

## **Compelled 2022**

### **Discussion Questions**

To accompany the video clips from the events

#### **Session 1: CALL TO LAMENT**

1. What power does Lament have in leading to change?
2. What issues in our community “break your heart”?
3. What issues in the church grieve your heart (or grieve the heart of God)?
4. What has caused you to feel anger (or even the seeds of hatred) toward another person in the community or church?
5. Are there any issues not currently on the board that you feel God may be asking us to lament?
6. As you survey the issues listed on the board, how might we take “ownership” of these grievous items the way Daniel did? Can we?
7. With at least 15-20 minutes left in the breakout, let’s shift to prayer. You’ll receive prompts to shift through the pattern of a prayer of lament. You may pray silently or out loud as you are comfortable in line with the prompt, but please keep audible prayers short. Prayer Prompts:
  - a) Turn to God - invite God to hear our prayers
  - b) Complain - Lift up to God the things that are wrong and bring sorrow and pain
  - c) Ask – not just for relief, but for deliverance
  - d) Trust – acknowledge that God is able to deliver and we trust Him to do so in His way

#### **Session 2: CALL TO LOVE**

1. In your attempts to love your “literal” neighbors, have you encountered individuals or groups that you strongly disagree with on major issues? Have you met with hostility or resistance because of differences or disagreements? Have you struggled to lead with love in these circumstances?
2. What messages/messengers may be working against our attempts to lead with love? How do we counter these messages?

#### **Session 3: CALL TO UNITY**

1. What is currently working against unity in the Church?
2. What are the differences between unity and uniformity?
  - a. Does unity require complete agreement in doctrine, methodology, socio-economic status, ethnicity, political alignment, etc.? Why/why not?
  - b. What has the COVID pandemic, politics and the Presidential election, the social unrest of the last several years, revealed about the Church’s ability to walk with divergent perspectives?
  - c. Venture some thoughts on why these issues divided the Body of Christ.



3. How would you answer the question asked by Christina Cleveland: 'If Christians are supposedly all about love, why do we seem to fight so much?'
  
4. John Inazu suggests that humility, tolerance (defined as appreciating differences in thought and practice), and patience work against divisiveness within the community. How might these postures benefit the Church and help dissolve that which divides?
5. What kind of conversations do you think Christians need to have that will help foster true unity within the Body of Christ?
6. Someone once said, 'If two of us have exactly the same opinion, one of us is superfluous (not needed).' Contrast that with 1 Corinthians 1:10 and John 17:20-23. What do these verses reveal about unity (in context)?
7. How does a unified Church benefit those outside the church walls if 'The Church exists ... for the sake of the world?'
8. Redeemer Presbyterian Church runs a Center for Faith and Work ('Kingdom Calling,' Amy Sherman, p. 157) which seeks to 'equip, connect, and mobilize our church community in their professional and industry spheres toward gospel-centered transformation for the common good!' How does unity within the church enable Believers to work for the common good outside of the Church, without fear of doctrinal compromise?
9. Francis Schaeffer called Christian love and unity, 'the final apologetic' (John 13:35). Describe what he might have envisioned and why he believed this was so revealing.
10. Develop a list of those truths that we can and need to unite around, within the Body of Christ.
11. How can our church, or you as an individual, promote unity in your context?
12. During this discussion, what have you learned about God, about yourself, about others, about life with God?

#### **Session 4: CALLING OUR PEOPLE TO KINDNESS AND CIVILITY**

Optional: An activity to practice listening and developing curiosity The facilitator would ask the first question with *no comment added*. One of you would answer. From that point forward, each person may only *ask a question* or *answer a question*. No "bald" statements allowed! After the topic seems to have run its course, the facilitator would then ask the next question, and so on. Discussing like this forces each of us to listen and respond to people according to what's important to the subject at hand and what's important to individuals. It stokes our curiosity, the key to true civil discourse. It trains us to get off our soap boxes and to practice listening as a way of kindness.

1. Is kindness the same thing as tolerance?
2. Why is it difficult for us to consider that God is merciful to all people, even if they don't acknowledge Him?
3. Could Lancaster be described as a kind place? Why or why not?
4. How faithful is our own church at listening to the poor versus fixing the poor?
5. Who are some people in your circle who foster civility with others? How do they do it?
6. Where do you feel you need to change to be more like God in his mercy?

**Session 5: CALLING OUR PEOPLE TO HOSPITALITY AND HUMANITY**

Optional: Continue the guidelines from Session 4

1. What do all humans have in common?
2. What happens when we, individually or collectively, approach others as something other than essentially human? That is, if I size someone up as “Christian” or “Asian” or “Gen Z,” how does that tend to affect how I relate to that person?
3. So, what does it look like to approach others (in our sphere or among the poor) as God does, first and foremost as His image?