

# COMPASSION

Caring enough to do something  
about someone else's need



WEEK

1

## READ 1 JOHN 4:7

DAY 1

Where does love come from? That's right. This verse says that love comes from God. In fact, you only know how to love because God first loved you. Before your mom or dad, before your grandparents or siblings and before your best friend, God loved you first.

This month, we're talking about compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else's need. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift to us, we'll learn how God showed us his love in a very real way. God's love isn't based on what you do or don't do. He loves you no matter what! You don't have to earn it. You don't have to perform or act a certain way to receive it. God simply loves you because he chooses to.

Find a piece of construction paper or poster board and cut it in half lengthwise. Take one of the pieces, fold it in half and then fold it in half again to create four sections. In the first section, draw a heart. Underneath the heart, write today's verse. Hold on to this page to add to it this week.

**THANK** God for choosing to love you first, just because.

## READ 1 JOHN 4:9

DAY 2

God loves you. And because of God's love for us, he gave. Over 2,000 years ago, God sent Jesus into the world as a baby. That little baby grew up, like you are growing up. He taught others about God and he lived a completely perfect, sinless life. And at the end of his time on earth, he willingly chose to die on the cross to pay the price for your sin.

Because God chose to send Jesus to the world that first Christmas, our sin no longer separates us from God when we choose to believe in Him. Isn't that amazing? God loved us first so we could show His love to others too.

Grab your picture from yesterday. Draw a cross to show what Jesus did for us in the second section. When finished, draw an arrow from the heart in section one to the cross in section two. Underneath the cross, write today's verse.

**THANK** God for showing you compassion.

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WEEK

1

## READ 1 JOHN 4:10

## DAY 3

God's love for us was proven in one amazing act—sending his only son to rescue us. Did you know you needed to be rescued? It's true. The wrong things that we do separate us from a holy and perfect God. But because God LOVES us, he gave us Jesus. Jesus took the punishment for our sin to rescue us so that we can choose to have a relationship with God and be with him forever in heaven one day.

In the third panel of your page from this week, draw a stick figure and decorate it to look like you! Write today's verse underneath your self-portrait. Then draw an arrow from the cross in the second section to the stick figure in the third. God sent Jesus to the earth to pay the price for YOUR sin. Pretty awesome right?

**LOOK** for ways to show God's love to others this week.



## READ 1 JOHN 4:11

## DAY 4

When Jesus was born all those years ago, the people who witnessed his birth had NO idea that one day this little baby would grow up and give his own life to save them. But God did. It was his plan all along to show compassion to a dark, sinful world by sacrificing his own son. That's what real love is.

Loving others in a compassionate way usually requires some sacrifice. We may need to give up some of our time to help someone. We might let go of some of our things to give them to others in need. We may even share our food with someone who's hungry.

God had compassion for us. And because God did that, we can show compassion to others. And when we do that, it can point others back to God. God loved you first. How will you love others?

In the fourth panel, draw several stick figures and then write today's verse underneath them. The stick figures you've drawn represent all the people you should show love to. Now draw an arrow from the third panel to the fourth.

**KNOW** that God loved you first so you can show love to others.

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## READ 1 PETER 3:8

## DAY 1

What is love? Love is more than a feeling. It's **DOING** something. When you show compassion, it's an action. To say you care about someone else but then do nothing to help isn't showing real love.

Compassion is caring enough to **DO** something about someone else's need. That's what this week is all about. God saw our greatest need and he did something about it! That's why he sent the angel to Mary to tell her about Jesus coming arrival!

In the word search to the right, find the words from today's verse.

T A C K S T L M N P O  
E E X I A R V R S T E  
N L N N G Q O V E R T  
D B A D R K L O V E E  
U M B L E I E L M S N  
R U N D E R S T A N D  
K H W X B D F O D F E

**THANK** God for sending Jesus to meet our greatest needs.

**Word Bank:**

Agree  
Understand  
Love

Kind  
Tender  
Humble

## READ 1 JOHN 3:17

## DAY 2

When a crime occurs, what do the police look for to solve the case and catch the bad guy? That's right. Evidence! They look for fingerprints at the scene. They find out if there a surveillance video that captured what happened, and they try to find witnesses that could give a good description of the suspect. The more evidence, the better chance they have of solving the case.

So how can the people around you see that you love and follow God? It's by your actions. Is there evidence of your love for God in the way you live? When you see the needs around you and roll up your sleeves to help, it's like leaving, evidence of your compassion. You make a difference when you see a need and help.

Think about one thing you did this week to show compassion. Whose needs did you see and how did you meet them in a real way?

**ASK** God help you meet the needs of the people around you this week.

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## READ PROVERBS 17:17

## DAY 3

According to this verse, when should you love others and show compassion? That's right—at ALL times. When you feel like it AND when you don't. When you think others will notice AND when no one else is around to see what you've done. When it's not a big deal AND when it is. When it's your last fifty cents AND when you have a wallet full of allowance money. When it's convenient AND when it's the last thing you have time for. A friend loves at ALL times. No excuses.

On the blank lines below, write down one person that you typically see during that time. For instance, the 7 am slot would probably be someone in your family.

Next to each person's name, think of one way you can love that person during that time. Challenge yourself to follow through and show compassion to that person tomorrow.

7 am	_____	_____
9 am	_____	_____
noon	_____	_____
3 pm	_____	_____
6 pm	_____	_____

**LOOK** for ways to show compassion to the people on this list tomorrow.

## READ HEBREWS 10:24

## DAY 4

What does it mean to consider something? It means to think about it beforehand. It means to take some time on your own to wrap your mind around how you could help someone else – before you actually do the helping part.

So for just a minute, think about one person in your world. What do they really need? How could you show compassion to help meet that need? How could you stir them to love and help? Set a timer for 30 seconds and think. When you're finished, write down three things you could do to encourage them to show compassion to others.

**ASK** God to help you show compassion to others.



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## READ JOHN 3:16

## DAY 1

What is the best gift you've ever received? Is it something you asked for or something that came as a total surprise? Think back to the moment when you opened the package. What did you do?

God loves us. So he did what loving people do, He gave. But his gift wasn't something you could wrap up in paper and ribbons. In fact, his gift wasn't an "it." It was a WHO. God sent Jesus to the earth on that very first Christmas as a gift to you and to me. God gave us the greatest gift. He gave us Jesus. So the question is, what will you give?

Grab a piece of paper and write out the words of this verse. But write the following words in big block or bubble letters: loved, gave, Son, Anyone, believes, eternal life. Draw a different design inside each of the block letters. For instance you might draw horizontal or vertical stripes in the letters of the word 'loved' or zig zag lines or polka dots inside the word "gave." When you're done, hang this somewhere you will see it a lot this week to remind you of the greatest gift.

**THANK** God for giving you the greatest gift ever – Jesus!

## READ ROMANS 6:23

## DAY 2

The book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* is based on the idea of cause and effect. The cause of giving him a cookie, leads to the effect of giving up a whole bunch of other stuff. And each effect is more ridiculous than the next.

There is a cause and effect relationship when it comes to our sin. When you do something wrong, either by disobeying, or being unkind, the effect is being separated from God. No matter how big or how small your sin may feel, the effect is always the same.

That's why Jesus' birth is such an amazing gift. Instead of requiring us to fix the problem, God decided to send Jesus to pay the price for us. We did not earn this gift and we can never pay God back for something so BIG. But we can show compassion to others by being willing to give when we see a need, just like God gave to us. Even if it's your last cookie.

**ASK** God to help you see ways you can give to others this week.

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## READ ROMANS 5:8

## DAY 3

How do you know that God has compassion for you? Because of Christmas! God sent Jesus as a baby to prove his love for us. He didn't expect us to clean ourselves up and try to make things right. God sent Jesus while we were still separated from Him by our sin. God gave us the greatest gift when he gave us Jesus.

Make an ornament for your Christmas tree to help you remember God's gift!

Cut out a heart shape from a piece of paper. Write Romans 5:8 on the front of the heart and use glitter glue or yarn to decorate it. Punch a hole in the top for hanging. Run a piece of string through the top and hang on your Christmas tree.

**LOOK** at your ornament this week and ask yourself, what can I give?



## READ EPHESIANS 2:8

## DAY 4

What's your favorite thing about Christmas? It's easy to get caught up in all the stuff and completely miss what Christmas is truly all about. Lights and cookies and stockings are awesome, but Christmas is about a baby, born in a stable over 2,000 years ago. Christmas is about Jesus.

God sent Jesus to earth that first Christmas to rescue us from our sin. But it's not enough to know about his birth. This gift—the gift of Jesus—has to be received. You can make a choice to accept God's gift to you by BELIEVING in Jesus. First, admit that you sin and that your sin separates you from God. Then, tell God that you believe he sent Jesus to pay the price for your sin so you can have a relationship and live with him forever in heaven.

Have you accepted God's gift by faith? What questions do you have? Read today's verse with a grown up and talk about what it means to believe in Jesus and accept him as your Savior.

**KNOW** that you accept God's gift to you by believing in Jesus.

Caring enough to do something about someone else's need



## READ LUKE 2:8-15

## DAY 1

Your mom or dad stay up to date with what's happening in the world in lots of different ways. Maybe they read in the paper or the Internet or watch the news on TV to keep up with what's going on in the world.

The night that Jesus was born, there were no newspapers or reporters or headlines. But that doesn't mean that people didn't hear about his birth! God sent a whole chorus of angels to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds tending their sheep outside of Bethlehem. When they heard the news, the shepherds quickly ran to see this Savior for themselves. God announced this most important arrival to the least important people around—a group of lowly working shepherds. Know why? Because the news of Jesus arrival was for everyone!

Pretend you were on the scene as a reporter on the night Jesus was born. Grab a piece of paper and create a headline announcing the birth of Jesus. Come up with an eye-catching title and write up a news story about Jesus' birth.

**THANK** God for the great news of Jesus birth!

## READ ROMANS 10:13-14

## DAY 2

How did you first learn about the true meaning of Christmas? Do you remember who first told you? Was it your mom or dad or grandparents or a small group leader or teacher at church? At some point, someone shared the good news with you about Jesus' birth.

Did you know people have been sharing that good news for over 2,000 years? That's what today's verse is all about. You can't believe in Jesus or accept the gift of his sacrifice on the cross for you unless you HEAR about it. And the people in your world might just be waiting on you to share that good news. God gave us great news. Someone once told you all about it. So the question is, who will you tell?

Fill the blanks of today's verse below.

"Scripture says, '\_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of the Lord will be \_\_\_\_\_.' How can they \_\_\_\_\_ on him unless they \_\_\_\_\_ in him? How can they \_\_\_\_\_ in him unless they \_\_\_\_\_ about him? How can they \_\_\_\_\_ about him unless someone \_\_\_\_\_ to them?"

**ASK** God to show you the people around you that need to hear this good news.

Caring enough to do something about someone else's need



## READ MATTHEW 28:19

DAY 3

After Jesus had finished his work on earth, after he'd suffered on the cross to pay the price for our sin, he appeared to his disciples. He was alive! He appeared to them and spoke these words, "Go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus wanted EVERYONE to hear about what He had done to save them.

Grab a globe or world map. You can ask a grown up to look one up online. Close your eyes and point to a place on the map. Open your eyes and read the name of the country you've landed on. Do you know anything about this place? Do the people that live there know about how much God loves them? Ask a grown up to help you do some research to figure out if there are people serving God in that country.

Take a few minutes to brainstorm some tangible ways you can get involved in sharing the good news of Jesus in that particular nation. Spend some time today praying for the people there—that they would hear the good news about Jesus in their own language.

**LOOK** for ways to talk about Jesus this week.

## READ PSALM 96:3

DAY 4

Yesterday we looked at a map and talked about how the good news about Jesus is for everyone. But the news about Jesus' birth isn't just for people on the other side of the world. It's also good news for the people you come in contact with everyday. Can you think of someone that needs to hear about the true meaning of Christmas? Is it the kid you sit next to on the bus? Is it the buddy you play with afterschool? Is it someone in your own family?

Did you know that one BIG way you can show compassion to the person you're thinking about is to make sure they know about Jesus? You do this by being a good friend, by treating them the way you want to be treated, by inviting them to church and when you have an opportunity, by TELLING them about Jesus. God gave us great news? Who will you tell?

**KNOW** that God is with you when you share the good news about Jesus.



God

gave us great news.  
Who will you tell?