

ADULT MISSIONS STUDY

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Cultivating a Heart of Compassion

Teaching Purpose: To explore the concept of compassion as exemplified in the Bible and to consider how we can cultivate a compassionate heart by serving and giving through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

Scripture Passage: Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

1. Opening Discussion (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: What comes to mind when you hear the word "compassion"? Why do you think compassion is important in the life of a Christian?

2. Exploring Compassion in Scripture (20 minutes)

Readings:

Psalm 145:8-9

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love. The Lord is good to everyone; His compassion rests on all He has made.

Matthew 9:36

When He saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd.

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...

Discussion Questions:

- What do these passages reveal about God's compassion towards us?
- How did Jesus demonstrate

compassion during His ministry on earth?

- According to Colossians 3:12, what characteristics are associated with compassion?

3. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (30 minutes)

Read Luke 10:25-37 together.

²⁵ Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the law?" he asked him. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself."

²⁸ "You've answered correctly," he told him. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead.

³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back, I'll

reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

³⁷ “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said.

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

Study Questions:

- What does this parable teach us about compassion?
- Why do you think the priest and the Levite passed by the injured man? What does this reveal about compassion?
- How do the Samaritan's actions challenge our understanding of compassion and neighborliness?
- Who do we need to show compassion to in Louisiana?
- What needs do you see in our community?
- How can we apply the lessons of this parable to our interactions with others today?

Application: Show Video from GBO website “Compassion Goes to Church”

NOTE: You can find additional information on Amazing Grace Ministries/Rescue Church in the Prayer Guide.

Discussion Questions based on video:

- Many churches have a compassion ministry. What are some common ones?
- How does the ministry featured in the video differ from some of these?
- What appears to be the strategy behind Amazing Grace Ministries/Rescue Church?
- From what we saw, how would you describe what God is doing in the lives of these men?
- Do you know someone who would benefit from a compassion ministry of this nature?

4. Cultivating Compassion in Our Lives (20 minutes)

Reflection and Discussion:

- What are some practical ways we can cultivate compassion in our daily lives?
- How can we show compassion to those who are different from us or in challenging circumstances?

5. Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Prayer Focus: Pray for God's help in developing hearts of compassion and for opportunities to demonstrate His love to those around us. Pray for our efforts to fund missions and ministries in Louisiana through the Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering.

For more resources, visit:
GEORGIA BARNETTE.ORG