



Working for Justice,  
Peace and Holiness

Discovering ways to help you see people as Jesus does, seeking justice and peace.

### REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

### How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

### Where and how did you experience God last week?

Read the passage several times through, read it slowly, use your imagination to picture the scene and soak it up. As you read, look out for one or two points that really impact you.

We call these 'shockers' and 'blockers'. Shockers - something from the text that stands out or surprises you. Blockers - something that raises questions or you find hard to understand.

### READ



## Matthew 25. 31 – 46

### The Final Judgement

Jesus continued:

<sup>31</sup> When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne.

<sup>32</sup> The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them, as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats.

<sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those on his right, "My father has

blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created.

<sup>35</sup> When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in jail, you visited me."

<sup>37</sup> Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, "When did we give you something to eat or drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear <sup>39</sup> or visit you while you were sick or in jail?"

<sup>40</sup> The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

<sup>41</sup> Then the king will say to those on his left, "Get away from me!

You are under God's curse. Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! <sup>42</sup>

I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat, and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me, and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear. I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me."

<sup>44</sup> Then the people will ask, "Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?"

<sup>45</sup> The king will say to them, "Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me." <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus said, "Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life."

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

### REFLECT

Take time to discuss what you've read and particularly the points that impacted you. Share your thoughts and listen carefully to one another. Use the questions to help you reflect.

Setting the scene:

- ▶ This vivid picture describes a heavenly scene of how ultimately, all the nations (i.e. people) will be judged.
- ▶ Throughout the Bible, the Messiah/Jesus/Son of Man is often pictured as a shepherd.

- ▶ In Palestine it's common for the sheep to be mixed up with the goats. The 'sheep' are an Old Testament image for God's people. Right and left in Jewish culture symbolizes blessed/cursed or good/bad.
- ▶ As well as referring to the future, this passage launches us on a mission of compassion to the world today. As we serve others, we also serve Jesus.

- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ How good are you at encouragement, serving and compassion – does it come easily and naturally to you?
- ▶ In what sense are we blessed as we bless others? Have you experienced this?

### RESPOND

As you have read and reflected on the passage, it's now time to consider how to respond.

**Just lyfe challenge:** As a group, create a challenge that will help you increase your compassion for others.

**Challenge ideas:** If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

#### 01 Let's Talk

Surprise someone this week with a real encouragement. Send a text, email or make a call to someone who is struggling - tell them what they mean to you as a friend. Or if there is someone you need to re-build a relationship

with, invite them over for a drink or a meal. Ask for their forgiveness and seek reconciliation and a new start.

#### 02 Eco Agents

In Genesis God commissioned us to be caretakers for the earth and this starts with the small things. This week, try taking the time to increase your recycling, find a 'green way' to get to the shops, maybe cycle or walk and perhaps you could finally get round to sorting out that car share for the commute to work.

#### 03 Mood Changer

This week, try to bring a breath of fresh air to your workplace or home. Make it your aim to speak well of everyone,

try and turn gossiping conversations around and if you do find fault in someone, find a way to flip it round so you can come alongside them and help them to grow. Pursuing a compassionate life includes breathing new life into our relationships and interactions by representing Jesus and his love to the people around us.

#### 04 Going Deeper

**Practical Compassion** - see following page.

*'Our intention to live as apprentices of Jesus must be worked out in the public, social and political realms. God's grace is given not only to change us, but to touch others through us.'* [Christopher S Webb – Renovare US](#)

### Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

### More resources on 'Just Lyfe'

- **Listen** to video interview with Andy Clasper - Executive Director of Micah Challenge
- **Read** interview with Shane Claiborne
- **Read** 'lyfe story' biographies on Mother Teresa and William Wilberforce
- **Recommended listening** – *You Have Shown Us* available from Kingswayshop.com

### GOING DEEPER: PRACTICAL COMPASSION

The phrase 'compassion-fatigue' describes a phenomenon where sometimes, when we're surrounded by a cacophony of competing needs, it can feel easier to switch off to them all. Why not turn this around. If you don't already, choose to support something that you feel passionate about - where you can make a difference. Even better, spend some time asking God where he would like you to direct your resources. It could be a charity where your support could help to relieve poverty or something closer to home such as a homeless project that you could bless with your time. Whatever it is, why not make a sustained commitment to take a stand and get involved.