**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Compassion in Action**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [Luke 7:11–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.11-17).

**Consider**

Have you allowed yourself to notice others’ pain despite your own plans? So many of the miracles that Jesus performed appear to be interruptions. How often do you miss the things God wants to do through you because you’re too focused on your own agenda?

Jesus encountered the needs of others often. He didn’t let His own schedule get in the way of those moments. Think about that grieving widow who lost her only son. Instead of seeing the funeral as a hiccup in His plans, Jesus saw it as an opportunity to minister. This encounter changed absolutely everything for this mother.

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| **QUESTION**  How would you compare Jesus’ interaction with this woman to the response of the crowd who was watching? |

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| **QUESTION**  Jesus walked to the coffin and spoke to the young man. What do you think the young man thought when he woke up after being dead? |

**Reflect**

This miraculous act by Jesus was done out of compassion for a woman’s time of heartache. Jesus cared deeply about her pain. Jesus cares for all of us. When you love Jesus, this also means that you should love what He loves, and He deeply loves people. Showing compassion means that we have our eyes open to see the needs of others around us, and we do something about it. We can trust that Jesus will guide us to the right words to say, acts to perform, and prayers to pray for those in need.

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| **QUESTION**  What cause or situation in our world today stirs the most compassion in you? |

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| **QUESTION**  How open are you to allowing the Holy Spirit to use you to respond to this need? |

**Activate**

Write the word *COMPASSION* in all capital letters. Use it as an acrostic, coming up with words or phrases for each letter that describe how you can act compassionately. For example, you might write ***caring*** by the letter C.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, thank You for allowing me to be a part of Your plan. I’m honored to have a relationship with You, especially one where You call me to a great purpose. Knowing You is only half the story; I’m also called to make You known. Help me to love others like You love me. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: Love Others**

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 22:34–40](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt22.34-40).

**Consider**

Have you ever thought about what pleases God? Some people might be tempted to think that only what we do *for* God pleases Him. This isn’t true. The way we treat others can also please God. He wants us to show the kind of love that we want to receive. In the verses you read, Jesus summed up all the rules of the Old Testament into only two rules—love God and love others. Pleasing God means living out that love toward everyone.

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| **QUESTION**  What are the two greatest commandments according to Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Jesus said that all the other commandments are based on these two? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why is it so difficult to follow these two commandments at times? |

**Reflect**

The truth is, it’s hard to love your neighbor well if you don’t love God well. Naturally, we just want to care about ourself sometimes. When we love God first, we can see beyond ourself and have compassion for others. We’ll also love others as He does because we’ll love those He loves. It’s simple: We love others the most when we truly love God.

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| **QUESTION**  What does it look like to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does it look like for you to love your neighbor as yourself? |

**Activate**

It’s time to put this idea of loving your neighbor as yourself into practice. Consider one way that you can serve someone this week. Instead of focusing on your own needs, put that other person first. Maybe it’s helping a parent do the dishes, mowing the grass for an elderly neighbor, helping a friend with homework, babysitting for free, or sharing your food at lunch. Write down your plan somewhere that you will see it. Then do it.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, I love You so much. I pray that You would help me see others the way that You see them. Give me compassion for those around me. I pray for Your followers around the world, that they would love You and their neighbor as well. In Your precious name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 3: More Than a Feeling**

**Engage**

Read [1 John 3:16–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn3.16-24).

**Consider**

The world often defines love as a feeling. Jesus showed that love should also include action. He is the perfect example of what true love looks like because it was out of His love for us that He died on the Cross. Love has a whole lot less to do with receiving than it does with giving. And when you have something as good as the love of Jesus to give away, shouldn’t you do so?

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| **QUESTION**  How does this passage define what love is? |

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| **QUESTION**  How is responding to a need connected to compassion? |

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| **QUESTION**  What do you think the author meant when he said we should also give up our life just like Jesus ([1 John 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn3.16))? |

**Reflect**

Compassion is centered on love. It’s love for others that helps us to walk in compassion. We get to walk in love because Jesus is love. This is more than a feeling—it’s a commitment. It’s action. Loving others isn’t always easy. Sometimes it involves sacrifice, but that can be when it’s the most rewarding, too. Isn’t that the beauty of the Cross? It wasn’t easy, but the reward was huge. Your freedom was paid for by love and compassion. So, now it’s your turn. Walk with Jesus in compassion.

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| **QUESTION**  What might it look like for you to lay down your life for someone (verse [16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn3.16))? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you tend to show love more through words or actions? |

**Activate**

Do your best to memorize [1 John 3:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Jn3.18).

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, thank You for speaking to me today through Your Word. Thank You for the opportunity to know Your words. I pray that this truth will sink deeply into my heart. Help me to show Your love to the world around me. I choose to give myself for Your purposes. Amen.

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**Day 4: Comfy, Cozy**

**Engage**

Read [2 Corinthians 1:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co1.1-7).

**Consider**

Think of a time when you were hurting or experiencing something difficult. What did you need at that time? Comfort and compassion make a big difference when we’re walking through hard times. Just as that is true for us, it’s also true for others. Comforting people in their time of need is a Jesus-like show of compassion.

The apostle Paul wrote multiple letters to the church at Corinth. At the beginning of this letter, he reminded the people that God gives comfort. It’s through His comfort of us that we are given a perfect example of what it looks like to comfort others.

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| **QUESTION**  What’s one reason God comforts us? |

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| **QUESTION**  Where do we find comfort in order to comfort others (verse [4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Co1.4))? |

**Reflect**

God doesn’t promise that we’ll only experience happiness in this life. Sometimes we will walk through trouble and suffering. The good news is that He will comfort us in our time of need. When we’re going through a difficult time in life, we can rest assured that God is ready to comfort.

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever experienced suffering that required comfort from God? |

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| **QUESTION**  How would you describe the comfort God gave you at that moment? |

**Activate**

Think of someone in your life who is walking through a tough season. Maybe a friend lost a grandparent or a family member received bad news. Be intentional this week to write an encouraging note, text them, or call them. Let them know that you’re praying for them and are willing to help. Take a moment right now to pray for their need, and ask God to give you wisdom on how to comfort them.

**Pray**

God, I know that You are the Father of all comfort. I am so thankful for that. I pray for my friends, my family, and the world. Comfort those who are hurting, and provide for them in supernatural ways. Help me to be a comfort to those around me. I love You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 5: It’s Personal**

**Engage**

Read [John 11:32–44](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn11.32-44).

**Consider**

Imagine being a bystander and watching an amazing miracle take place in front of you. Think of being there as Jesus brought a man who had been dead for four whole days back to life. It would be mind-blowing! The story about Lazarus and his sisters is more than a miracle story. It shows the heart and compassion of Jesus. He cared deeply for His friends. What we see taking place in this story was personal for Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**  How would you compare Mary’s reaction to Lazarus’s death to Jesus’ reaction? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think most people think of Jesus as someone who cried over a friend? Why or why not? |

**Reflect**

It’s important to note Jesus’ emotional response to His friend’s death. Jesus wasn’t just performing miracles because He could. He wasn’t emotionless as He performed acts of service for those around Him. He performed miracles out of compassion. He responded to the needs of people. But He also felt their pain. He feels yours as well. Compassion is about being sympathetic toward the needs of others. It’s about empathy—the ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and share their pain. Just as Lazarus’s sisters wept for his death, Jesus was overcome by emotion. He wept.

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| **QUESTION**  What does true compassion look like? |

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| **QUESTION**  How would you comfort someone who had just gone through a tragic loss? |

**Activate**

Write the words, “I’m available to respond compassionately to the needs of others,” in your Bible, journal, or as a note on your phone. Let it serve as a reminder that from this day forward, you are someone who acts with true compassion.

**Pray**

Dear God, I wrote the note that said I’m available. I truly want to be available to show Your kind of compassion. I pray that You would help me see and act on the needs of others. I may miss some along the way, but please help me anyway. I want to be someone You can depend on when others need help. I love You. Amen.