



Compassion

Jesus showed us that he really was the Son of God through miracles. His miracles weren't just good for a show. He poured his love and compassion on those who needed it most. In this series, we'll look at stories of healing, hope, and compassion.

Big Idea: We can share God's love by being compassionate.

Key Verse: The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation. | Psalm 145:8-9 (NLT)

1. HANGOUT

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- a. Discuss:
 - In the past week, have you used the phrase, "I feel bad for..."? If so, how did that sentence end?
 - When you think about suffering and injustice in the world, what or who comes to mind?
 - When you think about suffering and injustice in your school, what or who comes to mind?
 - What kinds of things make you think, "Someone should *do* something about that!"?

2. HEAR

Supplies:

- Bibles

Leader Tip:

- Students may be interested in many different areas of compassion and justice (e.g., compassion about the suffering of the earth and caring for the environment; compassion for the suffering of people and for peace; compassion for people who go hungry; compassion for kids who are bullied and hurting; compassion for those who are victims of human slavery).

Instructions:

- a. Look up and read Luke 7:13.
- b. Discuss: Have you ever experienced or seen something that made your heart overflow with compassion? In other words, what made you feel *so sad* that it prompted you to do something?
- c. Explain that we all feel varying levels of compassion for different people and things. Jesus felt compassion, too!
- d. Look up and read Matthew 14:14.
- e. Discuss: Who did Jesus feel compassion for in this passage? What did he do about it?
- f. Look up and read Psalm 145:8-9.
- g. Discuss:
 - How do you think God shows compassion for all of his creation?
 - Are you compassionate about the planet? Why or why not? Is this an issue that Christ-followers should care more about?
- h. Look up and read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- i. Discuss:
 - What does this passage say about how we've been shown compassion?
 - If you had never been shown that love, would you know how to give it?
 - What does this passage tell us that we can now do?
 - What does this mean for you at school? How about in your family?

3. HUDDLE

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Compassion is not a one-time event, but sometimes these events introduce the idea of compassion. Be aware of this tension. Consider connecting with your site pastor or youth coordinator to find out what's happening with your church body and compassion!

Instructions:

- a. Say, "A famous comedienne once said, 'I always thought somebody should do something about that. Then I realized, I am somebody.' A famous politician once said, 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing.' A famous musician once said, 'If you want to make the world a better place, take a look in the mirror and make a change.' We can read about compassion and hear about good things other people do, but what about me—what about you? Jesus often felt compassion. And we call ourselves Jesus-followers. We are God's children. So what should we do?"
- b. Create a challenge, either as individuals or as a group, to focus on one area where you feel driven to show compassion and actually *do* something about it.
- c. Pray together that God would be with you as you embody compassion for others.