ¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

1. Jesus was able to see people in their deepest need, He had the power to solve their greatest crisis and He had the heart to act on their behalf. In Mark 1:40-42, not only does Jesus heal the leper but He reached out and touched him. What do you think this communicated to the leper?

2. Compassion prompted Jesus to act but His healings also served to present a message. Read the account in Mark 2:1-10 of Jesus healing a paralytic. What does this healing teach about Jesus and why He came?

Respond to it

1. Hebrews 13:8 says, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* What do you think this means with respect to the compassion and healing of Jesus?

2. Matthew 9:35-36 says, *“³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”* Jesus is the Compassionate Healer and the Good News Proclaimer. Just like the crowds of His day, today Jesus sees people like sheep without a shepherd and He acts with compassion. How do you think Jesus sees you? What do you think Jesus wants to do in your life?

3. If you were to believe in and follow Jesus as Compassionate Healer, how would your life be any different?