



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF MAY 19, 2024 | CHILD SPONSORSHIP SUNDAY

WARM-UP QUESTION

What is your experience with an organization that sponsors children like Compassion International? Why do you think a ministry like Compassion is important?

DISCUSS

- Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read Isaiah 1:17

- What stood out to you in this text? What theme do you see? What action words do you see? What people groups does Isaiah call out here?
- Take a moment to read the verse again, aloud, as a group. What does this scripture tell us about God's heart?
- Can you think of any other passages or stories in Scripture that point us towards caring for the vulnerable?
- The NLT uses the word "learn" in this verse. Why do we have to learn to do good? What's challenging about having to learn this? "Why do we have to learn to do good? What's challenging about having to learn this?"

Read James 1:22-27

- What themes do you see playing out in these texts?
- Where do you see God in this Scripture? What difference does He make?
- Pure and faultless religion includes caring for widows and orphans. Are you living this out? Why or why not? What is holding you back from living with a heart for the vulnerable?
- Verse 22 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Why do you think James made a point to say this?
- How can we deceive ourselves by nearly listening to the word? What's the danger in this?"
- What areas of your life do you see yourself hearing truth, but not acting on it? What steps is God asking you to take to lean into action?
- What is James cautioning us in verse 26? How have you seen this play out in your life? In the lives of others?"

RESPOND

- Today's verses come from two different parts of the Bible, written more than 700 years apart. Yet they both point to God's heart for the vulnerable. Based on this, what do you think God is prompting you to do in response? When will you do it?
- Pray together as a group for the specific goals or areas of struggle that came up in your discussion. Thank God for revealing more of who He is and ask Him to help you apply what He's prompting you to do this week.