

## BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

**11.15/16.08 // THE BEST GIFTS FOR KIDS: THE GIFT OF COMPASSION**

**To be more like Christ and love others,  
we need more compassion—less consumption.**

### // Ice Breaker \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1: What's the best Christmas gift you ever received as a child?**

**Option 2: What's been one of the most disappointing things you've ever gotten for Christmas?**

### // Questions for Discussion \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you think God entered this world as a child, instead of appearing as an adult (like Adam and Eve)?**

**Do you think Jesus would approve of the way we celebrate His birth today? Why or why not?**

**How do you think "it is more blessed to give than to receive"? (Acts 20:35)**

**What are some marks of being materialistic?**

**What does spoiling our kids do to them? How do we know if they're spoiled?**

**What are some practical ways that we show compassion to our own children?**

**How are the Great Commandment and the Golden Rule similar? How can we be commanded to love? How is love more than a feeling?**

**Read Matthew 22:37-40**

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**Read Matthew 7:12**

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

**Are we to financially help people unconditionally? How do these verses apply? Read**

**Deuteronomy 24:19**

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

**Read Galatians 6:10**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

**1 Timothy 5:3-5, 8**

3 Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. 5 The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. 8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10**

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

**What are some ways that we can offer help without being duped or taken advantage of? How can we maintain wisdom while being compassionate?**

**Some have insisted there's a contradiction between Paul and James. But God's Word is consistent. So how do we reconcile the statements?**

**Paul: Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God....

**James 2:24, 26**

You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. ...As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

**How does Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats convict you? (see Matthew 25:31-46)**

## **// Application**\_\_\_\_\_

**Remember to participate in "Counter Cultural Christmas: A Revolution of Compassion for Kids" - do one or two or all three of these:**

- 1. Provide gifts for local children (ornament tree at church)**
- 2. Give financially for international children's needs (special offering Dec. 13/14)**
- 3. Adopt a Compassion child.**

**Volunteer to serve in children's ministry at one of the 3 services.**

**Donate hair for Children with Hairloss (Dec. 14)**

**Is there something our group can do together to show compassion and meet a need? How can we help children in a practical way?**

## **// Prayer**\_\_\_\_\_

**Pray for those who are poor or in need.**

**Pray that we would have a compassionate spirit.**

**Pray for Southpoint's children's ministry, leaders and volunteers.**