

WARM-UP

- Name at least one thing you do to cheer yourself up when you're sad.
- How do people make you feel loved? Can you share instances of this?
- How do you show someone you care for them? Can you give an example?

WORD *¹¹Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."* **LUKE 7:11-13**

(Read also **LUKE 7:14-17**.)

Grief is inevitable. There are many ways we experience it. How do you think you would face loss, separation, or death? The effects can be hard to describe and may seem impossible to overcome. As a widow, the woman had already experienced grief through the loss of her husband, and now, we see her leading a funeral procession for her *only son*. Imagine the toll of this loss on her emotionally and financially. Back then, women had limited job options and relied on their husbands or sons to live. She was grieving not only the loss of her son, but perhaps her future. But thankfully, this is not how her story ends.

1 | The Lord saw the widow and her grief.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her . . .

LUKE 7:13

Luke's Gospel shows that Jesus intently cares for widows, orphans, and the outcasts in society. Luke emphasized how, after granting the request of a Centurion (someone important in society) for healing, *the Lord saw* the widow (someone less significant in society) amidst a large crowd. The word *saw* here goes beyond looking—it means to perceive and notice. Jesus doesn't care only for those seemingly more important; He cares about each of us. He is the God who sees (Genesis 16:13). Recall one of the clearest times you felt seen by God. What happened?

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2 | The Lord showed compassion on the widow.

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." LUKE 7:13

Isaiah 53:4 shows how Jesus would be when He came to earth—one who bears our griefs and carries our sorrows. As Jesus saw the widow, He was moved to minister to her. He probably felt what she felt, and was hurt because she was hurt. He bore her grief and suffered with her. When we approach God in our pain, we can expect to be met with kindness, understanding, and mercy. What encouragement does Hebrews 4:15-16 have for us when we are in need?

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3 | The Lord touched and healed the widow's son.

¹⁴Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."¹⁵And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

LUKE 7:14-15

Out of compassion, Jesus healed the widow's son and raised him from the dead, something no one could possibly do. Culturally, a person who touches the dead becomes unclean. But Jesus, because of His power and holiness, did not become unclean. Instead, the man was raised to life. Jesus did this miracle willingly—no one asked Him to do it. He acted on the widow's behalf and restored her joy and hope. That's the power of Jesus! How have you experienced God moving on your behalf?

When the *great crowd* saw what He had done, they glorified God and recognized the work of the Father through Jesus (Luke 7:16-17). Jesus' presence is a physical manifestation of God. He sees us, cares about us, and acts on our behalf no matter how seemingly insignificant we may be. Jesus uses our seemingly impossible situations to show His miraculous power, give people hope, and point us to God.

APPLICATION

- How do you usually deal with grief? How can this change now that you know that God sees you, is compassionate towards you, and moves on your behalf?
- Who among your family or friends are experiencing grief or loss? How can you point them to our compassionate Jesus who is able and willing to give us hope?
- Pray for someone you know needs a miracle. Commit to share the hope we have in Jesus and challenge them to step out in faith and seek God.

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for His compassionate heart toward us, no matter how seemingly big or small we are in society. Thank Him for saving us and for always meeting us where we are.
- Ask God to show you how He has been with you and will continue to be with you through tough times. Pray for a greater awareness of His presence and work in your life.
- Pray for eyes of faith as you seek God for miracles this year. May His work and your faith help you point others to Him.



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