

# The Power of And, November 19, 2023

## Ice Breaker:

Share a personal experience where someone's compassion deeply impacted you or where you had the opportunity to show compassion to someone else. How did it make you feel, and what did you learn from that experience?

## Discussion Questions:

1. Compassion is often described as an emotion, but Jesus showed that it's also a verb. Read Mark 1:40-45. In that context, lepers were considered "unclean" and marginalized. Who are the modern-day "lepers" in our society, and how are they often treated? How should we, as followers of Jesus, respond to these marginalized individuals?
2. Jesus physically touched the leper in Mark 1:40-45 when He could have healed with just a word. Why do you think He chose to touch the man, and what impact might that touch have had on the leper? Share a time when someone's physical touch or presence made a significant difference in your life.
3. Think about individuals or groups you find it challenging to love. Have you ever taken the time to listen to their stories and make them feel loved? How might actively practicing compassion change your perspective and heart towards them?
4. Read Matthew 25:31-40 • This passage illustrates how Jesus identifies with the least and the lost. What does this parable teach us about serving those in need and the connection between serving others and serving Jesus? How does this understanding impact your approach to showing compassion?
5. Compassion often requires connection and community. How can your life group invite hurting people to become part of your community? What steps can you take to invite someone into your own life and family? How might these connections meet some of the deepest needs of those in distress?

## Key Takeaway or Action Item:

Consider the cost of compassion. What sacrifices might it require? Reflect on any hesitations you have about paying those costs. Choose one tangible way to show compassion to someone in need this week and act. Share your experience with your life group during the next meeting.