

COMPASSION

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1 JOHN 3:16-18

Genuine compassion is _____ (1 John 3:18).

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

1. If you received \$100,000 bonus this week, what is the most satisfying thing you could do with it?
2. Read 1 John 3:16-18. Take a few minutes for each person to privately mark up their observations of the passage (for example, repeated words, truths about God, commands, striking phrases, etc.). Each person should write down at least one question they are wondering about or would like to ask the group. After each person does this, share some of your observations and questions.
3. Most people would say that they want to be compassionate people, but we all struggle to “love...with actions and truth” (1 John 3:18). Why do you think that is?
4. Why does our lack of generous compassion towards our brothers and sisters mean “the love of God” is not in us (1 John 3:17)? How are the love of God and generosity towards others connected?
5. What are some of the excuses and justifications we use to avoid being generous and compassionate when we see others in need?
6. How can having wealth make compassion more difficult?
7. How does Jesus’ sacrifice for us soften us to be compassionate (1 John 3:16)? How does it enable us to be more generous?
8. In Matthew 6:21 Jesus says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Your heart follows your money. Where have you seen this in your own life? Tell about things you have used your money on and how those things started to draw your attention, thoughts, emotions, desires, and worry?
9. How have you seen yourself grow more compassionate towards a person, group, or cause when you were generous?
10. What are some ways you can use your resources to practice compassion? What specifically could you do with your paycheck that would exercise your compassion muscle?

PRAYER PROMPT: Practice gratitude for the ways God has provided for you. Go around the group and finish this sentence, “God, thank you for the way you provided...” Let your gratitude range from the spiritual to the material, the past to the present.