

# Camp Bible 2019

## Compassion

### Leader Overview

**Compassion** literally means “to suffer together.” Among emotion researchers, it is **defined** as the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve that suffering. **Compassion** is not the same as empathy or altruism, though the concepts are related.

When **Jesus** landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick. ... And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don't cry.” Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still.

### BEGINNING IN THE WORD

Have a small treasure for each student to hold in their hands as you read the following verses:

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Proverbs 19:17

Matthew 5:7

Discuss the following questions:

- Ask the students to hold their small treasure in their hand and imagine I was going to take it away from you, what would you do to stop me?
- How does God say we are to treat those who are poor?
- What do you think being “open-handed” means?
- Do you think there are poor people in the world? What about in your own town/city?
- What are ways that we can help those who are less fortunate than ourselves?
- How would you define Compassion?

### Small Group Activity

Divide up into 4 groups with adults in each group to assist the campers. Give each group the scripture Luke 10:25 - 39 (The Good Samaritan) to find in the Bible and read together aloud. This is a story of how compassion is shown in the bible.

Tell kids that they are going to rewrite The Good Samaritan for today. Each group is making a script that the other group will act out! Each group works together to fill in the information requested on their list. A leader or kid copies the group's words from the fill-in-the-blank sheet to the script.

Direct kids to the designated stage area to check out the props. Help each kid choose a character to play from the original story and prepare to become a modern (perhaps

surprising) version of their character. Remind kids to return props to the same places so they can be easily found during the skit.

Gather one group of kids near the stage area as the audience and invite the other group of kids to take their places on stage. The leader acts as the narrator, standing to one side of the stage. We're about to hear a familiar story told in a very different and modern way. The characters may have changed, but what about the lesson? Let's begin. Take a small intermission to replace the props after the first group presents, and switch places.

Discussion Questions after the skits.

- Which version of the story do you prefer: the old or the new?
- What happened to the man as he was traveling?
- What would you do if you came upon a hurt person by the side of the road today?

Jesus told a story about a Samaritan man helping a Jewish man because those two groups of people hated each other in Bible times. Jesus wanted us to know that all people are important to God.

## **Closing Activity - Imaginative Prayer**

This imaginative prayer does two things:

- It creates a space for campers to imagine hearing the story of the good Samaritan firsthand from Jesus.
- It helps the campers imagine following Jesus' command to "go and do likewise" - not alone but with Jesus by their side.

Remember silence is a good thing! It allows the child's imagination to finish the story.

*Close your eyes and let's take a few breaths together.*

*God I pray that you will release our imagination and help us to hear you speak to us during this time together. We open our hand to you. We open our ears to you.*

**(pause 8-10 seconds)**

*Come, Holy Spirit.*

*In the Gospel of Luke we read a story about a man who had an important question for Jesus. The man wanted to know what he must do to have the kind of life that God wanted him to have-a life that is full of goodness and abundance of love.*

*Imagine that you are listening in on the conversation. Imagine that you are standing right next to Jesus.*

*The man asks Jesus, "What must I do to have the best kind of life?"*

*Jesus seeing the man was religious, gave him a very straight forward answer. He said, "You know what kind of life God invites you into, don't you? Tell me, what's your understanding?"*

*The man gave a pretty good answer. He said this: "The good life comes to those who love God with all their heart and energy, and also love their neighbors as well as they love themselves."*

*That's a good answer." Jesus replied.*

*But then the man had another question: "and who is my neighbor?"*

*Jesus answered him by telling a story.*

*Imagine you are sitting with Jesus as he tells this story. Imagine you are right next to him.*

**(pause 5-8 seconds)**

*Jesus begins the story and says,*

*"There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.*

*"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill - I'll pay you on my way back."*

*"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"*

*"the One who treated him kindly," the man responded. Jesus said. "Go and do the same." (LK 10:30-37 The Message)*

Imagine you are sitting next to Jesus as he finished the story. Jesus reaches out his hand for yours and offers to go on a walk with you.

Imagine he says your name and takes your hand.

**(pause 5-8 seconds)**

And then Jesus begins to ask you some questions. He begins to ask you about the story you have just listened to.

He says to you, "Who do you relate to in the story?"

Think for a moment about the people in the story that Jesus has told.

There is the man who was robbed and beaten. There were two people who passed by. And there was the man, a Samaritan, who stopped and helped the beaten man.

Continue to imagine that you are with Jesus and you are having a conversation with him about the story. "Who are the people in your life that sometimes need help?"

**(pause 10 seconds)**

Who comes to mind?

What are some ways that Jesus may be inviting you to be the Samaritan in this story?

**(pause 5-8 seconds)**

Who are the people you have an opportunity to be kind to? Who do you have an opportunity to love?

Is there anyone that comes to mind?

Imagine now that as you walk with Jesus, you notice there is someone on the side of the road who seems to be in need. IT is a man who has been badly beaten, and someone has torn his clothes.

What do you want to do when you see the man?

**(pause 5-8 seconds)**

Imagine running over to the man, with Jesus right by your side. Imagine helping the man up, and offering him a drink of water. What does it feel like to have Jesus by your side as you help this man?

Take a few moments of quiet, and try to imagine what happens next as you and Jesus are helping the man.

Ask Jesus right now to help you finish the task of love in the story. How would you finish the story?

**(take about 2 minutes of silence)**

God invites us to live a life of love.

Love looks like being patient and kind and not making a list of people's mistakes.

Love looks like inviting people who may be left out.

Love looks like taking care of people when they need help.

Ask for a student to close the group in prayer. Bless each student as they leave the group and remind them they are a beautiful blessing of God.

\*\* Students may keep their treasure. If time permits, students can add their treasure to a piece of string to create a necklace or book mark \*\*

