



Great Lent Giveaway 2017 Life!

**Youth Group Session 2 –
Compassion in Action! - Christian Almsgiving
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(Originally created for GLG 2013 modified by the Office of Youth Ministry)

Session II Outline - Compassion in Action

I. Opening prayer

From the Lenten Triodion (First Wed - Vespers)

'While fasting bodily let us also fast in spirit. Let us loose every bond of iniquity. Let us undo the knot of every contract made by violence. Let us tear up all unjust agreements. Let us give bread to the hungry and welcome to our house the poor who have no roof to cover them, that we may receive great mercy from Christ our God.'

II. Recognizing the need in our Brother

What did you think of the video?

We often do not know what struggles a person is going through based on just looking at them. We cannot understand who they truly are until we take the time to know them. Do you sometimes make judgments about people simply based on how they look? Do we possibly miss out on helping someone in need by not truly *looking* at them? Do we possibly miss out on helping someone by not truly listening to them?

Read the Scripture Passage - Let's take a look at the scripture passage to begin our discussion today. Compassion for my neighbor (Parable of the Good Samaritan) **Lk. 10:25-37**



III. Questions!

Question 1: The Samaritan 'had compassion' on the afflicted man and was moved in his heart. If you have been so moved in your heart, what do you want to do? What *can* you do?

Question 2. What did the Samaritan do for his neighbor? What are the verbs that describe his actions? Charity is often about *doing*, not just feeling.

Question 3. What is one thing that the passage doesn't say directly that we might consider doing as well?

Question 4. One of the goals of the Great Lent Giveaway is trying to help us focus on the needs of people in need, to help mothers and babies who may be without. How can the actions of the Samaritan in the story of the Good Samaritan help us find ways to do things where we can participate in such charitable work?

Question 5 - Is there some way that the spirit of Almsgiving can overflow past these weeks of Lent, to other projects and charitable efforts in our parish? Sponsored by our youth group?

Sometimes it can be overwhelming when we see the needs of a person or situation. Often we are not able (and must not try) to meet all the needs. Just begin with what we can do, and hopefully do well. The Samaritan is a Superman when it comes to Charity!

There is another great Take Home Challenge for you and your family to work on together. Make sure to bring it with you to our next GLG session!



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IV. Closing Reflection/Prayer - From St. John Chrysostom

“Let us not overlook such a tragedy as that. Let us not hurry past so pitiable a sight without taking pity. Even if others do so, you must not. Do not say to yourself: ‘I am no priest or monk; I have a wife and children. This is a work for the priests; this is work for the monks.’ The Samaritan did not say: ‘Where are the priests now? Where are the Pharisees now? Where are the teachers of the Jews?’ But the Samaritan is like a man who found some great store of booty and got the profit.

“Therefore, when you see someone in need of treatment for some ailment of the body or soul, do not say to yourself: ‘Why did so-and-so or so-and-so not take care of him?’ You free him from his sickness; do not demand an accounting from others for their negligence. Tell me this. If you find a gold coin lying on the ground, do you say to yourself: ‘Why didn’t so-and-so pick it up?’ Do you not rush to snatch it up before somebody else does?

“Think the same way about your fallen brothers; consider that tending his wounds is like finding a treasure. If you pour the word of instruction on his wounds like oil, if you bind them up with your mildness, and cure them with your patience, your wounded brother has made you a richer man than any treasure could. Jeremiah said: ‘He who has brought forth the precious from the vile will be as my mouth.’ What could we compare to that? No fasting, no sleeping on the ground, no watching and praying all night, nor anything else can do as much for you as saving your brother can accomplish.”

St John Chrysostom, *Eighth Homily against the Judaizers* 4: 1-3

Take Home Exercise – Compassion in Action

Session 2 - Who is my Neighbor?

Scenario: A new young, single mom does not have the support of her family. It is becoming difficult to hold down a job, go to school and take care of her daughter. She is almost at the end of her rope.

Note - Being overwhelmed and alone is like a 'robber' which can beat us down, strip us of our strength and leave us near death, both physically and emotionally.

Question 1 - List ways that you think that someone might be able to help this young mom? Be creative!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Question 2 - Of these ways you think that someone might be able to help this young mom, would there be any that **you** (or your family) could do?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Part II - How do we Carry Out Almsgiving as the Church?