

Believe Study Guide

Session 8: Compassion

Personal Study

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. The study guide will closely follow Randy Frazee's book, "Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus." You can purchase a copy of the book online at www.amazon.com or get a copy from Mardel's bookstore. There are also "Believe" reading schedule for each chapter on the "Believe" bulletin board in the foyer. This study guide is designed to help you consider what you are learning.

KEY IDEA I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to people in need.

KEY VERSE Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. — Psalm 82:3-4

Read Believe, **Chapter 8: Compassion** and answer the following questions.

1. What patterns do you observe in these Scriptures?
2. As you read these passages, what thoughts or questions came to mind?
3. What did you read that excited you? Surprised you? Unnerved you? Confronted you?
4. In your own words, briefly describe your understanding of compassion.
5. Reflect on a time of need when someone showed compassion by "suffering with" you. What did they specifically do that was comforting?
6. List examples of God's compassion toward humanity from this chapter and other places in the Bible. What environments are you a part of that provide an opportunity to emulate his compassion?
7. What mental or physical barriers, if any, are keeping you from living a lifestyle of compassion? How can you conquer them?

Evaluate

Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 8: Compassion, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).

- _____ God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering.
- _____ I believe I am responsible before God to show compassion to the sick and imprisoned.
- _____ I believe that I should stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.
- _____ I believe that Christians should not purchase everything they can afford, so that their discretionary money might be available to help those in need.

Take Action

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week’s Key Verse to memory.

Recite this week’s Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?

Key Idea: I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Answer the following questions to help you apply this week’s Key Idea to your own life.

1. What behaviors help you recognize someone who believes he or she is called by God to show compassion to those in need?
2. What, if anything, hinders you from showing compassion to those in need?
3. What is something you can do this week to demonstrate this belief?

Journal

To help you keep all your Believe thoughts and materials in one place, note any verses or insights God gives you as you spend time with Him this week. This is also a great place to attach your sermon notes from Sunday’s sermon.
