



This Home Group Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however, we encourage you to check out one of our warm and friendly Small Groups.

**LESSON AIM:** to help you become a fully devoted follower of Christ by slowing to give compassion to the locally and globally forgotten.

### Connect .....15 min.



**PRAYER:** Begin your time with prayer. We encourage you to quiet yourself, acknowledge God's position, and ask God to open your mind and heart to the lesson aim for today.

**ICEBREAKER:** What is your favorite excuse for not doing something and how does that excuse work for you? If the excuse still works, is there someone it does not work iwth? Why?

Have you ever helped a stranger in distress? What happened?

### Strengthen .....35-40 min.



**KEY PASSAGE:** *"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching 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."* **Matthew 9:35-36 NIV**

1. During Rich's message on Sunday he shared three ways we tend to view strangers: a disruption to avoid, a curiosity to view, or a person to engage. Which one of these is the normal way you react to strangers and why?
2. Read Matthew 8: 1-9:8. How many times does Jesus change location and how many miracles does he perform along the way?
3. What daring deed did Christ do for the man with leprosy? (8:3)

4. How does Jesus' ready willingness to help the centurion's servant encourage you? (8: 7)
5. What kinds of people were brought to Jesus while he was at Peter's house? What did Jesus do for the people who were brought to Him? (8:16)
6. In the midst of His ministry journey, Jesus and His followers encounter a storm that captures their attention. (8:23-27) How can the nerve-racking situations we encounter in life distract us from the things God has called us to do?
7. When they brought Jesus a man sick of the palsy in Matthew 9:2, Jesus forgives his sins. How does this encourage you to remember that we have much more to give people than our compassionate acts of kindness.
8. Why is it important to begin with acts of compassion rather than just preaching the gospel?

### Bless .....15 min.



What sick or suffering person can you visit or talk to this week?

For what person who is sick or in trouble can you intercede today?

What act of compassion will you do for someone who is sick or hurting this month?

### Invite .....10 min.



Who do you know that has many circumstantial clouds in their life? Do you sense the Son still shining for them or does he seem asleep? How can you tell them what you know to be true about Jesus in the midst of their storm.

### Celebrate .....15 min.



Turn your prayers into praise because God, the creator of the universe, was not too busy for you. Praise him to show your appreciation for His saving work in your life. Worship Him because he continues to do miracles in your life every day.

Pray for the praises and needs of the group members.

## STRUCTURE

Design your \_\_\_\_\_

*"[He] came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.'"*

**Luke 10:34 (NIV)**

Restructure by \_\_\_\_\_:

*"... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up."*

**Hebrews 12:1a (NLT)**

- Let go of the \_\_\_\_\_
- Let go of the \_\_\_\_\_

Restructure by \_\_\_\_\_:

*"And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."*

**Hebrews 12:1b (NLT)**

## SERVE

Demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_

**Actions of Compassion:** *Came upon him; Saw him; felt compassion; came to him; bandaged him; poured oil and wine; put him on his beast; brought him to an inn; took care of him; paid the innkeeper; committed to pay.* Luke 10:33-35

- *"... on the way [the disciples] had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.'"* **Mark 9:33-34 (NIV)**
- *"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and give His life as a ransom for many."* **Mark 10:45 (NLT)**

**Two approaches to show compassion:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Opportunities

*Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."* **Proverbs 3:27-28**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Opportunities

## Clear View: Slowing to Help the Stranded

Rich Johnstone - January 30, 2011

## SEE

Develop \_\_\_\_\_

*"When [the Samaritan] saw him, he felt compassion."* **Luke 10:33b (NIV)**

*Paul to the local religious leaders, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving."*

**Acts 28:26 (NIV)**

*"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

**John 4:35 (NIV)**

### Two Lenses

1. The \_\_\_\_\_-focused lens
2. The \_\_\_\_\_-focused lens

### Three ways to view others

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid  
*A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.* **Luke 10:31**
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ to view  
*So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.* **Luke 10:32**
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ to engage  
*But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.* **Luke 10:33**

*"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching 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."* **Matthew 9:35-36 (NIV)**

