

Week 6 – Costly Compassion

COACHING VIDEO: bit.ly/FCWeek6

Introduction (16 min)

DEBRIEF THE WEEK (5 min)

Last week, we heard a challenge to seek reconciliation in a specific relationship.

Share in pairs: Debrief collective and personal action steps. For those who made a step toward reconciliation, what happened?

VISION + OBJECTIVE (1 min)

Communities flourish when followers of Jesus practice compassion. We see and act, embodying what it means to love God and love our neighbors. We extend compassion to all, even when it is costly or risky.

ICE BREAKER (10 min)

Reflect individually, then share:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “compassion”?
2. Who is it easy to have compassion for? What keeps you from feeling compassion toward others?

Pray to transition.

Biblical Reflection (20 min)

PASSAGE INTRO / BACKGROUND

- Samaritans: non-Jewish and viewed as irreligious. There was deep hatred and tension between Jews and Samaritans. “Samaritan” was even considered a derogatory term to Jews.
- Road to Jericho: an infamously dangerous road, often beset by bandits.
- Expert in the law: someone who loved the Scriptures, memorized them, and tried to put them into action in his life.

READ LUKE 10:25-37

Observation:

- What stands out to you in the passage?
- How do the actions of the Samaritan compare and contrast to the actions of the priest and the Levite?

Interpretation:

- What is significant about Jesus highlighting the Samaritan as the hero of the passage?
- What might Jesus be trying to teach the expert by answering a different question?

Application & Listening Prayer:

- If our community was known for showing costly compassion to all, how would it impact others?
- What is God saying to you through Luke 10? How is he inviting you to respond?

Response (24 min)

ACTIVITY (15 min)

What would it take for action-driven, costly compassion to become second nature? Too often, we hesitate or get stuck in our heads when faced with an opportunity to show compassion. As a group, discuss where you see a need for compassion. Make a list of common situations where you could act (examples: a friend struggling in a class, someone makes a racist comment in an online group discussion, etc.).

- In pairs, choose two situations and brainstorm multiple actions you could take to show compassion.
- Name the barriers that stand in the way of doing these actions. Individually or as a group, commit to one action this week.

This activity is not about cheap charity or feeling good about ourselves. We have to practice overcoming barriers for small acts, so when faced with an opportunity to show costly and risky compassion, we say yes.

ACTION STEPS (5 min)

- **Collective:** Someone in the group may have a prompting from God about a person or group of people for whom they feel strong compassion. Join together to support them and respond as a community.
- **Personal:** Say “yes” to how God is inviting you to respond to Luke 10.

PRAYER (4 min)