

HIGHLANDS SMALL GROUPS

INTERRUPTION OR INVITATION?

Big Idea

In this message, Pastor Dino talked about the story of the Good Samaritan and the importance of compassion, especially in these difficult times. All of our lives have been interrupted by the coronavirus, and that interruption has been hard on everyone, to varying degrees. But we have a decision to make: Are we going to see it only as an interruption, or will we also see it as an invitation? Many of the people around us are experiencing a great time of need. This crisis is an invitation to jump in to meet those needs and make a difference with the incredible love of Jesus. We don't want to miss this moment.

Let's start by "reaching our road," looking for people who are right in front of us who might need intentional love, attention, or help. It's important for us to stay aware of how our families and friends are weathering this storm and to be there for them. Next, let's choose to be a neighbor. The key to truly being a neighbor is loving those who are different from us. We need to respond to any person who has a need that we can meet! All people matter to God; therefore, all people matter to us. Finally, let's stay committed to compassion. It's natural for us to grow weary as this crisis persists and we encounter difficulties in our own lives. But we must stay committed to meeting the needs of those around us in Jesus' name. It costs us something to be compassionate, but it's worth it.

Discussion Questions

- In what ways has your life been interrupted during this season?
- What are some of the ways you've seen people around you struggling through this crisis? How have your loved ones handled it?
- What needs do you see that you might be able to help meet? (These answers could include serving with the Outreach Team, providing food or financial support, connecting with a friend who is struggling with anxiety, etc.)

Prayer Focus

God, thank You for helping me see that this season is an invitation for me to share Your love with others. Help me recognize the ways in which I can meet others' needs. Give me a heart of compassion for all people, and empower me to be Your hands and feet in my community.

Next Steps

Identify one practical way you can help someone in your sphere this week, and make plans to meet that need.

Leader Tip

Help your group members implement this message practically. Work with them to identify ways they can help others, and encourage them to do something that makes a difference this week!

