

Ice Breaker: Would you rather pull one person out of a river every day or spend a year figuring out why people are falling into the river in the first place?

Read: Matthew 9:35-38, 10:1-10

Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
  - Share about a time when someone showed compassion to you in a meaningful way.
  - When you see someone in need, what is usually your first response: to help immediately, to pray, to investigate the cause, or something else?
- What Jesus SAW: the crowds and their needs, they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
  - Why do you think Jesus looked beyond people's outward circumstances and recognized their deeper needs?
  - What are some examples of people in our community today who might feel "harassed and helpless"?
  - How can busyness, assumptions, or comfort keep us from truly seeing people the way Jesus did?
- What Jesus FELT: he had compassion on them.
  - The Greek word splagchnizomai describes a deep, gut-level compassion. How is this different from feeling sorry for someone?
  - Have you ever experienced a situation that deeply moved your heart to action? What happened?
  - How can we guard against compassion fatigue while still keeping our hearts open to people?
- What Jesus DID: He modeled the solution. He told his disciples to pray – ask the Lord of the Harvest to send workers into the harvest field.
  - Why do you think Jesus instructed His disciples to pray before sending them out?
  - What does this tell us about God's role and our role in meeting needs?
  - What are some needs in our church, neighborhood, workplace, or schools that require more workers?
  - How does prayer change the way we see people and opportunities?
- What WE should do: Pray, and become the answer to our prayers. (Matthew 10:1-10)
  - What stands out to you about Jesus immediately sending the disciples after asking them to pray?
  - How do you think the disciples felt being asked to step into the solution?
  - What's the difference between charity (meeting an immediate need) and creating lasting change?
  - How can both charity and long-term change work together in ministry?
- Closing Thoughts
  - What is an immediate need we can address in our families, church, and/or community?
  - What might be the root cause behind that need?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

Icebreakers, Groups Support, FAQ