

7. Do you find yourself taking God's counsel or counseling God in the midst of a trial? Do you find yourself hearing your opinion or hearing God's truth? Read Jonah 4:1-11 and discuss.

8. Think of a person that you know is a non-believer and has purposely hurt you emotionally. Have you avoided that person? Do you think of ways to “get back” at that person often? What does your “record sheet” look like against that person? How can you show compassion to that person? Read Luke 15:20 and discuss.

9. When was the last time you had true compassion for a helpless and needy person? Do you think that a wealthy person is needy? Do you often think only poor people are needy? What does it mean to be spiritually needy? What hope can you offer that person?

Podcasts are available each week on www.kcfonline.org under Resources.

Compassion goes deeper than...

COMPASSION is a deep awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the desire to relieve it.

True compassion derives from the **HEART OF GOD**. (*Jonah 4:2*)

Christ did not have human pity but **DIVINE COMPASSION**. (*Matthew 14:14*)

Christ's compassion was not inactive, reactive but **PROACTIVE**.

(*Jonah 1:3, 4:1; Mark 1:41*)

RUNNING AWAY from God is equivalent to a believer avoiding spiritual responsibilities. (*Jonah 1:1-3*)

We must be careful that our **OPINION** doesn't become dominion.

(*Jonah 4:1-2*)

A compassionate heart is an **AGENT** to help the helpless.

(*Matthew 9:36*)

A compassionate heart has no **RESPECTER** of person. (*Jonah 1:2, 3:2; 4:11*)

A compassionate heart **KEEPS NO** records. (*Jonah 3:10; Luke 15:20*)

The **PROPER RESPONSE** for the spiritually needy is offering hope. (*Jonah 4:11; Luke 19:1-9*)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of June 20, 2010

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. When a friend comes to you to share his or her struggle, how do you react? Do you change the subject? Do you share something about yourself? Or do you listen with an intent to relieve him or her? Discuss.

2. Compassion means to “co-suffer” with another, if your child was suffering with either an illness or disease, how would you feel? Would you want to take their suffering away? Read 1 Kings 3:16-26 and discuss.

3. When a celebrity or philanthropist gives money, is that considered true compassion or human pity? Does their action validate true compassion? Explain and discuss.

4. What does true compassion mean? What does it mean to have the heart of God regarding compassion? When Christ looked on the large crowd, did he simply have pity on them or did he do something about their hunger? Read Matthew 14:14-21 and discuss.

5. Your neighbor shares with you that if they don't make this month's mortgage their house will be foreclosed. What would you do? Would you be inactive? Would you be reactive? Would you say something like this, “good, I didn't like them anyway, hope we get better neighbors”? Would you be proactive? For example, get neighbors together to help the family with a donation. Discuss and explain.

6. Would you say that avoiding spending time with the Lord is equivalent to Jonah running away from God? Do you think that your compassion towards others increases or diminishes when you spend little time with God?