



## **Faith and ... Compassion**

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Speakers:** Kat Densham and Aaron Smith

**Key Verses:** Luke 10:25-37, Luke 4: 18-19

### **Talk Summary:**

- Compassion is recognizing the suffering of others, then taking action to help (Compassion International).
- We risk compassion fatigue because we are over-exposed to suffering in the media. We can also fail to recognise the scale of suffering in our city/nation, or leave it to the state to look after these people.
- We see God's heart for compassion all the way through Scripture, expressed most clearly in Jesus becoming human in order to die for us.
- We are able to show compassion to others because we first receive it from God.
- Jesus' ministry of compassion is our blueprint (see Luke 4v18-19). It extends to all people.
- The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that we are called to see and then to act:
  - To see the image of God in people, and to recognise their needs.
  - To act, both to relieve immediate need, and to work to empower people.
- Seeing and acting rightly require prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

- Can you describe a time where you experienced God's compassion (or if not, compassion from someone else)?
- Where are the opportunities for compassion in your everyday life, and what kind of people/scenarios naturally create compassion in you?
- How might our church look different if we each made Luke 4v18-19 our mission statement?

- What is Jesus' invitation to you in the area of compassion?
- Spend some time together praying that the Holy Spirit would help you to see the image of God in others, and that he would empower compassionate action.

**To ponder or pray about this week...**

Take two minutes each morning to ask God to show you his heart of compassion for you, and for others.