



Lesson 3

Do You Know What I'm Like?

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you know us so well. You see everything about each of us. You know those who are hurting. As we understand more about the hurting, bring us hearts that want to know them better and a desire to understand their need. Use your Word to grow us in our Christian faith and actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

How well do you know the hurting? Can you know them from their clothing? Their haircut? The way they talk? Or could you be led down a path of not really knowing much about the hurting who need help? In the last lesson we saw who the hurting were. This week we'll see what they are like. God helps us to see this in his Word.

Search the Scriptures

1. Gentiles and Jews are exactly alike. Sin levels the playing field. Also, by nature, there is no difference between an ex-offender, a person with sin's baggage, or an every-Sunday worship attendee. If we want to know what the hurting are really like, we need to get beyond the outward appearances. In Romans chapter 3, Paul quotes from the Psalms and Isaiah and helps us understand what the hurting are really like. Underline the two descriptions you most need to remember and why. After the reading of the verses, compare with those at your table or a person next to you. We'll hear samples.

Romans 3:10-18

¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

2. God interacts with the hurting. Read each paragraph of Psalm 107:10-21 and fill in the chart below noting what the hurting are like. Use your own words to summarize the answers.

Psalm 107:10-21

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains, ¹¹ because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the plans of the Most High. ¹² So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. ¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. ¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, ¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. ¹⁸ They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. ²¹ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

What had happened to those who needed help?	What did God do for them?	What are they like now?

3. What three truths can we draw about what the hurting are like from Psalm 107?

4. Read the following two Scripture sections. How would you finish this sentence?
 "When it comes to the hurting who need help, God is a God who _____."

Luke 18:13

¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"

Psalm 68:4-6a

⁴ Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
 extol him who rides on the clouds ;
 rejoice before him—his name is the LORD.

⁵ A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

⁶ God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing.

5. Jesus, the perfect Shepherd, knows every one of his sheep. He knows exactly what they are like, even though every sheep is different. Read the following two passage sections and list what Jesus knows about his sheep. Tell how these will help our congregation.

Matthew 9:36,37

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

9. What do you think will be the biggest challenge for your congregation to get to know what the hurting are like?

10. #summary — If you were live-tweeting the class, come up with three hashtags that you would use from what was discussed today.

Living My Faith

No one wants to feel that they are forgotten or unknown. You learn about people by asking them questions about themselves. To practice getting to know others and see them as Jesus' sheep, pick out someone this week at church whom you have not really talked with much. Ask them questions about themselves to get comfortable getting to know what someone is like. This can help when a person who is hurting comes to your congregation.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is easy for us to not want to know about the hurting and what they are like. To not be involved, to avoid conversations, are easy temptations. Forgive us for not wanting to know all your sheep. Bring words to our lips and love to our hearts, so we can serve the hurting, while knowing what they are like as a person, your own. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.