

BIG IDEA

The engagement of love will always cost you.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Describe a time something cost more than you expected.

Read 2 Kings 7:3-11. What costs were the lepers willing to pay in order to share what they had found? What costs are you willing to pay to pay to share Jesus with others? *The lepers were willing to give up comfort, safety and food in order to share their discovery. We may need to give up our comfort, time, social status and prejudices in order to engage others with love.*

What is the difference between empathy and sympathy?

Empathy is the ability to feel with people-- to take the perspective of another person, avoiding judgement and entering their reality. Sympathy is simply feeling pity and sorrow for the hardships of others.

What does the Incarnation (Jesus coming to earth) teach us about empathy?

God himself chose to enter into our reality and feel what we feel. He knew we would reject him, yet chose to become like us anyway. He chose to engage with us, no matter the cost. To explore this theme further, check out Isaiah 53.

Recall the story of Cal's Imam friend, Didmar.

Engaging with others makes space for friendship, diversity and opportunities to share our faith. Cal found out that he had a lot in common with Didmar and made a friend because he chose to engage.

What are you missing out on when you shutout empathy?

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

If someone were to look at your social media account or communication with others would they be more likely to say you are *hostile* or *hospitable*?

In the sermon we heard the quote, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference." How does this quote make you feel? What are you indifferent about? Why do you think that is?





LIFE GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

What person or group of people do you empathize with the least? Did the message challenge your attitude in this area? Why or why not?

Do you make time to engage with people who are different than you? Why or why not?

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Read Philippians 2:3-4 and Luke 9:23. What would it look like for you to become a more empathetic person?

According to research people who are more empathetic practice:

- Cultivating curiosity about strangers
- Challenging their prejudices
- Listening hard
- Opening up

Take some time to pray. Is there a person or situation that God is asking you to engage with differently? What are you going to do about it?

