

<p>Theme & Passages</p>	<p>Confident Discipleship: COMPASSION Jeremiah 38: 6-13</p>	<p>Notes prepared by Steve Elmes & Gill Hawkins</p>
<p>Welcome (10 mins)</p>	<p>Share an experience where compassion stirred in your heart and made you brave.</p>	
<p>Working with God (15 mins):</p> <p>Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care</p>	<p>This Sunday we heard a Frontline interview with Tristan Watson about his and Rachel's experiences of the social context in the environment around their family home. You can watch the clip here - Tristan spoke of noticing troubling events happening involving domestic circumstances and, at times, police involvement. He spoke of being moved with compassion by what they saw and then of beginning to wonder about what God was saying to them about their role in the lives of their neighbours.</p> <p>Reflect together about your own Frontlines. What might you be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noticing 2. Being moved by 3. Wondering <p>Share together and pray for one another in your various Frontlines.</p>	
<p>Worship (15 mins)</p>	<p>Spend some time with Jesus' words below, taken from Matthew 11:28–30. Read them several times and leave room for your hearts to hear the invitation and respond in quiet reflection between readings. This time could end with an opportunity for people to share how they found this – but don't move in to study mode! A simple <i>Amen</i> after the final silence might be the best way to close.</p> <p><i>'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'</i></p>	
<p>Word (20-25 mins)</p>	<p>This week, at both the 10.30 and The6 we are considered another key to confident discipleship – compassion, which often teams up with courage. We see this beautifully illustrated in a short episode in the life of Jeremiah, featuring the actions of one of the Bible's lesser-known characters, Ebed-Melek the Cushite.</p> <p>Read the passage together (above). <i>How do Ebed-Melek' actions demonstrate an alliance of compassion and courage?</i></p> <p><i>What other biblical stories can you think of that do the same?</i></p> <p>In his sermon, Steve considered the contrasting attitude and behaviour of King Zedekiah, suggesting that a fearful, untrusting heart crowded out compassion in his life.</p> <p><i>What motivations crowd out compassion in our hearts (you might think of these as weeds in the garden of your heart)?</i> Share personally if you can.</p> <p>What are the ways in which compassion is nurtured in us? Steve suggested that compassion springs up when our lives touch/we connect.</p> <p>At The6ix John prompted us to think of the different ways in which we might receive God's compassion; what does it mean to you right now that you are held in God long loving look?</p>	



Small Group Resources: Sun 9th July 23