



COMPASSION

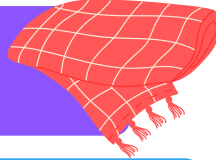
BB6

Related values

care, love, sympathy

Intro & Object

Blanket



Equipment

Charade Cards
for game

Game

Appendix B & D

Sheep & Shepherd Charades

Story

Appendix A

Matthew 9:35-38 and 10:1-10

Reflection

Appendix B

How can you show
compassion to others?

Song suggestion

'When I Needed A
Neighbour'

Follow-up activity

Appendix B

Put your compassion
into action. Make a
difference to someone

Suggested Entry Music

'Lean On Me'
Bill Withers

Prayer

Look around you

God help us to see people who
need help. Help us to recognise
people in need. Give us the
strength, and the desire to be
compassionate...

Open your hands

God put us in the the right place at
the right time, so that we can give
and share our compassion.

Close your eyes, hug your heart

Thank you for hugs when I hurt.
Thank you for your compassion to
us.

Notes:



Story

Matthew 9:35-38

The Bible is not just one book, but a whole library, 66 books with different types of writing and stories, songs and letters... let's explore it together. Today we're exploring a story from the New Testament from one of the four gospel books which tell us about Jesus' time living on the earth.

Jesus and his friends had been travelling, through towns and villages, in synagogues and streets in houses and on hillsides; wherever there were people, Jesus drew a crowd. People would come to listen to Jesus talk - his stories about God's love and kingdom, his lessons on how to make wise choices and live for God. News of the amazing miracles that Jesus performed had also spread. In every crowd that gathered would be people who were sick and hurting; they would come to Jesus to be healed and comforted. Jesus didn't turn anybody away.

One day Jesus turned to his friends the disciples. They could see from his face how sorry he felt for the huge crowds. Jesus cared for everybody like a shepherd cared for his sheep. He wanted them all to be happy and healthy and safe.

"There are so many people who need to hear about God's love," Jesus explained to his friends. "People who need to be prayed for and shown love and kindness. It's a huge job, more than I can do on my own. When there is a big harvest in the fields, the owner of the farm will send for more workers to help collect all the crops. We should pray to my father God - ask him to send more people to help us reach all of those who need to hear about God's love today."





Introduction / Object Lesson

Hold up the blanket. What do you think when you see a blanket? How does it make you feel? Warm and cosy, snuggly and protected. When might we choose to give someone a blanket? If you see someone who is cold, perhaps homeless, someone who has had an accident and needs first aid. Picnic. When might you use a blanket? Watching TV, hiding when upset. when you want to look like a burrito/sausage roll!

What value do you think we are demonstrating when we wrap someone up in a blanket? COMPASSION! Compassion is defined as 'feeling or showing sympathy and sadness for the suffering of others and wanting to help them. Compassion literally means "to suffer together"!

Game: Sheep & Shepherd Charades Imagine the difficulties sheep would get into without having a shepherd to take care of them. Ask some children to volunteer to act as sheep and shepherds. (You could give out sheep masks/crooks if available). Give the sheep prompt cards with the following situations written on them to act out.

- Your woolly coat is stuck in the wire fencing
- You fall in a river and can't swim
- You are attacked by a wolf
- You are lost and in the wrong field
- You are eating brambles as you can't find any green grass
- You are limping with a poorly leg

Ask the other children to guess what problems the sheep are facing. As each card is guessed, ask a shepherd to come and help the sheep. What did they do to show compassion? Having compassion means that a person shares in the sadness and suffering and has a strong desire to do something to help.

Reflection: What do you think Jesus meant when he said the people were like sheep without a shepherd? *He could see all the problems people were having and was sad for them. He wanted to make things better for them.* That's right. Jesus loves people! Everywhere Jesus went he spent his time helping people. He taught people about God's kingdom and healed people from every disease and sickness.

Jesus loved this idea of sheep and shepherds. In many ways we understand the whole point of Jesus' life here on Earth was to act like a shepherd – seeing the suffering and going to be with people who needed the most love and support, and of course, at Easter Christians remember how Jesus took that suffering completely on himself on the cross, so that everyone can live free.

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who are the sheep? We are! Jesus wants to look after us like a good shepherd who looks after their sheep, guiding us, protecting us, and keeping us safe.

Having compassion is about putting our sympathy into action and doing something that will make a positive difference to others. Sometimes to do that requires us making a sacrifice. For example, it might mean giving up a playtime if you help a friend who has fallen over during break, or you might choose to lend an item of clothing to someone who is cold while watching a football match – even though you may feel cold yourself! Or it may even be wrapping your favourite cosy blanket around someone who needs to know they are loved.

Follow-up Activity:

How can you put your compassion into action? Can you be like a shepherd at school, noticing people who need help? What would you be prepared to do to help someone in need?

Showing compassion can be as simple as getting alongside a friend to show them you understand how they feel. That is enough to make a BIG difference!





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