

Character Trait for April 29 to May 3 is Compassion

Ephesians 5:1, “Therefore, be imitators of God”

CHARACTER: the qualities built into an individual’s life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

Compassion: Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.

Weekly Verse: Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Bible Story: Luke 10:25-37 describes the story of the Good Samaritan. Which of the characters in the story do you identify with the most?

Quote: Compassion is a verb.

Application:

- 1. Stop to Help**--The busyness of life easily crowds out family, community, and workplace relationships. Make it a priority to know and understand family members, neighbors, and coworkers so that you can notice and respond to needs. Organize yourself and your finances so that you have the time and money to benefit others. When you see a need you can meet, do something.
- 2. Listen Carefully**--Understand others’ needs, grief, and fears. Ask questions in order to help clarify what the person means and identify genuine needs.
- 3. Clarify Your Response**--Identify your responsibility, and seek to respond appropriately. Some needs should be met by particular individuals or in certain ways and you may not be qualified to help in all situations. Determine what responsibility you have in a situation, and identify how you can most benefit the other person.
- 4. Get Involved**--Participate in others’ lives—in your home, as you talk to neighbors, through outreaches to the poor, or through other opportunities. Compassion depends not on good feelings but on a practical commitment to benefit others, no matter what it costs. Once you have considered for whom you have responsibility, walk with them through the tough times.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Is it easy or difficult for you to show compassion?
- 2) Can you give a specific example of when you have recently shown compassion?