

# COMPASSION

*Person of Jesus: A Study of Love*

LEADER'S MANUAL

*Unit One*

PAUL E. MILLER

*see Jesus*<sup>®</sup>  
a global discipling mission

*Person of Jesus, Unit One: Compassion* (Leader's Manual)

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The mission of seeJesus is to help people see and reflect the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through our discipleship resources and training.

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# INTRODUCTION

This five-part small group study introduces a Jesus so personal, so rich in love, that participants are captivated heart-first. Paul Miller's winsome insights—conveyed through an energetic, interactive format—lead participants to discover Jesus' beauty for themselves. In watching Jesus, participants find their eyes opened to a rich encounter with God's love and their hearts empowered to love others.

This interactive study is divided into five units. Since the concepts build upon one another, it is ideal to go through it in sequence. For example, the more you study compassion (Unit One), the more you wonder what the boundaries of compassion are. Units Two and Three (*Honesty* and *Dependence*) provide those boundaries. Finally, the last two units show us what love leads to (oneness) and what the journey entails (humility, sadness, and joy).

## **Unit One: Compassion**

We watch Jesus interact with people to discover the three steps of love: to look, feel compassion, and act.

## **Unit Two: Honesty**

We study how Jesus relates to different people during meals to find that a commitment to truth and justice must balance compassion.

## **Unit Three: Dependence**

We see how Jesus' dependence on his Father, rooted in a deep understanding of Scripture and a life of prayer, shapes all of his relationships and allows him to say no to others' attempts to control him.

## **Unit Four: Faith**

Are compassion, honesty, and dependence enough? Jesus reveals to his disciples how faith in God gives us the energy to love.

## **Unit Five: The Passion**

Death is at the heart of love. The final unit of *Person of Jesus* traces Jesus' journey to the cross and shows how, in the low place of humility, we learn to see clearly because God lives there.

# QUICK START GUIDE

## SUMMARY

The Quick Start Guide will:

- Show you how the manual works.
- Help you solve problems in interactive study.
- Introduce you to additional resources from seeJesus.net.

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# 1. Goals of the Study

There are four distinct goals for the *Person of Jesus* study.

**Love:** The first and most obvious goal is to learn to love like Jesus. Becoming like Jesus is the bottom line of the Christian life.

**Faith:** People cannot love on their own. Faith is realizing that God loves us and that his grace was poured out upon us through Jesus at Calvary. This is the foundation of the Christian life.

**Jesus:** We are meant to worship him. This is a neglected goal because it is so intangible. But when you are leading a study, there will be times when you and the participants will be struck by the sheer beauty of Jesus. Slow the lesson down and enjoy his beauty, apart from the more intellectual concepts of the lesson.

**Community:** Love creates community. Enjoying and beginning to care for one another draws us together.

## 2. About seeJesus Interactive Studies

### Our Method

- *People Focused.* You aren't just leading a Bible study; you are speaking with people, drawing them out, giving them space.
- *Questions.* People enjoy discovering scriptural insights on their own. They feel more involved and respected when they are asked for their opinions.
- *Insightful Questions.* The questions in the study have been taught and revised by the author and trainers to elicit the best responses. The questions are carefully sequenced so each one logically follows the preceding one.
- *Balanced Between Interactive and Direct Teaching.* Though the heart of the study is interactive teaching through insightful questions, a wholly interactive lesson runs the risk of participants only sharing their feelings and missing key biblical content. So every lesson also contains direct teaching.
- *Gospel Focused.* Almost every lesson is tied to the death of Jesus on the cross. The power for change in us comes not from human effort but God's grace.
- *Worshipful.* At times the participants (and you) will be led to worship because of the loveliness of Jesus, the Scriptures, or spiritual insights. Worship means being still in the face of the majesty of Jesus.

### Our Content

- *Biblical Insight.* The study digs deep into the biblical text. It teaches participants to study the Bible, which deepens their love and respect for God's Word.
- *Historical Insight.* By drawing on biblical archaeology and our growing understanding of the ancient Near Eastern world, the study brings Scripture to life.
- *Heart Insight.* The goal of each lesson is not just behavioral change in the participants, but also insights into their hearts and how their hearts drive their behavior.

- *Jesus Insight*. Participants discover things about Jesus that they have never seen before.
- *Critique of Modern Culture*. These studies invite participants to turn from the inward-seeking bent of Western culture to an outward-seeking focus on God’s kingdom and people.

### 3. Leading a Study






#### Watch a lesson at seeJesus.net.

The interactive style of teaching is best caught. The most effective tool for learning to lead a *Person of Jesus* study is the one-hour sample video available at [seejesus.net/resources/sample-lesson-person-jesus](http://seejesus.net/resources/sample-lesson-person-jesus).





#### Know the lesson well.

- Read the lesson at least three times before teaching it, underlining or highlighting parts that you think are especially helpful.
- Make sure the length of each lesson fits the time restraints of your group meetings. If it does not, then divide the lesson into two sessions or skip parts of a lesson.
- Each lesson is designed to stand alone. That allows participants to be disciplined, even if they are unable to attend regularly. However, the units and lessons are arranged sequentially, building on what participants have learned, for maximum discipling impact. It’s helpful to review the previous lesson at the beginning of each study for those who may have missed.

#### Learn the layout of a lesson.

- **10 mins:** The approximate duration of each point in a lesson is written next to the title of that point. These are estimates to help you plan.
- **Numbered, interactive questions in bold type** are the heart of the material.
- **Italics:** Italicized text will be used throughout the manual to identify teacher’s notes. You will see the following recurring teacher’s notes:
  - *Write their answers.* (Always with the pencil icon.) Indicates that you should write their answers on a flip chart, whiteboard, chalkboard, or iPad.
  - *Teach what they don’t say.* Indicates that there are nuances in the answer to a certain question that you will likely have to teach after participants share their thoughts.
-  **Draw:** A map, chart, or sketch that illustrates a principle and is intended to be drawn on a flip chart, whiteboard, chalkboard, or iPad.
-  **Historical Background:** Introduces information about the cultural or historical setting of a biblical passage to illuminate the group’s understanding of the text.
-  **Theological Background:** Similar to the Historical Background; introduces or expands upon theological ideas suggested by the text.
-  **Modern Culture:** Teaching point that demonstrates how our modern culture is in tension with a biblical worldview.
-  **Insight:** A short section of instruction. Do not linger on these; they may be read briskly and without comment.



-  **Jesus Insight:** Connects the text with an insight about the person of Jesus.
-  **Gospel Connection:** Brief instruction explaining how principles of the lesson relate to the essential gospel message.
-  **Literary Insight:** A Greek or Hebrew literary insight that brings the text to life.
-  **Personal Illustration:** An example, usually in the form of a personal story, that helps apply the material in a lesson to the life of the participant. It is ideal if you can come up with your own personal illustration.

### **Decide how to use the application section at the end of each lesson.**

We created this section for these possible uses:

1. Participants may use the questions at home for further reflection. You can then take a few minutes at the beginning of the next lesson to discuss them.
2. Bible studies that have a two-hour time frame can use the application section for the second hour.
3. Leaders may intersperse some of the application questions throughout the lesson to enrich discussions.

### **Familiarize yourself with the leader’s and participant’s manuals.**

- The leader’s manual has everything a leader will need to teach a lesson, including questions written in bold along with their answers, historical backgrounds, charts, teaching points, etc.
- The participant’s manual is for the participants to take notes during a lesson if they so desire; it also contains most of the teaching material for later reference. The participant’s manual has everything that a leader’s manual has EXCEPT:
  1. The summary page at the beginning of each lesson.
  2. The answers to the questions.
  3. The questions that are not numbered. (We do not include those to avoid a “fill-in-the-blank” mentality.)
  4. Any teacher’s tips written in italics.
  5. Some filled-in charts. These charts will need to be filled in by the participants as the leader draws.

### **Apply the lesson to your life.**

The church will be transformed and the world captured by the beauty of Jesus not because we are good teachers but because people see Jesus in our lives. If we are just communicating abstract principles and not striving to obey them ourselves, we risk becoming and creating Pharisees. But if we are repentant and obedient before God, others will see that our faith is authentic and be drawn to repentance as well.

### **Use the guided questions.**

- The core of this interactive Bible study is questions that help participants understand the text and their hearts. When people discover truths on their own, those truths are more interesting and memorable than similar insights derived from a lecture. Because participants are discussing and listening, they also get to know the people in their group at a deeper level.

- Many questions have multiple answers. When participants realize this, they relax because the study feels less like school (where many remember being afraid of giving a wrong answer). The multiplicity of answers facilitates the development of conversation and community.
- Move through the questions at a brisk pace. If you answer every question exhaustively, the lesson will drag. Be aware of your group’s responsiveness. If you need to linger on a question, then linger.
- The lessons are student-centered but teacher-directed. That is, the leader is moving the lesson along a set course. If a lesson is only student-directed, it can easily degenerate into everyone sharing opinions. You will end up knowing what is on the mind of the participants but not the mind of God!

### **Encourage participants to respond.**

- As much as possible, the leader should acknowledge a person’s answer by commenting on it and showing how it fits into the lesson.
- You want to create an atmosphere in which each participant feels safe enough to bring up an issue even if it has nothing to do with the study. Every concern is important.
- If you don’t know an answer, ask if anyone in the group knows, or research it and get back to the person who asked the question.

### **Write the participants’ answers on a flip chart or whiteboard.**

- Why write down their answers?
  1. It helps them remember.
  2. You can refer to what someone has said.
  3. It stimulates discussion; others can ponder and compare answers.
  4. It honors what each person says.
- Write each answer word-for-word instead of rephrasing. What each person says is important, and doing this shows participants that you take their input seriously.
- If you are a poor speller or have bad penmanship, you can have someone write for you.
- Write LARGE!

### **Display the text when possible.**

If you have a larger group, it is helpful for everyone to see the Bible text. Then you can write on the text, point out insights, and focus the group. If you are teaching in a low-tech environment, write the text ahead of time in large letters on a whiteboard or flip chart. For a high-tech environment, use an iPad (or other tablet) connected to a projector or screen via a cable of your choice. You can download a whiteboard app from your App store. For help using whiteboard apps with biblical text, email [info@seejesus.net](mailto:info@seejesus.net).

## 4. Solving Problems in Interactive Teaching

### **One or two people answer all the questions.**

- Be candid: “Okay, let’s hear from some others now. We haven’t heard from some of you.”
- Be direct but light: “Tom, your answers are right-on, but it is time to hear from some other people in the group.”
- Handle it privately: “Sue, you really do a nice job answering questions, but I am concerned that Bob and Doris have not gotten much of a chance to speak. Do you mind waiting on some of your answers to give them a chance?”

### **The whole group is silent.**

- Silence is not bad. People may simply be pondering their answers, so be silent and wait after you ask a question. If you answer your own questions, participants will stop answering them. Try counting silently to twenty before speaking. If there is still no answer, try rewording the question.
- For larger groups, handle chronic silence by dividing into groups of three. Give each group the same question to discuss for a few minutes. Then reconvene the entire group and have one person from each group report the group’s conclusions. It injects energy into the group and gets people interacting.

### **Some people in the group are quiet.**

- Just let them be quiet. Some people are naturally quieter. (The Bible calls that wisdom!) It is important that they feel safe in the group and not be pressured to talk.
- Some are quiet because they do not want to be embarrassed by giving a wrong answer. Since the questions in our manuals are written in a way that does not require Bible knowledge, you can encourage your group by saying things like, “I’m not hunting for a deep answer here. Just tell me what comes to your mind.”
- Occasionally ask them questions directly: “Bob, what are some of your thoughts on this question?” Be careful about putting people on the spot, however. Do this only if you know the person and sense that he or she would not mind.

### **The question gets multiple bad responses.**

- Give a hint. Hints are often listed in the lesson.
- Make the question easier by specifying where to look for an answer. For example, if it is a Bible question, give the verse that has the answer.
- Rephrase the question.

### **Someone gives a wrong answer.**

- Most of the questions are geared for either multiple answers or relatively obvious answers, so this does not happen often. There are, however, questions with only one answer.
- Point the person back to the text: “Where do you see that in the text?”

- Point the whole group back to the text without putting the particular person who gave the wrong answer on the spot: “Let’s stick to the text with our answers.”
- Disagree directly: “I do not think so because . . .”
- Disagree gently: “It is possible, but I have not heard that before.”

**Answers are vague—not grounded in the details of the passage.**

- “That is possible, but what does the text say?”
- “Where do you see that in the text?”
- “That is an interesting observation. What you say is quite true.” Then restate your initial question and get the group to focus: “Look at the story we have just read.”

**Someone leads the group off the subject.**

- Let him or her go on the tangent and then go back to your question. If the person persists, then suggest that you talk about it after the study.
- Be sensitive to the subject and the person raising it. If it appears to be a trivial or purely intellectual issue, go back to your lesson plan. But if it seems to be connected with a heart issue or something the person is really struggling with, take the time to answer it or ask others in the group what they think.

**Can I include non-Christians in a study? Yes!**

- seeJesus Interactive Bible Studies are meant to combine seekers and mature believers in one group. Instead of preaching at a seeker, the content of the studies slowly draws them into seeing Jesus. Our studies do not assume that unbelieving participants are pursuing a relationship with Jesus.
- Both Christians and seekers can learn from the study because relationships are difficult for all of us. Everyone can benefit from an in-depth, insightful study of the Scriptures.
- The questions do not assume prior knowledge of the Bible, nor do they expect participants to have a biblical worldview. The study puts everyone on a level playing field.

**For additional help, contact us!**

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## 5. Discipleship or Evangelism?

Is it discipleship or evangelism? Both!

“Evangelize the Christians and disciple the lost. I don’t know if that works as a marketing theme but I think it fits a *Person of Jesus* study.” —Pastor, leader of a *Person of Jesus* study

Advantages of combining evangelism with discipleship:

### ADVANTAGES FOR NON-CHRISTIANS

- Stereotypes are broken down as non-Christians see Christians struggling with the same issues.
- The study’s focus on learning rather than evangelism relieves non-Christians of the pressure to convert. Non-Christians learn to study the Bible.
- Non-Christians learn a mindset of being a disciple of Jesus. This holds out the prospect of a more sincere convert instead of someone who is making a quick, emotional decision.

### ADVANTAGES FOR CHRISTIANS

- Discipling is richer when combined with evangelism. It is a delight to see non-Christians discovering eternal life in Jesus.
- Evangelism frequently gets put off until we are ready, and then it gets forgotten. By bringing unbelievers into our Bible study, evangelism is not forgotten.
- The pressure comes off Christians because they are not trying to convert someone quickly. They are simply developing relationships while learning about Jesus.

Reasons for using *Person of Jesus* only for discipling Christians:

- Learning to love is a wonderful goal in and of itself.
- Gives the leader time to become familiar with the material before teaching it to a “tougher” audience.
- Gives you time to pray for non-Christians who you might invite to a study.
- Gives the Holy Spirit time to fill you with Christ-like love.

## 6. Other Resources from seeJesus

### **seeJesus Interactive Bible Studies**

- ***A Loving Life Interactive Bible Study:*** (17 lessons) A loving life is what we all want, but loving people is hard. This 17-lesson study will help you discover Ruth’s amazing biblical portrait of love with a small group or Sunday school class. Here is the help we all need to embrace relationship, endure rejection, cultivate community, and reach out to even the most unlovable as we discover the power to live a loving life. The leader’s manual and participant’s manual are to be used in conjunction with each other.

- **Bethesda Studies:** (5 units and growing, with over 56 lessons) This curriculum series by Jill Miller provides flexible teaching plans for use with young adults/adults affected by disabilities. Through stories, illustrations, and activities, this curriculum will help learners apply biblical truths to daily life.
- **Grace Through the Eyes of Jesus:** (18 lessons) An interactive Bible study that immerses you in the world of grace. We look at seven scenes from the Gospel of Luke where Jesus either tells stories about grace or models grace in his interactions with people.

### seeJesus Books

- **Love Walked Among Us (NavPress):** Get to know Jesus and observe his life as it unfolds in the Gospel narratives. This book will encourage you to imitate Jesus' way of loving people. Companion to *Person of Jesus* Interactive Bible studies. Discussion guide also available.
- **A Praying Life (NavPress):** Learn to become like a child running to your Father. The book can be combined with *A Praying Life Discussion Guide*.
- **A Loving Life (Crossway):** Discover the help you need to embrace relationship, endure rejection, cultivate community, and reach out to even the most unlovable. Companion to *A Loving Life* Interactive Bible Study.
- **J-Curve® (Crossway):** The apostle Paul traces out a pattern of dying and rising with Jesus—the *J-Curve*—as the normal Christian life. Understanding our life in light of the *J-Curve* roots our hope, centers our love, and tethers our faith to Christ.

### Seminars to Help You Teach Interactively

- **Person of Jesus Seminar.** A seminar is the most effective way of introducing people to interactive Bible study. Two to three lessons are taught from the *Person of Jesus* Leader's Manual, and then participants are given the opportunity to teach part of a lesson themselves. Most people find this extended time of looking at Jesus to be a worshipful experience.
- **See Jesus Workshop.** In this advanced training in leading interactive Bible studies, each participant prepares and leads a small group in a lesson from our *Person of Jesus* Interactive Bible Study. Participants self-evaluate and then are evaluated by one of our trainers.
- To schedule a seminar or ask any question: call 215.721.3113 or email [info@seeJesus.net](mailto:info@seeJesus.net).

## 7. Relationship between *Person of Jesus* and *Love Walked Among Us*

The book and the study contain the same basic content. Each book chapter corresponds with approximately two lesson plans in the study. Generally, the lesson plans have more depth than the book. Because a small group study is different from reading a book, some arrangement of the material is different between the book and the manual.

	<b>PERSON OF JESUS</b>		<b>LOVE WALKED AMONG US</b>	
<b>Unit One Compassion</b>	1	Compassion	1	A Mind Full of Someone Else
	2	Looking	2	Looking Shapes the Heart
	3	The Father's Looking		
	4	Judging	3	"I Know What's Best for You"
	5	Two Stories of Life		
	6	Self-Righteousness	4	"I'm Better Than You"
	7	Self-Righteousness and Grace		
	8	Legalism	5	"This Is What You Should Do"
	9	Relational Legalism		
	10	Incarnation	6	The Golden Rule
	11	Incarnation Changes Us		
<b>Unit Two Honesty</b>	12	The Gift of Honesty	7	A Time to Speak Up
	13	Living without Masks		
	14	Good Anger	8	Honest Anger
	15	Good Irritation and Rage		
	16	A Time to Shut Up	9	A Time to Shut Up
	17	Honesty Is Patient		
	18	Reconciliation	10	"I Know How Hard it Is; I Do the Same Thing"
	19	Love Your Enemies		
	20	Prudence		

Unit Three Dependence	21	The Secret to Love	11	The Secret to Love
	22	Guidance from God		
	23	Saying No to Someone You Love	12	Saying No to Someone You Love
	24	Giving up Control		
	25	Saying No to Yourself	13	Saying No to Self-Gratification
	26	Satan Returns		
	27	Love Moves Toward People	14	Saying Yes to Gentle Intrusion
	28	Touching		
	29	Selfless Openness		
	30	The Balance of Love		
Unit Four Faith	31	Faith Empowers Love	15	Faith Empowers Love
	32	Faith Gives Up Control	16	Faith Means Losing Control
	33	Faith Surrenders		
	34	Faith Looks at Jesus		
	35	The Intimate Stranger	17	The Intimate Stranger
	36	Oneness	18	Oneness
	37	Repentance		
Unit Five The Passion	38	Humility	19	The Way of Humility
	39	Sadness	20	Facing Sadness
	40	Facing Death		
	41	The Problem of Sin and Death		
	42	Gethsemane	21	A Symphony of Love
	43	A Symphony of Love		
	44	The Trial		
	45	The Cross		
	46	Death, the Center of Love	22	His Life for Ours
	47	The Resurrection	23	The Birth of Hope
48	Love Is Forever			
24				Opening the Door