



Dgroup Discussion Guide for July 15, 2018
What's In Your Passion?

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-11

We have a compassionate God, as discussed in Psalm 86:15: ***But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*** As followers of Jesus Christ, we should strive to live with just as much compassion toward others. Compassion means “responding with deep sensitivity.” Rather than an emotion, it is an action word that entails a reaction due to a deep-seated desire for change.

Jesus' compassion is displayed in Matthew 9:35-38, where his sojourns to preach the Gospel and perform miracles brought him face-to-face with people who were hurting and in need. He was moved with compassion for them because He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd to guide and protect them. When he saw this, He told His disciples to pray that God send more people to contribute to His work.

Throughout the Bible, Jesus proves to be the ideal embodiment of compassion; He does not merely feel pity or empathy toward people, but He does something to help. For instance, Matthew 14:13-14 says, ***Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.*** He did not just feel compassion and let them be, but He made sure to provide aid.

1 John 3:15-18 says, ***Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for our brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*** The Bible is clear that followers of Christ ought to love his brethren in action and not just in theory. We are therefore called to demonstrate compassion toward each other.

Philippians 2:1-2 says, ***Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy be complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*** Paul reminds us of the necessity of compassion in our completion of the Great Commission, which is to make disciples of the people God brings to us. Philippians 2:3-4 also says, ***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.***

The most important way we can show compassion to others is through sharing the Gospel, the power of salvation. As Christians, our eternity with Christ may be set, but it's likely that we know people who are like lost sheep, people who need the Gospel in their lives. We have been given the Gospel, and so we should not take it for granted. Compassion takes more than just feeling badly about something; it requires action to truly make a difference.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the things that we are passionate about?
2. How do we respond when we are moved to compassion by others? Are we following Jesus' example of compassion?
3. What are some instances that we act on our compassion for others? Are there some instances that we choose not to do anything?
4. Have you shared the Gospel with anyone lately? What hinders you from doing so?