

Inside Out Jesus - Compassionate Jesus

Text: Luke 7:1-11

Supplies

- Small pieces of paper for game
- Markers
- Tape
- A/V equipment to show a YouTube clip
- Bibles (books or app) to Luke 5:11-17

Large Group

Introduction:

- **Option 1: "It's all in the eyes"**
 - Form 2 even groups. Have each group line up shoulder to shoulder and face the other group so that everyone has a partner.¹
 - Ask partners to look into each other's eyes without saying a word or laughing.
 - Every 10 seconds or so, say "switch" and have 1 line move a person to their right. When the person at the end doesn't have someone, they go to the start of their line.
 - After a few practice rounds, tell the students that anyone who talks or laughs will be out. Start the game, and continue until only 2 players are left. It's a state down until one person talks, laughs, or looks away.
- **Questions:** Was that hard to not talk or laugh? Did it get easier? What could you tell by looking in someone's eyes?
- **Say:** We can tell a lot by looking a person in the eyes. And it can have an effect on us. Let's read about a time Jesus was moved because of what another person communicated.
- **Option 2: "Clothed in Compassion"**²
 - Prep beforehand...or have the youth come up with and write down on paper as you begin. Names of professions...1 for every person in the group. I.e. nurse, firefighter, lawyer, pastor, influencer, YouTube star, Olympic swimmer, etc.
 - Mix them up. Without the person seeing what's written on the card, tape one profession to each person's back.
 - Have everyone circulate around the room asking YES or NO questions about what clothing is worn in the profession on their back.

¹ "The Gigantic Book of Games for Youth Ministry, Volume 2" by Group Publishing. 1999. Page 144

² "The Gigantic Book of Games for Youth Ministry, Volume 1" by Group Publishing. 1984. Page 74

- Once a person has correctly guessed their profession, they can take the paper off their back.
- Continue until everyone has guessed correctly.
- **Question:** Which professions are ones that care for others? How do we know who needs help and care?
- **Say:** We often know who to go to for help in our world because of what they wear. And there are ways we know who needs care, no matter what profession we are. Let's learn about a time when Jesus had compassion.

Where is the emotion in Jesus?

Read Bible Story: Luke 7:11-17

Questions:

- Do you think Jesus wore anything special to identify him as the Savior? As a healer? As a caring person?

Say:

- Jesus had more than just care for the widow. Jesus had more than empathy. He had compassion! Let's look at the difference in these 3.
 - Care is to feel concern for.
 - Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others.
 - Compassion is the desire to help alleviate someone's suffering
- In Jesus' time, this widow's situation was serious. She had lost her husband, and her only son was dead - her last means of support. The crowd of mourners would go home, and she would be left penniless and alone. The widow was probably past the age of childbearing and would not marry again. Unless a relative came to her aid, her future was bleak. Jesus helped her.³
- Before Jesus performs the miracle he did something small but is so important! He SAW her!
- Not only did Jesus raise a man from the dead (WOW!). He also restored hope to this widow, helping her NOW and in the FUTURE. This woman's suffering in the present and in the future was alleviated, because "his heart went out to her." (7:13) Some may say "compassion."

What is the emotion in the world?

- **Set up to video:**
 - The first step to compassion is SEEING someone.
 - How often do we walk around just in our own little world not really SEEING anyone else around us?

³ "Life Application Study Bible" NIV version. Zondervan. 1991. Study note on page 1809

- Ever accidentally walked into someone down the hallway at school? At the grocery store?
- Have you ever not felt seen?
 - Someone run into you? Walk right by you?
 - That can be hurtful, especially if it's someone you know.
- In this video, we're going to see Harry Styles SEE someone in the crowd.
- As you watch, think about how the person Harry SEES would feel.

Watch Video: <https://youtu.be/RbtOIKMMutc?si=xs0IsfcaB2Jvbjn1>

Questions:

- How do you think the teacher felt? (Excited! Special! Seen!)
- How would you feel if Harry Styles picked you out in a crowd that size? (same)
- I wonder if there's a part of us that is that excited, feels that special and seen WHENEVER we are seen in a positive way.
 - Can you think of a time when someone SAW you when you were having a hard time? A friend? Family member? Coach? Teacher?
 - *Share a time when you, the leader, may have felt SEEN in a positive way.*
- Before compassion, we need to SEE, just like Jesus. "When the Lord SAW her" (v. 13)
- "His heart went out to her" Luke 7:13
 - There are lots of ways we can be moved to compassion with our world today.
 - Revisit the definition of compassion: the desire to help alleviate someone's suffering.
- Where does your "heart go out"?
 - Make a list on the board if your group are talkers. (friend at school, someone who is bullied at school, cousins, war zones, oppression, etc)
 - Have paper and pens on tables for people to write their answers.
 - Have Small Group Leaders discuss.

Small Group

Introduction: Jesus SAW suffering and his "heart went out" (Luke 7:13)

Say: There is so much hurt in our world. We see it in the news, in our schools, on the bus, and many other places. These are places our "hearts can go out" to.

Jesus also taught us to SEE an individual to lead us into compassion.

Reaction to how Jesus handled the emotions?

Activity:

- Watch this clip from Inside Out 2 about the sarcasm
- <https://youtu.be/5nNmNIVQQPM?si=yuChOCZGZcQRFwFy>

- Take turns reading Luke 7:13 out loud in your small group with all kinds of different expressions in your voice, emphasizing different words.

“When the Lord saw her his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

- ASK: Does how we say something change how it’s heard?

Reaction to the emotion in the world?

Activity:

- Read the excerpt below from Amanda Gorman’s poem.

COMPASS - Written by Amanda Gorman

Lost as we feel, there is no better

Compass than compassion.

We find ourselves not by being

The most seen, but the most seeing.

- ASK: Is there one person you can SEE with a little more compassion this week? (parent, friend, sibling, grocery store worker, etc)
- Revisit the definition of compassion: the desire to help alleviate someone’s suffering.
- Where does your “heart go out”?
- What ways can you reach out in compassion to the person or situation this week? As an individual or as a small group?



Prayer

For all the places our hearts go out to...Jesus, help us see the hope you bring out of tragedy. And move us with our compassion to do what we are able to do here and now.