

Character Trait for May 20-24 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: Isaiah 49:13 “Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the LORD comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.”

Quote: “His is a loving, tender hand, full of sympathy and compassion”

Bible Stories: In Matthew 18:21-35 Jesus’ disciples asked Him how many times they should forgive each other. In reply, Jesus told a story about a king who was settling accounts with his servants.

Jesus tells us that God is like the king: He shows us compassion by forgiving us all our sins. God wants us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.

Application: Compassion is “helping those who are hurting”

Compassion begins with *sympathy*, which is seeing someone’s pain. It is noticing a student who skins his knee or a friend who hurts her arm. It is being alert to a weary co-worker or a stranger who needs assistance.

Compassion also includes *empathy*, which is feeling someone’s pain. Once you notice an injury, empathy means you imagine how much it hurts. This creates a feeling of duty, responsibility, and sometimes urgency to help find a remedy.

This brings us to the full meaning of compassion, which is *doing something* to relieve someone’s pain. It is not enough to see needs and feel badly for those who are hurting. Compassion means getting involved, investing in others, and find ways to “bear someone’s burden” in order for healing to occur.

I WILL:

- Notice when others are hurting.
- Stop to help.
- Take time to listen.
- Do what I can.
- Be kind, regardless of differences.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a “good neighbor” when you see someone in need?
2. How can you show compassion to someone who is being teased by other students?