

Small Group Discussion Sheet

Title: Pity & Popularity — Week 4

Icebreaker:

When was the last time someone's compassion toward you made a lasting impact?

Main Idea

A single act of compassion made Jesus widely known—despite His instructions—forcing Him to change His strategy. This was not a setback, but part of God's intent to make Jesus known.

Tell it, rebuild it, then read the passage

Scripture: Mark 1:40–45

Discussion

As you begin your discussion, it is easy to start with what we learn (HEAD) from this Scripture, then move into how we feel (HEART) about it, and finally the most difficult part—what we are going to do (HANDS) differently because of it.

Make sure to allow time for the **HANDS** portion or you will spend all of your time observing the text without implementing it.

Allow the Holy Spirit to direct you about which questions to prompt your group to answer. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COVER THEM ALL.**

Leader prompts and sample answers are provided to help keep the discussion moving.

HEAD — Knowledge (What do we learn?)

Goal: Understand Jesus' compassion, authority, and purpose.

1. What is the man's condition, and what does he ask of Jesus?

Leader Prompt:

“Pay attention to both his physical condition and his words.”

Sample Answers:

- He has leprosy and is an outcast
- He kneels before Jesus
- He believes Jesus is *able* but wonders if He is *willing*

2. How does Jesus respond to the man?

Leader Prompt:

“What do we see Jesus feel, say, and do?”

Sample Answers:

- Jesus is moved with pity/compassion
- He touches the man
- He speaks healing with authority
- The man is immediately cleansed

3. Why is Jesus' command to remain silent significant?

Leader Prompt:

“What might Jesus be protecting or prioritizing?”

Sample Answers:

- He wanted obedience, not publicity
- He was focused on God's mission, not fame
- He wanted proper testimony through the priest
- Popularity could hinder His ministry movement

4. What happens when the man tells everyone anyway?

Leader Prompt:

“Look closely at verse 45.”

Sample Answers:

- Jesus becomes widely known
- Crowds grow larger
- Jesus can no longer openly enter towns
- His strategy shifts, but His mission continues

HEART — Feeling (What do we feel or value?)

Goal: Reveal what we believe about God’s character and our role in sharing Him.

1. How do you feel about Jesus touching the leper?

Leader Prompt:

“What does this show you about His heart?”

Sample Answers:

- Loved and accepted
- Moved by His compassion
- Encouraged that no one is untouchable

2. What emotions surface when Jesus is willing to heal?

Leader Prompt:

“How does this affect how you approach God?”

Sample Answers:

- Relief—God is not reluctant
- Hope—God is willing to meet me
- Trust—He is merciful and kind

3. How do you feel about the man disobeying Jesus?

Leader Prompt:

“Try to sit in the tension—don’t rush to fix it.”

Sample Answers:

- I understand his excitement
- I feel conflicted about his disobedience
- I see how passion can outrun obedience

4. Where do you struggle to trust God’s process or timing?

Leader Prompt:

“Think about sharing faith, waiting, or obedience.”

Sample Answers:

- I want results now
- I fear missing opportunities
- I struggle to wait for God’s direction

HANDS — Practical (What will we do?)

Goal: Respond to Jesus’ mercy with faith, obedience, and testimony.

1. Where do you most need to believe that God is *willing*?

Leader Prompt:

“This is about trust, not performance.”

Sample Answers:

- Forgiveness
- Healing
- Guidance

- Restoration

2. Where do you need to trust that God is *able*?

Leader Prompt:

“What feels impossible right now?”

Sample Answers:

- A broken relationship
- A hard situation at work
- A personal struggle or habit

3. Who could hear about God’s compassion through your story?

Leader Prompt:

“Keep it simple—this is not a sermon.”

Sample Answers:

- A friend
- A coworker
- A family member
- Someone walking through hardship

4. How can you share without seeking attention for yourself?

Leader Prompt:

“What keeps Jesus at the center?”

Sample Answers:

- Pointing to what God has done
- Staying humble
- Trusting God with the results

5. What is one step you will take this week?

Leader Prompt:

“If it’s vague, help them make it smaller.”

Sample Answers:

- Pray for compassion toward someone specific
- Share a brief testimony of God’s mercy
- Obey God promptly instead of delaying
- Trust God’s willingness in prayer

Closing Reminder for Leaders

Key Truth:

God is merciful. God is willing. God is able.

When we tell what He has done, God is made known—and others will seek Him.

Close by praying that the group would trust Jesus’ compassion, obey His leading, and boldly—but humbly—make Him known.

Administrative Planning for next week

Where to meet

Meal plan

Anything else that needs planned