

GAZING ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Talk 1 – Compassionate

Small group questions

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact phil@bathurstanglican.org.au

1. What stood out to you the most in the sermon about God's compassion? Was there anything you didn't understand?

God is Compassionate: *rachūm*: to love tenderly, often as a mother towards her children. Compassion is not just an attribute describing who God is, but how God feels about us.

Read Exodus 34:6-7 and Matthew 11:28-30

2. How have you experienced compassion from people in your life?
3. Share a personal experience when you felt God's compassion or when you showed compassion to someone in need. How did it impact you or the other person?
4. The sermon mentioned that compassion starts with "seeing." How can we become better at seeing the needs of others in our daily lives?
5. The speaker highlighted that compassion is both a feeling and an action. In what ways do you think you can turn your feelings of compassion into tangible actions to help those in need?

'The emotion which we should naturally expect to find most frequently attributed to Jesus, whose whole life was a mission of mercy... is no doubt, compassion.' B.B. Warfield

6. What does compassion look like in the life of Jesus?
7. How is Jesus compassionate towards us right now?
8. The sermon talked about compassion being an expectation for Christians, not just a gift. What do you think it means to have compassion as a Christian character trait? How can we develop this trait in our lives?
9. Can you think of any specific situations or individuals in your life right now who could benefit from your compassion? How can your small group support and encourage each other to show compassion in these situations?
10. When you sin or wander from God, how do you think God feels about you?
11. The sermon also discussed the concept of God's mercy toward sinners. How does understanding God's mercy affect the way you view your own sin and the sins of others?
12. As we approach Easter, how can we better understand and appreciate the depth of God's compassion and mercy, especially in the context of Jesus' death and resurrection?
13. How could being more aware of God's compassion change your everyday?

Lord, help us to remember that compassion is not merely a feeling but a call to action. May we be inspired to see the needs of others and respond in practical, caring ways. Use our small group as instruments of your love and compassion in our communities. As we approach Easter, we reflect on your ultimate act of compassion through the sacrifice of your Son on the cross. We pray that our Lenten studies will deepen our understanding of your great goodness and motivate us to share it with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.