

Small Group Guide: PRIORITIZING WHAT MATTERS - Prioritizing Compassion

Opening Question: If you could have an unlimited supply of anything (except money), what would it be and why?

Opening Prayer: *Lord, we thank You for bringing us together today. As we explore the themes of compassion and sacrifice from Pastor Dan's sermon, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to Your guidance. Help us to understand what it means to follow You fully and to make Your priorities our own. Amen.*

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Ideas

- **Prioritizing Compassion:** Jesus calls us to make unleashing compassion a primary mission in our lives, emphasizing the need for sacrifice.
- **Understanding Sacrifice:** True discipleship requires difficult choices and prioritizing our mission over personal comforts.
- **Heart of Service:** Serving others means setting aside self-centeredness and being available for those in need.
- **Intentional Actions:** Just as one counts the cost before building, we must deliberately choose to follow Jesus, even if it demands everything.
- **Purposeful Change:** Jesus came to change the world, and He invites us to participate in that transformative work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read John 10:10.** What do you think Jesus means when He says He came so that we may have life "to the full"? How can we apply this idea of "full life" in the context of unleashing compassion?
2. **Read Luke 14:25-33.** Why do you think Jesus uses such strong language about discipleship?
3. What does it mean for you to "carry your cross" in your daily life?
4. **Read Mark 9:30-35.** The disciples argued about who was greatest. In what ways do you find yourself competing or comparing rather than serving?
5. How does self-centeredness interfere with our ability to serve and follow Jesus' example? Can you share an instance where putting others first impacted your faith journey?
6. **Read Matthew 20:30-32.** What lessons on compassion and availability can we draw from Jesus' interaction with the blind men?
7. When was the last time you were truly interrupted by someone's need? How did you respond?
8. Pastor Dan mentioned the importance of "big rocks" in our spiritual life. What are some "big rocks" that need to be given priority in your life right now?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (Choose 1 or 2 that apply to you.)

1. Identify a weekly time slot to dedicate to acts of compassion, such as volunteering or helping a neighbor.
2. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas in your life where you need to prioritize His mission over personal desires.
3. Partner with another group member for accountability in committing to a short-term service opportunity.
4. Consider ways to contribute to your local church or community initiative long-term as Pastor Dan suggested.
5. Reflect on how you can model Jesus' availability in daily interactions, such as being intentionally present with family or colleagues.

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27, NIV)

Closing Prayer: *Father, thank You for the insights and wisdom shared today. As we leave, we ask for Your strength to prioritize compassion in our lives, just as Jesus showed us. Help us to make sacrifices that honor You and to be constantly aware of the needs around us. Guide us in being a light in our community and to carry these lessons into our everyday actions. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*