Caregiver SUPPORT

DISCUSSION GUIDE #01

How Can I Know Jesus Has Compassion Toward Me?

See the compassion of Jesus in the bible

WELCOME

» Welcome attendees, look for newcomers and acknowledge them specifically

» Share the group's mission statement:

This is a safe and judgment-free environment where caregivers can find support, encouragement, and help to lift their eyes to Christ.

» Review guidelines for the meeting:

- » Begin and end at set times
- » Respect time allotted for sharing, set by facilitator
- » What is shared in the meetings is confidential, unless it involves abuse of a minor
- » Offer an empathetic and respectful ear to others

WHAT THIS GROUP IS

- » A place to biblically care for the caregivers
- » A place to bring the hope of the gospel to their situations
- » A place to pray for God to meet and bless them with the hope of the gospel
- » A place to listen, to hear struggles, and give help from the bible
- » A place to encourage

WHAT THIS GROUP IS NOT

- » A place to deal with 'patient care' solutions and diagnosis for your loved one
- » A place to give direction for patient care for your loved one
- » A place to hear answers to 'fix' your loved one and the situation you have
- » A place to share political opinions

» Open in prayer

» Encourage group to share current situations (3 minutes). Be sensitive to new attendees.

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QUESTION

Tonight's discussion is centered around this question, how can I know Jesus has compassion toward me?

We can see in many places throughout the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, where Jesus had compassion on the sick and marginalized. Tonight we'll read in Luke 17:12-16 (ESV) about some of the most sidelined people in Jesus' time, the lepers and Samaritans.

> *And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.*

DISCUSSION

How does this story in Luke help us with our caregiving? How can we know for certain that Jesus has compassion toward us when we feel alone and overwhelmed? ***Allow for discussion**

OBSERVATIONS

Thank you for sharing. We see here the heart of Jesus. He is moved with compassion to heal the lepers and even a foreigner from Samaria who was despised in that area. But this happened when Jesus walked the earth, sometimes we need to be reminded that this same Jesus is with us now in our hardships.

HOPE

Hebrews 13:8 (ESV) says,

> *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

The same Jesus who was moved with compassion toward the marginalized lepers still moves toward us today when we feel alone, weak, angry, or fill in the blank. For those who trust in Jesus, we have his Holy Spirit to comfort us. Jesus not only touches us with compassion, but he lives within us if we are Christians. We know he has compassion still today and will forever, toward us personally because of the cross.

GO DEEPER

- Read Luke 17:12-16 again. Notice that Jesus moved toward the ones everyone else kept at a distance. Write one place you feel kept at a distance, then read Hebrews 13:8. How does this truth comfort you?
- If you aren't a Christian and want to know more about the gospel and what Jesus has done, talk with another Christian you may know.
- We encourage you to be a part of a local church that preaches from the Bible. If you need help thinking through that, feel free to reach out to us.

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PRAYER OF LAMENT AND HOPE

God, we know that you are compassionate because the bible tells us so. But life is really hard and we need a touch from you. If we're honest, some days we can believe the lie that you are not compassionate, especially when everything is going wrong. We are weary and feel dried up from our trials on this earth.

Be our strength, be our hope. Refresh us with your presence, help us to remember to go to you for compassion because we will always find it with you. Give us rest tonight, in you, as we lay our heads on our pillows, give us fresh faith in the morning for the day ahead. We cast our burdens on you because you care for us. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us.

Amen