



*the* \_\_\_\_\_  
**COMPASSION**  
\_\_\_\_\_ *of* **JESUS**

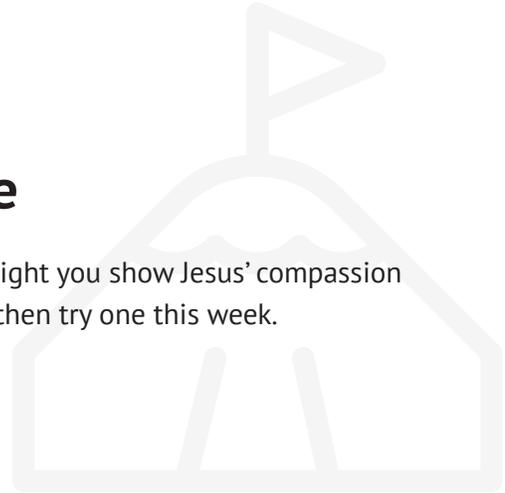
**SUMMARY** | Think of someone important in your life—child, parent, spouse, friend. If you were asked to describe them with one word, could you do it? Trying to capture a person’s heart in one word is difficult. Yet, how much more difficult to try and capture the heart of Jesus with a single word! While the list of accurate descriptions could go on almost indefinitely, this week we will look at one of the best words to describe Jesus. Compassion.

## This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Read John 1:18 and then read Exodus 34:6–7. How did Jesus reveal the Father as being the compassionate God described in Exodus 34?
2. In Luke 7, Jesus had compassion on a woman whose son had died. How can His compassion and comfort help us in our own seasons of grief and loss?
3. Consider the different kinds of people who experienced Jesus’ compassion—the ill, the incurable, the needy, the oppressed (to name a few). Which of those people do you most relate to? Why?
4. In Jesus’ parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, God the Father is pictured as displaying compassion. How does the power of these stories resonate with what we see in Jesus?

## Challenge

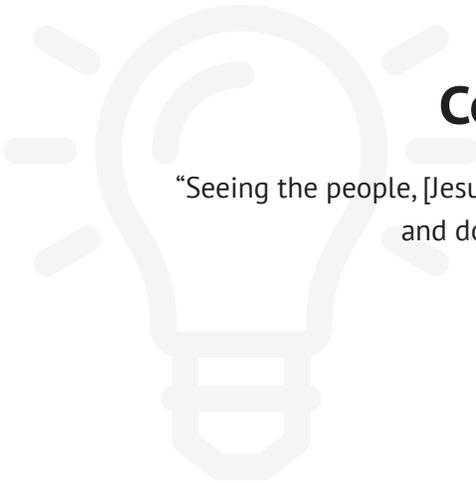
As you consider the world in which we live, how might you show Jesus' compassion to those around you? List the ways and then try one this week.



## Commit To Memory

“Seeing the people, [Jesus] felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd”.

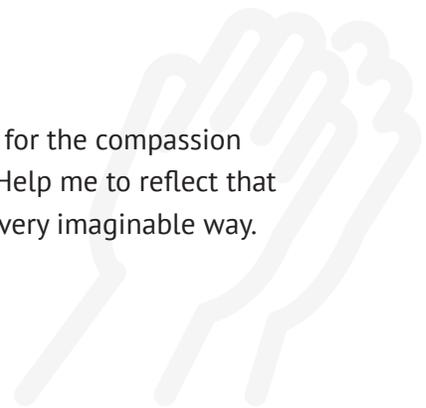
Matthew 9:36 NIV



## Prayer

Father, I thank You for Your compassionate heart and for the compassion so consistently and wonderfully displayed by Your Son. Help me to reflect that compassion to a world that is hurting and broken in every imaginable way.

Amen.







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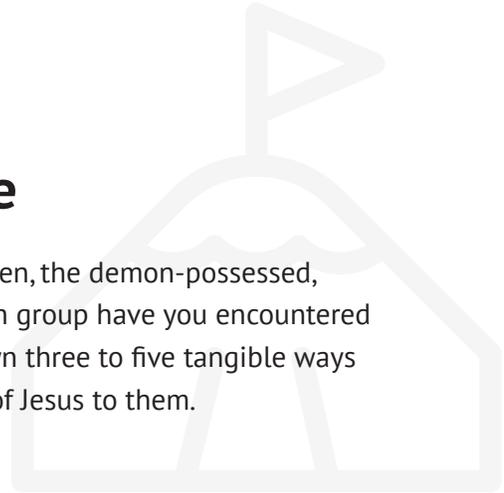
**SUMMARY** | In a world full of hurting and broken hearts, we could use compassion. Jesus defined compassion during His life on earth. His love for people was evident in everything He did, especially in His actions towards marginalized groups. Now that He is no longer on the earth with us, it's our responsibility to carry out that care for others. Join us as we seek a deeper understanding of Jesus' compassionate heart and how it impacts the world.

## **This Week's Discussion Questions**

1. Read Matthew 20:29–34. When Jesus encounters these blind men, He's clearly intent on bringing light to their physical darkness. With many around us in spiritual darkness, how can we bring the light of Christ to them?
2. In Mark 1:40–42, Jesus encountered an incurable man described by Luke (the physician) as “full of leprosy.” What do you think would have been more surprising to the crowd: Jesus' ability to heal this leper or the fact that Jesus actually touched him? Why?
3. In Luke 7:11–17, Jesus encounters a widow grieving the death of her only son and tells her to stop crying. As you ponder those words, do you find them confusing? Troubling? Comforting? Why?
4. Matthew 25:40 is one verse where we witness Jesus showing compassion to the oppressed, including women, the demon-possessed, social outcasts, and the racially devalued. Which group of oppressed individuals do you most identify with?

## Challenge

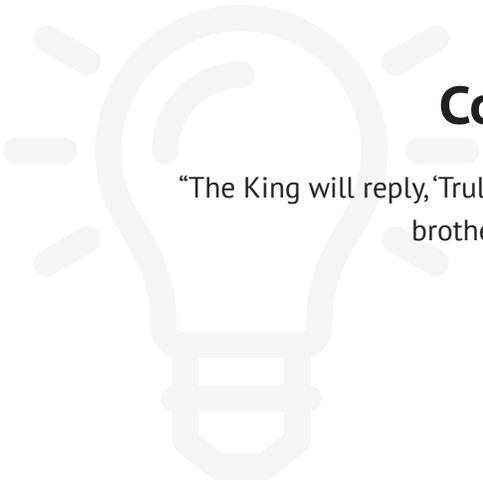
Considering the oppressed—including women, the demon-possessed, social outcasts, and the racially devalued—which group have you encountered or been most aware of in our world? Write down three to five tangible ways you can express the compassion of Jesus to them.



## Commit To Memory

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’.”

Matthew 25:40 NIV



## Prayer

Father, thank You for not leaving us alone. Our Shepherd is with us—and He is the living embodiment of Your compassion. I thank You Jesus sees us in our distressed and dispirited state and cares for us as no other can. Thank You, Father, for the gift of Your Son, the one true Shepherd of our hearts.

Amen.

