

CONNECT *with* GOD



A YEAR OF
ENCOUNTERS & VISITATIONS
2026

7 DAYS *of*
COMPASSION



Daily Encounter Guide

Daily Encounters are the greatest way to spiritually grow as a disciple of Jesus.

God invites us to meet with Him daily. Just as Israel gathered manna every morning, God teaches us to live in daily dependence, obedience, and intimacy with Him. Daily Encounters are daily discipleship. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, obeys Him, and builds their life around Him every day. Discipleship is formed through repetition, obedience, intimacy, and trust, not information alone.

1. SET AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

Daily encounters begin with intention.

- Choose a **daily time**
- Choose a **daily place**
- Remove distractions
- Expect resistance, and show up anyway

Have an appointment with the Lord every day.

2. WELCOME THE HOLY SPIRIT

Begin by inviting God's presence. Pray:

- "Holy Spirit, You are welcome here."
- "No spirit but the Holy Spirit is welcome."
- "Give me ears to hear."
- "Teach me."
- "Speak, Lord."

3. WORSHIP

Minister to God's heart before asking for anything.

- Play worship music
- Sing, speak, or sit in reverence
- Thank God for who He is. (Ps. 110:4)

4. PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus gave us a daily prayer framework.

Pray slowly and intentionally:

- **"Our Father in heaven..."**
Declare God's holiness.
- **"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done..."**
Surrender your will to His.
- **"Give us this day our daily bread..."**
Ask God for what you need today.
- **"Forgive us our debts..."**
Repent and receive grace.
- **"As we forgive our debtors..."**
Forgive people by name.
- **"Lead us not into temptation..."**
Ask for strength and protection.
- **"Deliver us from evil..."**
Declare victory in Christ.

5. PERSONAL PRAYER LIST

Pray intentionally for:

- Yourself
- Your family
- Your friends
- Your workplace
- Your city
- Your church & leaders
- The Peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)
- + Add your own

6. READ THE WORD (DAILY BREAD)

God's Word was meant to be encountered daily, not occasionally.

Suggested Reading Plans:

- **15-Minute Plan**
1 Psalm, 1 Proverb, 1 Gospel
- **30-Minute Plan**
1 Psalm, 1 Proverb, 1 Gospel,
1 Old Testament, 1 New Testament,
1 Revelation

7. GIVE GOD ROOM TO SPEAK

Slow down. Listen. Pray:

- "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening."
- Be still
- Write down what you sense
- Pay attention to Scripture, impressions, or the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

8. ASK HIM TO TEACH YOU HIS WAYS

God desires to form you, not just inform you. Pray:

- "Teach me Your ways."
- "I want what You want, show me what You want."
- Repeat what God says out loud.
- Obey what He reveals.

9. CLOSE WITH THE PRAYER OF ENCOUNTERS



PRAYER *of* ENCOUNTERS

This is where I tell You... I love You, I love You, I love You!

This is where I tell You... You're Holy, You're Holy, You're Holy!

This is where I tell You... Thank You, thank You, thank You!

This is where I tell You... I need You, I need You, I need You!

This is where I tell You... Speak Lord, Your servant is listening!

Twenty Six

Compassion is connecting with God by feeling what He feels about people and responding in obedience.

BIBLICAL ROOT WORDS FOR COMPASSION:

GREEK:

- **(esplagchnisthē)** — To be moved with compassion. To be moved in the deepest part of your being, a gut level response that leads to action.

FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF COMPASSION

1. See People
2. Feel What God Feels
3. Respond in Action
4. Step Into the Harvest



MATTHEW 9:35-38

KEY FIGURES

- **Jesus** - Reveals the heart of God through compassion and action
- **The Crowds** - Jesus' closest followers receiving the instruction to "do this in remembrance of Me."
- **The Disciples** - One of the twelve disciples of Jesus who ultimately betrayed Him.
The Disciples - One of the twelve disciples of Jesus who ultimately betrayed Him.

Compassion is action based.

Empathy feels, but compassion moves.

Compassion changes how you see people.

When you begin to see people the way God sees them, judgment turns into compassion.

Compassion produces boldness.

When you feel what God feels, fear loses its power.

Compassion leads to mission.

The harvest is plentiful, and God is looking for people who will step into it.

Moved *by* Compassion



DAY 1



In Matthew 14, Jesus had just experienced personal grief, yet when He saw the crowd, He was moved with compassion. This was not surface level emotion, it came from deep within Him. Compassion, in its truest form, is not detached awareness, it is a heart that feels what God feels. Jesus did not ignore people in His pain, He saw them, felt for them, and responded.

Many of us want to connect with God, but we overlook one of the clearest pathways, His heart for people. When you begin to feel what He feels, you begin to know Him in a deeper way. Compassion is not just something Jesus did, it reveals who He is. Compassion is connecting with His heart toward His people.

MATTHEW 14:13-14; MATTHEW 9:36

PRAYER

“Lord, let me feel what
You feel.

Break through my
numbness and awaken
compassion in me.

Help me see people the
way You see them.”

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Ask God to soften your
heart toward people
today

Notice one person you
would normally overlook

Pause and ask, “God, what
do You feel about them?”

From Empathy *to* Action

ENCOUNTERS
&
VISITATIONS

DAY 2



Empathy shares the hurt, compassion acts to heal it. Romans 12:15 calls us to weep with those who weep, and this describes empathy, but Jesus shows us that compassion does not stop there, it acts. He helps, heals, feeds, and serves. Compassion is action based.

It is possible to feel deeply and still do nothing. That is where many believers get stuck. We feel something in the moment, but we do not follow through. True compassion always leads to movement. It may be inconvenient, uncomfortable, or costly, but it reflects the heart of Jesus.

ROMANS 12:15; MATTHEW 20:34

PRAYER

“Lord, move me beyond feeling.

Give me the courage to act when You stir my heart.

Help me walk in true compassion.”

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Identify one situation where you feel empathy and take action on it

Respond immediately when you sense God prompting you

Serve someone in a tangible way today

Seeing *the* Crowd Clearly



DAY 3



Jesus did not just see a crowd, He saw their condition. He recognized they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Compassion requires us to see people as they are, broken and in need. It means moving beyond surface judgments and beginning to see people through God's perspective.

Often, we either ignore people or mislabel them. But Jesus saw the deeper reality. He was not surprised by brokenness, He was moved by it. When you begin to see people as God does, frustration and judgment turn into compassion.

MATTHEW 9:35-36

PRAYER

"God, open my eyes.

Help me see beyond the surface and into the reality of people's lives.

Give me Your perspective and Your heart."

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Ask God to show you how He sees the people around you

Replace judgmental thoughts with prayer

Look beyond behavior to the deeper need

Compassion Produces Boldness



DAY 4



If you never step out and move beyond your comfort zone, you may not actually be seeing people the way God sees them, because when God sees people, He moves toward them without hesitation. Compassion grows in you every time obedience wins over comfort.

When God stirs your heart to respond, it is an invitation to be bold through compassion. Every time your flesh says no and you say yes to God, your capacity for compassion grows. Jesus consistently chose people over convenience. Growth happens when you embrace inconvenience and step out in faith.

MATTHEW 15:32

PRAYER

“Lord, make me bold.

Help me respond when
You ask me to step out.

Grow compassion in me
through every step of
faith..”

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Say yes to one
inconvenient opportunity
today.

Serve someone when
it costs you time or
comfort.

Pay attention to
resistance and lean into it.

Loving Your Neighbor



DAY 5



In the story of the Good Samaritan, religious people saw the need but did not stop. The Samaritan, moved with compassion, acted. Jesus flips the question, it is not about identifying your neighbor, it is about becoming one.

Compassion breaks through barriers of convenience, bias, and comfort. It moves toward people others avoid. When you understand that God loved you while you were still broken, it becomes easier to extend that same love to others.

LUKE 10:33; ROMANS 5:8

PRAYER

“Jesus, make me a true neighbor.

Remove limits from my love and help me reflect Your heart.”

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Identify someone you have been avoiding and move toward them.

Do something practical to help someone in need.

Ask, “How can I be a neighbor today?”

The Harvest *is* Ready



DAY 6



Jesus said the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. The problem is not that people are not ready, it is that many believers are unwilling or unaware. Compassion shifts how you see the world. Instead of inconvenience, you begin to see opportunity.

Jesus tells us to pray for laborers, but we must pray with an open heart, ready for Him to send us. True prayer leads to participation. When your heart aligns with His, you do not just pray, you step into the harvest.

MATTHEW 9:37-38

PRAYER

“Lord of the harvest, send me.

Align my heart with Yours.

Use my life for Your purpose.”

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Pray for laborers and be willing to be one.

Ask God where He is sending you this week.

Step into one opportunity to share or serve.

The Full Meal: Where *Encounter* Meets Obedience



DAY 7



Jesus said His food was to do the will of the Father. He reveals something powerful, connection with God is not only found in private moments, it is also found in public obedience. The full meal is both encountering God personally and partnering with Him to reach people.

When you step into compassion, you begin to experience God in a deeper way. There is a satisfaction that comes from obedience, from being part of what He is doing in others' lives. This is where intimacy and mission meet.

JOHN 4:31-34

PRAYER

"Father, I want the full meal.

Teach me to find joy in doing Your will.

Let my life reflect both intimacy and mission."

PRACTICAL *Advice*

Reflect on where God is inviting you to act.

Combine prayer with action this week.

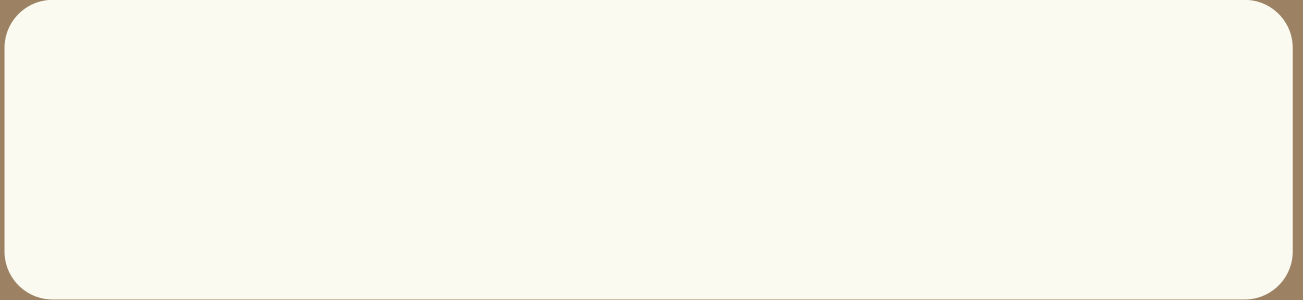
Share your faith or serve someone intentionally.

What has God been showing me
about compassion?

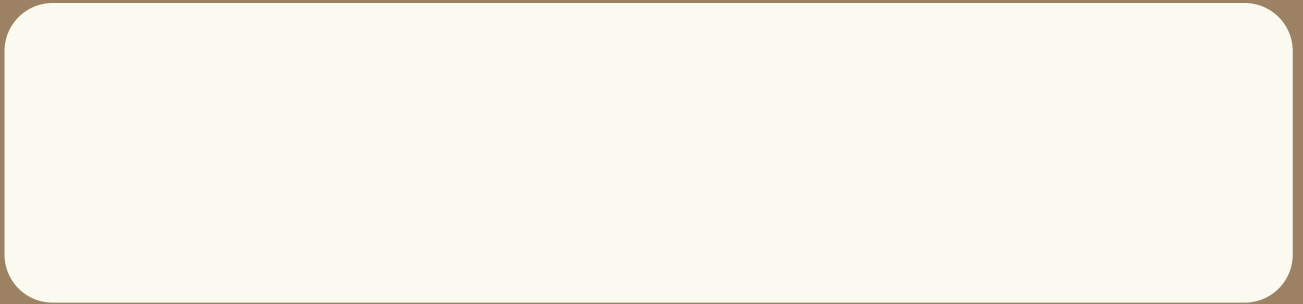
Where have I felt God stirring my
heart toward people?

Where have I acted and where have I
hesitated?

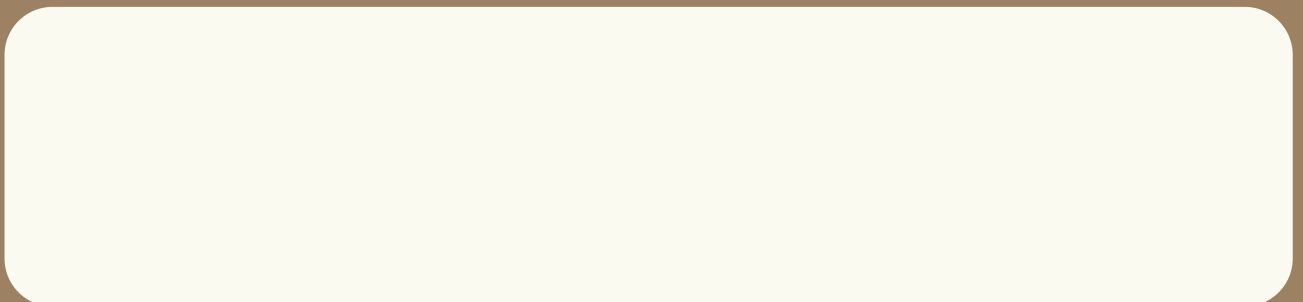
Who is God asking me to love
right now?



Where is God sending me?



What is my next step of obedience?





THIS IS *Holy* GROUND