**Compassion**

Leader’s Guide

**Opening Activity**

Watch the video of Compassion on the Field (<https://vimeo.com/user56348309>)

Next, give everyone a printout of the scripture passages on compassion from the lesson. Break off into groups of two or three – groups should come up with some kind of t-shirt design that they feel would communicate or express a message of compassion to others. Have everyone write their message – wording and/or drawing – on the t-shirt cutout provided and then go around sharing why they created what they did.

**Stories That Shape Us**

*Read the story of Rev. Jacqui Lewis together*

**Questions for Conversation**

* “God will always love you, and God will never leave you.” That was what Rev. Jacqui’s mother told her about the meaning of communion when she was young. How did that quote change Jacqui’s life to be more compassionate and full of love?
* Compassion is about acting out of the concern of the suffering and pain of others. How did Jacqui experience compassion in her own story?
* When do you find compassion to be a difficult value to live out in your life?
* Have you ever thought about communion – the bread and juice meal we share in worship – as a symbol of compassion? How is the communion meal we share together as a church each month an image of compassion?

**Bring It Together**

* What was a particular section or question from the reading that you’d be interested in exploring as a group this morning?
* What did you think about the Bible Project video on “compassion”? How did it help you think about that value and about God?

**Sending Activity**

Read Matthew 7:13-14. Think about the act and value of compassion as the “narrow gate” through which we enter the world each day. Where have you seen suffering in the world? This Advent season, how can you live compassionately to alleviate that suffering even just a little bit? Is there a cause you could donate to? How could you sacrifice your time? Where could you serve people who are experiencing hardship or suffering?