

Active Compassion

Missional Message: God wants us to live lives of compassion.

Missional Challenge:

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." - Colossians 3:12

What is needed:

- Bible
- pictures from magazines or newspapers that display compassion
- a jacket labeled with the word compassion

Making it Real

What is compassion? When you have compassion, you feel that you want to do something to help others. Here are some examples of compassion. *(Show three to four pictures of compassion being demonstrated: for example, someone being fed, someone being cared for, someone being prayed for.)*

The Bible says in Colossians 3:12 that we should be full of compassion. *(Read the verse from the Bible.)* It says to "clothe yourselves" with compassion. *(Put on a jacket that you have labeled with a sign that says "compassion" n the front and/or back of it.)* is this what Jesus was saying?

God saying, let people see compassion coming from what you do, not really from what you wear. God wants Christians to be seen by others as being compassionate people. As a Christian, you are representing to other people what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Let's look at examples of Jesus showing His compassion so that we can follow Him:

- *(Read Mark 6:34)* He had compassion on people who did not know about God, so He taught them.
- *(Read Matthew 14:14)* Jesus had compassion for the sick, so He healed them.
- *(Read Matthew 15:32)* He had compassion for the hungry, so He fed them.

Do you notice something about all three of these examples? In every example when Jesus had compassion. He did something about it. Jesus demonstrated active compassion. He did not just feel sorry for the people, but He did something to help.

Each day we are given opportunities to show compassion to others. Pray that when you see people in need, you will respond, just like Jesus did- with active compassion.

Prayer

God, help us to show compassion to others just like Jesus did.

Making it Stick

Let children act out the scenarios below. After each dramatization, have the child say how they would show active compassion.

- A family's home burns down
- Someone at your school does not have food at home.
- Someone gets sick on the school bus.

Making it Personal

Memorize Colossians 3:12

What is a need in your community? What can you do about it? Pray that God will provide an opportunity for you to show active compassion.

Making it Home

Discuss how your family can respond to needs in your community with active compassion. Use these sites to learn how your family can be advocates for compassion in your communities:

- www.worldvision.org
- www.bread.org

Or perhaps you know of a local organization that works with people who are needy in some way. All to see if you can volunteer as a family in any number of ways for those organizations.

Adapted from Missions Moments, written by Mitzi Eaker