

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, 28:18-20

Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
  - [Big Question] How do we become people who don't just recognize the need, but are willing to meet the need?
  - 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?
- We Have to See the Need (Matthew 9:35)
  - When I see people who are struggling, am I seeing them through the eyes of Jesus or through my own assumptions?
  - What do you think Jesus saw?
  - 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?
- We Have to be Moved by the Need (Matthew 9:36)
  - What do you think Jesus felt?
  - 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?
- We Have to Seek God and Be Willing to Respond (Matthew 9:37-38)
  - Prayer doesn't just invite God into what we're concerned about. It can change how we relate to what God is concerned about. How did Jesus model this to His disciples?
  - 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?
- Closing Thoughts (Matthew 28:18-20)
  - With the Great Commission in mind, what is an immediate need we can address in our families, church, and/or community?
  - What might be the root cause behind that need?
  - What could you (or your group) do in the next 30 days to make a meaningful difference?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

Icebreakers, Groups Support, FAQ