

“Compassion First”

Start Talking: Use the conversation starter below or create your own!

- Share a highlight from the past week. What is something that made you smile?

Key Scripture: Read the following together. *“When Jesus heard it, He departed from there by boat to a deserted place by Himself. But when the multitudes heard it, they followed Him on foot from the cities. 14 And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. 15 When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food. 16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” 17 And they said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” 18 He said, “Bring them here to Me.” 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. 20 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained.” Matthew 14:13-20*

1. What does this scripture tell me about me?
2. What does this scripture tell me about God?

Start Sharing: Choose a question (or several) to create openness and discussion.

- In this passage, we see Jesus' deep compassion for the hungry crowd. How can we emulate this kind of compassion in our daily lives? Share a personal experience when you witnessed or received compassion, and discuss how it impacted you.
- Jesus performed a miracle by multiplying the loaves and fishes to feed the multitude. What does this miracle reveal about the limitless nature of God's compassion and provision? How can we trust in God's abundance in times of scarcity and need?
- Jesus' compassion led to a ministry of feeding the hungry. How can our church or small group engage in acts of compassion that serve our community and glorify God? Brainstorm practical ways to initiate or support compassionate initiatives in your local context.

Start Praying: Pray together and for one another.

“Father, we thank you for your grace and mercy and that you were moved with compassion for us when we were lost and without hope. Continue to do a work of compassion in our hearts and that you would move mightily as we are led by You. In Jesus’ name, amen!”