



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: Proclaimed

Suggested Week of Use: September 10, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 1:35-45

News Story Summary

In the midst of life's most challenging moments, compassion often shines the brightest. Such is the story of 86-year-old Mary Ruth Robinson, who discovered an unexpected source of love and connection at her local Walmart after the loss of her beloved husband. Grieving and feeling the weight of solitude, she decided to take a part-time job as a store greeter. What began as a way to fill a void soon became a beautiful therapy of its own. Mary Ruth's warm smile and genuine greetings transformed the sterile entrance into a welcoming embrace for shoppers. She started to notice the countless faces passing through the doors, each carrying their own burdens, stories, and joys. With a listening ear and a kind word, she offered solace and camaraderie to those who needed it most. Through simple acts of compassion, Mary Ruth turned her grief into a testament to the enduring power of human connection, proving that in the aisles of a superstore, as in life, the simplest gestures can mend the deepest wounds.

For more about this story, search "Woman finds beautiful therapy greeting people at Walmart"

Engage

To supplement the Engage activity, share the story about Mary Ruth Robinson's experience as a Walmart greeter. Emphasize the healing she has felt through reaching out to others. Ask: *How has she been able to demonstrate compassion? How have people shown compassion to her? What are ways we could demonstrate compassion?* Allow adults to share. If needed, prompt them with scenarios in which people can show compassion, such as to a server bringing the wrong order in a restaurant or to a mother struggling with a crying child. Point out that showing compassion and patience in those settings could make someone's day and even open their hearts to God's love. Explain that today's session examines an opportunity Jesus had to show compassion and how that led to others hearing about Him. Challenge adults to look for ways they can follow His example based on today's key verses.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind the adults about Mary Ruth Robinson's story. Ask: *How does showing compassion open doors to sharing Jesus with others?* Encourage adults to list ways they might know a situation is right to share Jesus with someone else. Challenge the group to ask God for opportunities to show compassion and to share Jesus with others, even when it might seem hard or uncomfortable.