



WEEK 3: CARING

Meeting the physical needs of the poor in order to meet spiritual needs, resulting in transformed lives

SERMON REWIND

This week focuses on **Mission** through the value of **Caring**. Caring for the poor, the hurting, the vulnerable, and the forgotten has always been central to the heart of Jesus. We see this in Luke 4 as Jesus announces good news to the poor, freedom for the oppressed, and the favor of the Lord. In Matthew 25, Jesus reminds us that when we move toward the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, the vulnerable, and imprisoned, we are moving toward Him.

Caring is not just something WOL does through a ministry or department. It is the compassion of Jesus moving through His people. God does not bless us just for our blessing's sake, but He blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. **We are called to be rivers, not reservoirs.**

We are WOL when the compassion of Jesus moves us toward the poor, the hurting, and the forgotten.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

Look up these additional verses:

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV); James 2:14-17 (NIV); Deut. 15:7-11 (NIV); Isaiah 58 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 The Heart of Jesus

Caring for the poor, hurting, vulnerable, and forgotten is not a secondary issue to Jesus. It is central to His ministry.

- a. When you think about the compassion of Jesus, what stories or moments from His life come to mind?
- b. Why do you think Jesus so often moved toward people that others overlooked?

2 Seeing People Differently

Matthew 25 reminds us that when we serve those in need, we are serving Jesus Himself.

- a. How does it change the way we see people when we remember that Jesus identifies with the hungry, hurting, stranger, sick, and imprisoned?
- b. Who are the people in our community who have been overlooked?

3 Compassion That Moves

Biblical compassion is more than feeling bad for someone. It moves us toward people with love, humility, and action.

- a. What is the difference between feeling compassion and acting with compassion?
- b. What sometimes keeps us from moving toward people in need?

4 Rivers, Not Reservoirs

God blesses us not so we can hold everything for ourselves, but so His love can flow through us to others.

- a. What are some ways God has blessed you that could become a blessing to someone else?
- b. How can our acts of generosity shape the culture of our church family?

Caring Close to Home

Caring is not something we turn on to serve and off when we leave. It is ingrained in us, carried into everyday moments with neighbors, coworkers, family, and those God places before us.

- a. Where might God be inviting you to notice someone who needs care, encouragement, or support right now?
- b. What is one practical way you can carry the compassion of Jesus this week?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Caring is not just something we support, but it is something that we practice as followers of Jesus.

- Where have you recently noticed someone carrying a burden, need, or pain?
- Who might Jesus be inviting you to move toward with compassion this week?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

This week, practice being on mission by:

- Ask God to help you see someone who might feel overlooked or forgotten.
- Meet one practical need this week through encouragement, generosity, prayer, service, or presence.
- Look for one way to serve through WOL, CityLink, your neighborhood, workplace, school, or family.

Ask the Holy Spirit to form the compassion of Jesus in you so we become people who move toward the poor, hurting, and forgotten.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

James 2:15-17 (NIV), *"Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

Let the group close by remembering that faith and compassion go hand and hand.

WHERE DID GOD SHOW UP?

PRAYER:

NOTES:
