

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Compassion

Song: "What Have We Done for the Poor Ones?"
CD 1, Track 2
Music CD

Insert B-1 through B-4

Composer: Lori True
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet.

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance an atmosphere of **Compassion**, have the song "What Have We Done for the Poor Ones?" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD playing in the background when the participants arrive.

Warm Up - Optional (10 Minutes)

Using the back of their Participant's Worksheet, have each person answer this question (with no discussion): "If you were going to be stranded on a desert island, and had only 5 minutes advance notice, what one thing would you bring?" After everyone has written her answer down, have each participant share her answer with the group and her explanation for giving that answer.

Then, as a group, discuss the answer to the following question: If all of us found ourselves on this island with only the one item each of us brought, how could we combine and/or share our contribution to either improve our situation or help us to get off of the island? Encourage the participants to share their answers.

Opening Discussion (15 minutes)

Have the participants share their answers to one or both of these questions: What is compassion? What is the difference between compassion and sympathy?

Ask each participant to share an instance when someone showed her compassion.

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the **Profile in Faith** article, "*Veronica*" on the top of insert page B-3. Then, after a brief period of silence, ask the participants to join together in the **Opening Prayer** on the bottom of insert page B-1.

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (5 minutes)

Leader: Jesus often spoke about how He was moved with pity or compassion. Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page B-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire. After the final Scripture is read, ask the group, "What else do these Scriptures teach us about **Compassion**?" Share and discuss any responses.

Spiritual Awakening - 1st Reflection (15 minutes)

After having a volunteer read aloud the "Story of the Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:29-37 (Page 1112), ask the participants to share their answers to the following questions:

What are the parallels to the story of the Good Samaritan in today's society? Give an example of a recent opportunity you have had to respond to someone in need. What was the situation? How did you respond?

If you failed to respond to the person in need, what were your reasons? How did you feel? Share and discuss your answers with each other.

Spiritual Awakening - 2nd Reflection (15 minutes)

Have another volunteer read Matthew 15:32 (Page 1034). Ask the participants to share their thoughts on what this demonstration of compassion by Jesus teaches us about being sensitive to other's needs. How does this lesson apply to us as individuals or as a society?

Group Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: Let us now pray together for those less fortunate in the world. Lord, open our hearts with compassion today and every day. We ask You today to accept our praises, hear our thanks and answer our prayers for the intentions we voice and for the intentions we keep in our hearts: enter aloud all individual intentions. Knowing the compassion of Your Most Blessed Sacred Heart, we ask these things in Your name, Amen.

Music Reflection/Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Listen to the song: "What Have We Done for the Poor Ones?" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD. After a few seconds of silence, have the participants open their Bibles to Psalm 145 on page 631. Then continue with the following prayer:

Leader: Lord Jesus, in Your goodness You taught us by the feeding of the four thousand that we should constantly remain aware of the needs of others in the world around us. Inspire us to respond like the Good Samaritan at every opportunity sharing love and compassion in imitation of You as we pray: (pray antiphon-ally Psalm 145).

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "What Have We Done for the Poor Ones?" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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