

NO ORDINARY MAN

The Power of Jesus

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week Nine
Matthew 9:35-38

BIG IDEA

As followers of Jesus, we are called to pursue His heart and pursue the lost.

PRAY

Invite the Spirit of God into your midst. Pray for the ability to be present in conversation and open to the Spirit's leading.

DISCUSS

Use this section to get the group warmed up a bit. You can use one of these questions, or you could write your own based on this week's message.

What is your absolute favorite place to spend time in our community? Why?

How have you seen the spiritual climate of our community change over the past several years?

In your own words, describe how Trinity should affect the spiritual climate of this community in the future?

In his gospel, one of the themes Matthew highlighted repeatedly is the compassion of Jesus. Wherever He went, Jesus showed compassion to those in need. In chapter nine alone, we see Jesus heal a paralytic (Matt. 9:1-8), raise a girl from the dead and heal a woman of chronic bleeding (Matt. 9:18-26), heal two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31), and then heal a man who is unable to speak (Matt. 9:32-34).

What does Matthew want us to see in these examples?

READ MATTHEW 9:35-38

DISCUSS

What examples of Jesus' compassion do we see in verse 35?

Why does Jesus want us to be concerned about people's spiritual and physical needs?

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What are the dangers of focusing on one of these more than the other?

How does this help us see how Jesus is different from other religious leaders of His day?

What did Matthew communicate by describing the crowds as helpless, like sheep without a shepherd?

Read John 10:14. What does it mean that Jesus is the Good Shepherd? Why is this important?

SO WHAT?

Unpack how you will live in obedient response to God by doing what this passage teaches us.

What are you doing to cultivate a heart of compassion for those around you? What could/should you begin doing?

What does it mean to labor in the field where God has placed you? What does this look like for you?

What can we do to engage more workers in the harvest in our church and our community?

How might recognizing that Jesus is Lord of the harvest transform the way you approach reaching our community with the Gospel?

What will you do this week to point people to the Good Shepherd? How can we help you do that?

PRAY

Before you pray. Take a few minutes for folks to identify 1 person in their life that they are praying for (or should begin praying for) that they would come to know Christ. If appropriate for your group, invite folks to share the FIRST NAME (or initial) of that person with the group.

Take time praying together. Pray for each person that was named, but pray also for the folks in your group, that God would grant them the opportunities to point them toward the Good Shepherd, and the boldness to do so.