

# LEAN IN

SOMEWHERE TO START

## Lean In

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

## Part 1 - "Learning to Care"

October 30th, 2016

**Bottom Line:** *Leaning in to understand is the first step in learning to care.*

**Study Verses:** *Matthew 9:35-38, 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

### Key Points

- *Indifference is a response to protect our hearts.*
- *We must learn to lean in to understand or we will look away and ignore.*
- *Missions are an expression of discipleship.*
- *Our hearts expand or shrink to the size of our greatest concern.*
- *We don't wait to care. We must learn to care.*
- *Compassion begins at the point where we start to care.*
- *There's always a person on the other side of the issue. We need to see people behind the issues.*

### **ENCOUNTER**

- **What makes you hesitate or avoid "leaning in" when you are confronted with the problems of this world? On the flip side, what causes you to take action and ask "how can I help?"**
- **Do you feel like you can make a difference in this world? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do?**

- How would you describe your picture of missions? When you hear this word, what images instantly come to mind? How has this picture influenced your willingness to see yourself as a person living on mission?
- Leaning in to understand is the first step in learning how to care. Where does compassion come from? What drives compassion? How does one learn how to care?

## FORMATION

- Read Matthew 9:35-38. What was the first thing that Jesus noticed about the crowds? How did Jesus respond to what He encountered? What did Jesus believe was the solution to this problem?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. What message and ministry have we been entrusted with as believers? What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? How should our encounter with Christ influence the way we view other people? How should this perspective shape our approach to the issues of this world?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. What foundation should our actions and words be built upon? How are our efforts wasted if they aren't grounded in love?

## EXPRESSION

- There are always people on the other side of any issue we face. Are there places where you've become more focused on the issues causing you to lose sight of the person on the other side? How can you begin to see things from their perspective?
- Our hearts shrink or expand to the size of our greatest concern. How would you describe the current state of your heart? Where is it expanding and what is causing it to grow? On the other hand, if you feel your soul is shrinking, where is your concern focused?
- Where have you felt a nudge or a prompting to get involved? Instead of turning away, what would it look like to "lean in" and become curious on ways you can help? How can you put yourself in experiences that will impact your heart?