

Doing Life Together

1. Based on this passage, if Paul were to be writing to us, what might he say, if anything, to encourage our small group about our spiritual maturity as it relates to compassion?

Leader: Refer to 2 Cor 8:7-9 as you work through your answers. The Corinthians had what it takes to act compassionately as Christ did and as the Macedonians did.

2. What can we do as individuals and as a group to reap the rewards that come through compassion based generosity, with an enthusiastic “get to” attitude and not a grudging “have to” mindset?

Leader: This is a outstanding opportunity to challenge the people in your group to take on a small, short term service project. In the future OEFC will be assisting groups in this matter, but for now, consider getting outside the walls of your homes once per quarter to serve the needs of those less fortunate than you. Be creative, have fun, and most of all do it because you want to, due to the love of Christ compelling you. Don't do this because you have to.

Generosity, giving and compassion are not limited to group efforts. You can also discuss how family groups can sponsor foster children overseas, support missionaries through prayer and financial contributions, and serve as families at places like The Mustard Seed, Samaritan's Purse, etc. Rob Bustin works in this area at OEFC. He welcomes opportunities to help small groups process this heart and mindset. When it comes down to it, just DO IT. Try something that will be a blessing to others, you will grow as a result of it.

Prayer Requests



Leigh & Jana Fehr – SEND International – Japan (Sarah, Cayley, Rebekah & Isaac)

Pray for:

- Encouragement & good progress in language study
- Extra finances for a full time classroom aide for Cayley
- Meaningful contacts with neighbors & those they meet daily
- Protection, health, & provision
- Praise for sale of house in Michigan

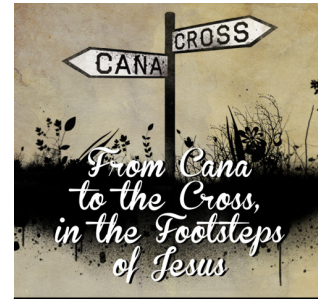
Service Opportunities

Kitchen - keeping tablecloths clean and white

We are looking for someone to take over the tablecloth ministry. If interested, speak to Lenore or call office (938-3311).

Barista's Wanted

The OEFC Coffee Bar is looking for barista's for all services. One hour of training provided on one of following days – Feb 18th (10a), Mar 4th (5p), or Mar 20th (6:45p). For more info email coffeebar@okotoksefc.ca



OKOTOKS
evangelical free church
helping people reach their potential in Christ

February 12, 2012

Sermon Notes

Mark 6:30-44

The cost of compassion

Matthew 7:12

Compassion comes before Convenience

1. Compassion comes before our Plans or Comforts

v.30-34

2. Compassion comes before our Objections or Issues

v.35-37

3. Compassion comes before our Limitations or Inadequacies

v.38-44

John 6:26

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

Home Bible Fellowship Study Questions

Thinking Things Through

1. Do you have any questions from Sunday's sermon? What were they?
2. In Sunday's sermon, the whole incident starts because Jesus 'had compassion' on the people and taught them (and later fed them). We all have different 'compassion quotients' (being people vs task focused). But, like the disciples, we all can come to the end of our compassion quotient. Is your capacity for compassion long or short and what tends to bring you to the end of yours?

Digging Deeper

1. When a fully devoted follower of Jesus encounters someone who's suffering, what might their response look like?

What was Paul encouraging the believers to respond to and what had some of them done? **Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15**

Leader: This passage is likely a direct response to Acts 11:27-30 where it was prophesied that a great famine would arise. The early church worked earnestly to help provide for other believers during this time. Read the passage in Acts for more details. This theme of preparation for the famine played itself out a number of times in the New Testament.

2. What is the Bible demonstrating here about one potential outcome of spiritual growth and maturity?
Leader: God's grace flows through us into the lives of others. The example of Christ should compel us to be compassionate for those in need. Jesus was compassionate enough for our needs to humble himself fully and become man. (See Philippians 2:1-18 and 2 Corinthians 8:9). We too should be compelled to follow Christ's example. Various ways this can work itself out are: visiting people in need, giving to known needs, and obediently responding to the opportunities the HS will point out to us. Remember that the foundation for compassion is grace and not works where we try to prove ourselves good enough.

3. Read 2 Corinthians 8:5-7 where the Macedonians modeled some growth steps for all followers of Jesus in order to become compassionate and generous. What did the Macedonians do and how do these truths work themselves out in your life and your small group?

Leader: They first gave themselves to the Lord. This is where we must all start. Pursuing him, not our own ways. The Corinthian church was also ready to act as they excelled in faith, in speech, knowledge, complete earnestness and love.

Look for some present day parallels of giving self to the Lord and then submitting to the leadership of the church or to the need the church is addressing.

4. Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-9. In these verses what does Paul use as the motivator and example for compassion?

Leader: Some will see the motivator as the earnestness of others. Hopefully others will see the motivator as the richness of Christ. This can open a discussion about what that would be or the difference between the two. If it's just about 'beating the other guy', then it's just a human effort. If it's about living in the richness of Christ like the other guy is, then it's about pursuing God's ways and the example of others.

As we follow the example of Jesus does compassion, generosity, and giving become a grudging "have to" or an excited "get to" in the Christian life? Explain your answer.

5. Discuss what having a compassionate spirit and generous lifestyle means to the people in your group. What does it look like? Remember (2Corinthians 8:2), the Macedonian believers were in the midst of both severe trials and extreme poverty.

Share a time when you "got to" give generously. What was it about and what was the end result of it in your life?

6. Read 2Corinthians 8:1-4 again. These people gave out of a very limited supply, trusting God to meet their needs and replenish what they gave. In their trials and poverty they thrived in generosity and did it eagerly and joyfully. Most of us live in great abundance. What lessons can we learn from this?

Leader: While there are many Canadians struggling to make ends meet there is not a single Canadian who does not have access to money in some format, and there is almost always food available for those who need it. Our concepts of poverty are vastly different than those in developing countries and in the situation described in Macedonia. However, our luxurious lifestyle in North America has a direct influence on those of the developing world. We can do many things to change this, but doing nothing, for most, is likely the one thing we cannot do.