

COMPASSION: WEEK-2

Bible Verse: 1 John 3:17-18 New Living Translation (NLT)

17 If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion - how can God's love be in that person?

18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

DISCUSS:

Who have you seen in need lately? What did you do? (Could you have done something different? If so, what?) Was there a time you didn't help? How did you feel about that? (Here's where we can begin to help them understand the word "compassion". And the meaning of the verse - man - that is NOT an easy verse!! Let's be sure to be honest here parents! Tell them of times YOU have seen someone in need and haven't helped. What stopped you. And why. And how you felt about it! UGH! Tough stuff here. But oh so good! Lord, give us the strength and courage to lead our families here into real and open discussions.) Remember the video (you can show it again if it's been awhile) of the girl walking for water? We were talking about loving our neighbors. In our verse on compassion, it says if we see someone in need, and withhold our compassion, how can God's love abide in us. Let's watch another video a minute. As we do...focus on how you FEEL as you do.

WATCH:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bg1iLMnKD-4> (stop after 2:08)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnLjWDrN8XQ> (may choose to stop at 1:25/ older children? Maybe continue until 1:55)

(Be sure you have time to watch the video AND time to process/discuss afterwards in one session with your family) - Parents - of course you may choose one or both of the videos depending on your children and what you think will most lead them to understand compassion.

DISCUSS AFTER WATCHING:

(This step is really really important, so again, we encourage you to not split these two parts up into different times/ days.) LISTEN intentionally very carefully to what your kids are saying after watching the video. Some may want to watch it again. Simply ask: What are you thinking/feeling after seeing that? What questions do you have? We are trying to help them understand the meaning of compassion. Having a concern for the suffering of others. That feeling in their guts right now? THAT! God has given us THAT so that we may be moved to DO something with it. Not to turn from it. So ask your kids...what do they want to DO about that? Begin collecting money now for the Walk? Do jobs around the house, the neighborhood to earn money to give? Sell lemonade? What are THEIR ideas? Again, we encourage you parents to listen to your kids here. They can be extremely creative! And watch how God can use their unique gifts. For example, one of our kids was a great gardener, so his idea was to grow gourds and sell them. (He had seen them being used for collecting water in the videos and that stuck with him).

PRAYER:

(of course you can pray how you feel led, or use this prayer to close). Oh Father God, our hearts hurt as we watch and learn more about this water crisis and how Your children are suffering. Help us have compassion and love them in action and truth. (Have the kids now pray for those children -whatever comes to their hearts - prayers of kids are so precious and we often learn more of what they are thinking as they pray.) Amen.

