



Intentional Neighboring

Session 5:

Compassion for the Lost

Seeing Lost People Through the Eyes of Jesus

Matthew 7:12 | Matthew 9:35-38 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Ephesians 2:11-13 | Romans 15:2-4, 13

OUR MISSION

*We exist to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ
who obey the Great Commandments and fulfill the Great Commission.*

Revisiting Samantha's Story

For the past two years, you have intentionally built a friendship with your neighbor, Samantha.

You've talked over the fence, helped each other with projects, shared meals, and become trusted friends. Samantha knows you are a Christian and knows that prayer is an important part of your life. While you have never pressured her about spiritual matters, she knows you are a person of faith.

Samantha is not hostile toward God. She simply lives as though God is not part of everyday life. She does not attend church, does not read the Bible, and spiritual conversations have never been a significant part of your friendship.

One afternoon Samantha knocks on your door. She has just returned from an appointment with her doctor.

"The doctor found cancer."

She begins to cry.

"The good news is they caught it early. The doctor says it's very treatable and expects a good outcome. But my mom died of cancer when I was a teenager. Ever since then, I've been terrified of hearing that word."

After a few moments she looks at you and says,

"I know you're a praying person. Would you pray for me?"

Small Group Discussion

Who Said This? "The longer I've been a Christian, the easier it is for me to forget what it felt like to be lost, without hope, and without Christ. That's something the Lord continues to work on in my own heart. I want to do a better job of remembering where Jesus found me because I believe the more I remember His grace toward me, the more compassion I'll have for people who are still far from Him."

Exercise: Think Like Samantha

Imagine you are Samantha. Forget that you are a Christian. Assume you know very little about Jesus. Assume you are uncertain about life after death. Assume you have just been told you have cancer.

For the next few minutes, answer these questions as Samantha, not as yourself.

Discuss

1. What emotions would you be experiencing after hearing the word "cancer"?
2. What questions or fears would keep you awake at night?
3. Besides your health, what else would you fear losing?
4. If you had little or no relationship with God, where would you look for hope?
5. What would you hope someone would say—or do—for you?
6. What kinds of comments or actions would make you feel misunderstood, judged, or like a "project" instead of a person?
7. What practical acts of kindness would communicate genuine compassion?
8. If someone offered to pray for you, what would make that prayer meaningful?
9. What would help you trust someone enough to have a conversation about spiritual matters?
10. Looking back, how might God use genuine compassion to prepare your heart to hear the gospel?

Closing Challenge

Take a moment to reflect personally.

1. Do I still remember what it felt like to be spiritually lost?
2. When I encounter people far from God, is my first response frustration or compassion?
3. Am I looking for opportunities to share the gospel, or am I looking for people to love?
4. Who is one "Samantha" God has already placed in my life?
5. What is one practical way I can show Christ's compassion to that person this week?