

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

April 8, 2018 sermon:

Exodus: "Compassion, justice and generosity"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

- 1.) Have you ever been compassionate and generous to someone only to find out later that you had been taken advantage of in some way? How did that make you feel and how did it impact your willingness to be generous the next time?
- 2.) Honestly...who/what is the "front line" when it comes to generosity and compassion? The individual believer, the church, or the government? Explain.

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. One of the responses to the generosity and compassion we've received is gratitude. Gratitude is more of a daily practice of being thankful rather than a one-time decision or feeling. Any day we don't practice gratitude, we naturally fall back into complacency, entitlement or privilege, which takes us further away from being thankful. What do you see in the following verses that remind us of what God has done for us and can help us practice the daily habit of gratitude?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
 - 2 Corinthians 4:15-16
 - 2 Corinthians 9:11-12
2. It can be easy to take for granted God's grace and everything that's been given to us. How do you see this principle worked out in Luke 17:11-19?
3. We looked at the story of the woman who broke an outrageously expensive bottle of perfume and poured it all over Jesus (\$30,000-\$70,000 worth by today's standards). It is easy for us to look at that story and not realize that in the very same circumstance, not knowing Jesus' response in advance, we probably would have responded the very same way. Read the story in Mark 14:3-10 and come up with a similar "modern day" example of something extravagantly generous that might be misunderstood.

Application: (5-10 minutes) Share as honestly as you can about the struggles you have with compassion and generosity. Is it feeling that you don't have enough to share? It is feeling you will be taken advantage of? What does God say?