

## ELEVATE: Panorama

### Session #2: Seeing Others the Way God Sees Them

**Session Objective:** This session is aimed at bringing students to **realise** they are called to love others, and to **demonstrate** that love in practical ways.

**Minimum Prep:**

- Read through the entire session outline.

**Extended Prep:** If you have some extended prep time, try the following option:

- Organize a service project with a local agency (e.g. soup kitchen) where your students can go and serve others. There are many options (check out <http://www.servantevangelism.com/matrix/matrix.htm>). If you choose to, you can lead the discussion on location.

### Session Outline

**Leader Preamble:**

*People naturally want stuff. People want material things like money, power and respect. In a capitalistic society, many people try to claw their way to the top, to be the king/queen of the mountain, to have people respect and serve them. If this was the real deal, you would expect the God of the universe to want the same thing. Yet the Jesus we read about in the Bible doesn't seem to want that. What does he want?*

**Small Group Questions:**

1. **Read Mark 10:35-45. What do John and James want?**

*To be at the top.*

2. **What does Jesus want them to do? Why?**

*To be willing to serve other people. Because Jesus came to serve people.*

3. **Read John 3:16-17. Who does God love?**

*The world.*

*Notice that the answer is not "Christians" or "you and me", the answer is the world. God's concern is for everyone on this planet – past, present, and future. Too often Christians think that God's concern is limited to the church – not so! The church is God's chosen vehicle for extending love to the world.*

*Remember last week, we looked out that panoramic view to see a perspective that God sees. He sees the whole world and every person in it. He thinks every person is worth dying for. And Jesus demonstrated that He loves not just by sacrificing Himself on the cross, but also in meeting their needs.*

**4. Consider the following passages: John 2:1-12; John 4:46-54; John 5:1-15. What specific needs did the person in story have that Jesus met?**

**5. How did Jesus meet that need(s)?**

**6. Why did Jesus do this?**

*John 2:1-12: He wanted to begin to show God's glory and God's care.*

*John 3:1-21: He wanted to help Nicodemus realize what the Kingdom of God was really about.*

*John 4:1-26: He wanted the woman to realize he had the hope she was looking for.*

*John 4:46-54: He knew how much the official cared for his son, and wanted to bring the boy back to life. Jesus also wanted to demonstrate God's care for them.*

*John 5:1-15: He wanted to show that even on the Sabbath, it is good to help people in their need.*

*Jesus takes it one step further. He says that if we're his followers, we need to be serving others too.*

*Jesus served other people in different ways. He loves other people, no matter what their background or difference is. He showed that love by helping others, even those he didn't know. One way to see God's perspective is by doing what God does, in this case by loving and serving other people.*

**7. Take a minute by yourself, and think of 3 people you could serve this week (preferably someone you don't really hang out with or don't know well). Then in your groups, for a few minutes, brainstorm one deed you could do for them.**

*See what happens this week when you serve those people on your list. Be prepared to report what you did, and how you feel about it.*

**Leader's note:** You can choose to either end or begin with a service project to create an experience for the group as a whole in serving others. See the extended prep for more details.

**Leader Note:** Contact Rob McAlpine at [compass@baptist.ca](mailto:compass@baptist.ca) with any thoughts, questions or suggestions.

**Comments and Feedback:**

**Leader Note:** This is your place each week to record significant sharing or growth in the lives of your students for subsequent follow up. You can also use this space to provide feedback on the material. All suggestions are welcome.

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Please see the following handout. You have permission to reproduce these handouts for your group.