

Character Trait for May 6-10 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: Psalm 103:8 “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”

Bible Story: Matthew 15:29-39 tells the story of Jesus feeding the 4,000

Quote: “Compassion will cure more sins than condemnation.”

Application:

Give Humbly – *Humility* is “acknowledging that achievement results from the investment of others in my life.” We live life together, and we all experience pain and need. Condescension and self-congratulation are not compassion. Look for ways to comfort others with the comfort you have received.

Act Responsibly – *Responsibility* is “knowing and doing what is expected of me.” Responsibility helps focus your compassion. You cannot meet every need, and you should not neglect your family or enable bad habits. Indeed, those for whom you have most direct responsibility stand most in need of your compassion. Recognize your primary responsibilities so that you can set appropriate priorities.

Care Sincerely – *Sincerity* is “eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives.” Some think compassion consists of donating to a charity or throwing spare change into a bucket. A person of genuine compassion finds ways to invest directly in others’ lives. Take a personal interest in those around you. Invest your time, money and energy to meet true needs.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can you describe the last time someone showed you compassion?
- 2) How do you make time in your life to help others?