



Compassion - content ideas for Christian collective worship

Definition: Compassion is a feeling of deep sympathy accompanied by a strong desire to help.

Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone.

See the Bibleproject video here: [Compassion](#)



Key Bible Character - The Good Samaritan is a useful character to keep referring back to. Look at the idea of compassion having a cost – those who put themselves out for others will get messy and have to pay a price – but what are the rewards?

Questions -What can we learn from the story about how we treat one another? What is Jesus teaching about who we show compassion to? Who is our neighbour? Can you think of a time in your life when you helped others? Or you stood up for others who were suffering? In what ways could we ease someone's suffering? How would the world be different if more people showed compassion? What would a world without compassion look like?

Prayer of compassion: Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters. Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed. Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us. Renew in us your spirit. Lord, free us and make us one. Amen (prayer by St Theresa)

Key Bible verse: "Clothe yourself with compassion and kindness." - Colossians 3:12

	Bible stories and verses linked to compassion	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37 video	We should treat others with compassion – no matter who they are. Jesus wants us to show compassion for people around us and treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves. I wonder about whom Jesus would choose to talk in this story, if he were telling it today using characters we might more readily recognise?
2	Parable of the Lost Sheep	Luke 10:1-7 video	Jesus wants us to know that he is like the Good Shepherd who comes to the rescue. He will always show compassion and kindness

			towards us when we are in need.
3	Listen to the poem about a special dream that helped one man to understand more about his relationship with God.	Footprints in the Sand. video	Christians believe that when they are experiencing difficulties in their lives these can be shared with God and He will help and support them. God carries the load. God never leaves us to face life alone. He is always there loving us and guiding us even when we feel weighed down and weary.
4	Jesus heals a man with leprosy or the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers	Matthew 8:1-4 video	Jesus showed compassion. His healing miracles were always prompted by compassion for people's suffering. We should also be moved to act at the suffering of others.
5	Jesus feeds the 5,000	Matthew 14:14 video	How can we show compassion to others by sharing what we have? Even a little act of kindness in God's hands can become something much bigger.
6	The Prodigal son	Luke 15:11-32 video	The father in the parable is not just forgiving but filled with compassion. The father seems to understand everything that his son is feeling and responds by giving him everything he needs acceptance and love. Jesus experienced everything we feel and God understands our experiences.
7	David spares Saul	1 Samuel 23-24 video	David showed compassion to Saul, even though he had hurt him. He didn't want payback, but treated him with love and mercy.
8	Ruth and Naomi	Ruth 1 video	Ruth's compassionate determination to love her lonely and grieving Mother-in-law at the cost of her country and way of life. Ruth shows compassion to Naomi at her time of need. She followed her heart and gave up everything to stay with her. What would you give up to help someone else?
9	Kind Dorcas/Tabitha	Acts 9 video	People often remember kind deeds. Although Dorcas couldn't preach or heal people like some of her fellow followers of Jesus, the people of Joppa - especially the needy - loved her. They knew that Dorcas loved them and unselfishly gave them what she could. This was Dorcas' way of sharing her love for Jesus.

10	The Good Shepherd	Psalm 23	Jesus called himself the 'Good Shepherd', who knows all his sheep by name, and he promised that he would be close beside anyone who needed comforting in times of need, just like David said in his psalm. Listen to Jesus' words in the Beatitudes: 'Those who are sad now are happy, because God will comfort them.' These words, like the words of Psalm 23, have brought comfort to millions of Christians over thousands of years. They are a reminder that whatever happens in life, God knows how we feel.
11	Jesus shows compassion healing a blind man	Mark 10.46-52	Jesus showed compassion many, many times in the Bible.
12	Baby in the bulrushes	Exodus 1-2 video	When the baby could not be hidden any longer, his mother put him in a basket made of "bulrushes" and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river and saw the basket with the baby inside. Her response is one of compassion.

Other free resources on compassion to explore:

- The healing of the man with leprosy <https://www.brf.org.uk/product/compassion-learning-from-jesus/>
- <https://www.brf.org.uk/product/the-good-samaritan-showing-compassion/>
- Church of England Faith at Home resource on compassion <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-school-leader#na> and video <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/faith-home-videos/collective-worship-primary-schools-episode-10-compassion>
- The poem refugees <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poem/refugees/>
- Christian Aid resources <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/primary-teaching-resources>
- <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/the-beatitudes-compassion/>