

## Section 5- Compassion

### **Section Overview**

Our love for one another and our actions that come out of that love are important parts of being lights for Christ. In this section, we will focus our attention on the importance of compassion, the examples Christ set for us regarding compassion, and what the Bible says about those who don't show compassion. We'll also give the team time to chew on facts and statistics regarding poverty and how they can show compassion for those who are in need.

### **Be Love in Action**

**Colossians 3:12- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**

### **What exactly is compassion?**

Compassion is putting your faith into action! Compassion is rooted in the love of Christ; it is up to us to share His love with others. Rather than feeling bad for someone who is sick or in need, Christ commands us to do something about it!!

### **Following the example of Christ**

Jesus was often "moved" or "filled" with compassion when he saw people who were in need. Whether they were in need of the Gospel, a physical healing, or were without food, Jesus acted on the love he had for his people, and provided for their needs. Read the stories below

- Feeding of the 5000- Matthew 14: 13- 21
- Healing the blind men- Matthew 20:29-34
- Compassion for the lost- Matthew 9:35



***What was the Jesus' motivation for helping these people?***

***What did Jesus get in return?***

***What happened to those who witnessed Christ's acts of compassion?***

### **Why should I show compassion?**

Read the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46. This parable shows that on judgment day, God will reward the righteous according to their acts of compassion done for others and for Christ. Whatever the unrighteous have not done for others, he points out they have not done for the Lord.

Have you ever heard of Sodom & Gomorrah? Sodom & Gomorrah were two cities that were destroyed because they were wicked and full of evil people. Many people believe that God was judging them for living immoral lifestyles. This is true... partially. Ezekiel 16:49 says ***“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.*** Hmm...They were unconcerned for the people in need while they sat stuffed and overfed. The people of Sodom & Gomorrah were judged for two areas of sin, immorality and social injustice. Living in America, does this sound familiar at all?

Now, it doesn't mean that God will destroy you like Sodom & Gomorrah if you don't show compassion to those in need. But, God makes it very clear here and throughout scripture that he will bring justice to the poor, blessings to those who care for those in need, and judgment to those who neglect or take advantage of the poor. Read the scriptures below:

**Amos 8:4-7**

**Proverbs 22:22-23**

**Ezekiel 18:7**

**1 John 3:16**

**James 1:27**

**Proverbs 22:9**

**Proverbs 21:13**

**Proverbs 14:31**

**Proverbs 31:8-9**

**Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

**Isaiah 58:6-11**

**James 2:5**

**Proverbs 28:27**

**Luke 14:12-14**

## **How can I show compassion?**

**Below are some ideas of how you can reach out to those who are in need in your community, school or church.**

- ◆ Donate children's toys or books to a hospital's pediatric floor.
- ◆ During winter, collect gloves, mittens or winter coats for needy families
- ◆ Collect baby clothes for a local pregnancy center
- ◆ If you're over the age of 17, donate blood
- ◆ Help an elderly person or neighbor by bringing cookies, running errands, or helping with their yard work.
- ◆ Help friends or children who need help with their school work
- ◆ Volunteer at a senior citizen home
- ◆ Volunteer at an after school or daycare
- ◆ Raise money for a missions organization (Speed the Light or City on a Hill)
- ◆ Plan or participate in a food drive
- ◆ Pray for a friend or someone who is hurting

## Questions to Ponder

Please answer the following questions.

- ◆ Did you have enough food for today?
- ◆ Did you have decent clothes to wear today?
- ◆ Do you have a home that protects you from the weather?
- ◆ Does your family have a car?

*If you answered yes to all the questions above, you're in the **TOP 15%** of the worlds wealthiest!!*

- ◆ Do you or your family have a savings account?
- ◆ Does your family have 2 cars in any condition?
- ◆ Do you have a variety of clothes?
- ◆ Does your family own your house?

*If you answered yes to all the questions above, you're in the **TOP 5%** of the worlds wealthiest!!*

**You may not feel wealthy, but that's because you're comparing yourself to the MEGA-WEALTHY.**

**(From The Law of Rewards by Randy Alcorn)**

## Keeping it Alive

- As a team, collect batteries & smoke detectors, to hand out to the families in our neighborhood while on your missions trip at Milwaukee.
- Make an effort to go out of your way to help someone who is need. Bake cookies, mow their lawn, help plant flowers, visit a nursing home.
- Go through your closet/house and donate unused items that are in good condition to local charity or thrift store.

