

## WHAT IS COMPASSION?

**Key Words:** compassion, prodigal, parable, analyze

**Bible Point:** Compassion is showing Godly love toward others

**Bible Lesson Verse(s):** Colossians 3:12 (NIV) “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with *compassion*, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

**Objectives of the Learner:**

- I can define compassion in my own words
- I can analyze the character traits of the father in *The Prodigal Son*
- I can develop a list of ways to show compassion in real life.

**Bible Background** – Luke 15:11-32 | The story of the Prodigal son is a beautiful reminder and example. A study of this story illuminates the compassion of our God. His grace and mercy extends to us all. His love is a love of restoration. When we are filled with His Spirit, then we will be filled with this powerful Charity. Afterall, He is Charity. It is our responsibility to show this toward others in our lives. It is the ability to show compassion and lead others to His restoration power.

### Welcome to the Word

#### Access Prior Knowledge:

What does it mean to show compassion?

Who are people that might need extra kindness?

How have you heard the word restored used before now?

#### Opener Activity –

Materials needed: Tears of the Saints by Leeland, Dryerase board (or butcher paper), markers

- Before playing the song, set the purpose for listening by asking the learner to think about what “compassion” means.
- Play the song for the learners. As the song is playing, draw a circle on the board (or paper) and write the word “compassion” in the center of the circle. Draw lines coming out from the circle going to several smaller circles.
- Ask the learners to complete a word map. (see example attached)

- Lead the students in using the word map to generate a definition in their own words. Write this definition on the dry erase board or a large anchor chart to refer to throughout the lesson.

**Worship** – Invite the learner to worship along with some of the following songs. These songs are suggestions.

- Mercy Came Running - Phillips, Craig, & Dean
- You Won't Let Me Go - Nathan and Rachel

**Prayer** - Ask for a volunteer to lead in prayer over our hearts and mind as we read the word. Ask that they pray that the seed falls on fertile ground and our minds be transformed.

### Open the Word

#### Scripture Reading- Luke 15:18-20

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the selection of the text from the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18-20).
- Then ask the students to break into groups ( 2 to 3 people) and read Luke 15:11-32 together. Ask them to focus on the actions of the father.

### Reveal the Word

-Need the attached Character Analysis chart.

*Now we are going to use the Character Analysis chart to examine what the Bible has to say about the father in the parable. When we analyze a character, we look closely at the text to see what clues it gives us.*

- I do: Lead the students in completing the first two rows of the Character analysis chart. The following are some questions you can use to demonstrate your thinking aloud.
  - *What are some things that Father says in this passage that we read? (Luke 15:22,Luke 15:31)*
  - *What do we learn about the Father from what he said?*
  - *What are some words we would use to describe a person who says these things?*
- We do: For the third row, ask them to talk for a few minutes in their groups which verse would be best to show what other character's say to the father. This is a good opportunity to look at the brother's actions. Ask them to volunteer some answers.
  - *What are some things the other characters say to the Father?*
  - *What does the brother say to the father?*
  - *What does this show us about the Father's character?*
  - *How would you describe a person who rejoices when someone repents?*
- You do: Let them do the last row independently in their groups.

### **Bible Lesson Discussion**

- Ask the groups to share what character traits they learned about the father from their chart.
- When we analyze a character in the Bible we want to see what we can learn from them. What can we learn from the Father?
- Discuss what a parable is. Who does the Father in this parable represent?
- Read Luke 15:20. Emphasize the word compassion. Does the actions of the Father in the story match our definition of compassion? Do we need to adapt our definition in any way to match this example shown in the Bible?

### **Do the Word**

*We are made in the image of God. When we are filled with his Spirit, we are filled with his love. We have the superpower to show Godly compassion to others. Just like the Father met the needs of his son, we can work together to meet the needs of others less fortunate.*

- Pass out 5 3x5 notecards to each group.
- Model writing a need on one side of two notecards.
- Ask the groups to write a need on each notecard.

### **Meet the Needs**

- Once the groups have a need on each notecard, gather all the cards up and shuffle them.
- Model two times flipping over a card and writing how we could meet the need on the back.
- Pass out 5 of the shuffled cards back to the groups. Ask them to brainstorm ways to meet the needs on the back.
- Once groups are finished with the task, ask for volunteers to share one idea from each group.

**Class Challenge:** As the teacher, choose two of the ideas that seem feasible for you class to complete. Have the class to vote between the two as a project for this quarter.

**Activity** – <http://www.compassionservices.org/my-csi/compassion-kids>

Download the activity sheet from the Compassion Services International (CSI) website. CSI aims to make a difference worldwide to fulfill our call to show compassion. There are four ways to get involved. Discuss these four ways with your students.

1. PRAY TO HAVE EYES THAT SEE THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD
2. DONATE TO A CAUSE THAT IS ACTIVELY MEETING NEEDS
3. SHARE AWARENESS WITH OTHERS
4. VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

One way your students can make a difference is by participating in the 'Compassion Kids Bank' activity linked [here](#). They will need a 16oz plastic bottle and the Compassion Kids bottle label. By filling their bottle with change, they can feed a family for an entire *month*!!

## Resources for the Lesson

### Opener

- Word map [example](#)

Song:

- [Tears of the Saints - Leeland](#)
- Alternatively, [here](#) is a mission's video with the song.

### Worship

Songs:

- [Mercy Came Running - Phillip, Craig, & Dean](#)
- [You won't let me go - Nathan and Rachel](#)

**Lesson:** See below for Character Analysis Chart

**Activity:**

CSI Kids Activities: <http://www.compassionservices.org/my-csi/compassion-kids>

Bottle Label - PDF of bottle label is [here](#).

### Character Analysis Chart

<b>Bible Character's Name:</b> _____	<b>Verse Example</b>	<b>What the example reveals about the character</b>
<b>Character's words</b>		
<b>Character's Thoughts and/or Feelings</b>		
<b>What other Characters say or feel about this character</b>		
<b>Character's Actions</b>		