



Weekly Resources for Collective Worship, Spiritual
Development and Pastoral Care

PHASE: PRIMARY

WEEK 10 THEME:

COMPASSION





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Christians believe the Bible teaches that God is a God of compassion. God feels the suffering of people. God's compassion is expressed in his mercy, his kindness, patience, grace, forgiveness and love'. Many Christians believe they are called to be a compassionate people. This compassion encompasses both a gut level feeling of sympathy and conviction as well as positive action taken on our part to relieve the suffering we observe.

"Compassion is an action word with no boundaries" Prince

BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:

The Feeding of the 5000: Read John 6 5-13

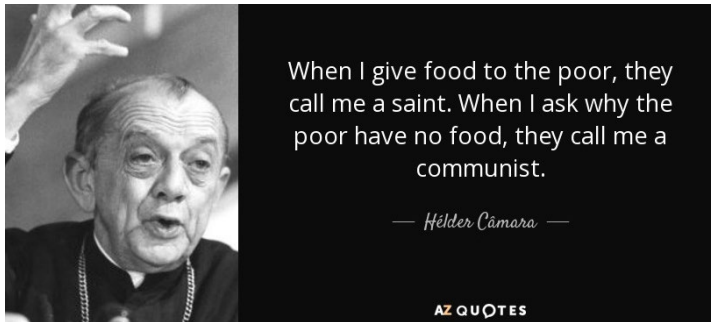
This story is found in all four gospels and the version in Matthew starts:

'When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick' Matthew 14 v 14



TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE

KEY QUOTE OF THE WEEK: “Compassion is an action word with no boundaries” Prince



The Hebrew word for compassion is taken from the root word *rechem*, which means ‘womb’ and a similar word in Greek *splagchnizomai* (the inward parts, i.e. guts!). When Jesus was ‘moved with compassion’, it speaks of this kind of gut-wrenching feeling, a feeling that demands an active response. Compassion is about suffering (the meaning of ‘passion’) *with* others – when others feel pain, we come alongside them. We feel their pain and do what we can together to alleviate it. Compassion means you **want** to help – and you **do** help.

LISTEN: Compassion shouldn’t be patronising, it not about making ourselves feel good by helping other people. We must be start by recognising that we are all fail and make mistakes we are all in need and that we all need compassion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt4_fxU94xA **Mighty to Save (Everyone needs Compassion)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKyWRsH5gcl> We must Go (worship song)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AylQ2c3Ep_A God of Justice (worship song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgLwH5RdtPk> I the Lord of Sea and Sky – “Here I am, Lord... I will go, Lord, I will hold your people in my heart” (hymn)

WATCH: Feeding the 5000 today <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Szt57hl82ps> This video of a food bank in action is one example of how feeding the hungry has become even more necessary during the COVID19 pandemic.

THINK:

‘One day, we will make it out of this crisis. But what sort of world do we want there to be on the other side? Can we repent of the world we have created, and instead look to build one without such a huge gap between rich and poor – a world where we live in harmony with creation, in which we understand that the well-being of one is bound up with the well-being of all?’ Ruth Valerio

PRAY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfTaiKBzhv8>

A prayer from John Birch

Heavenly Father,
Bless the hands that bring wholeness to lives blighted by sickness.
Bless the saints who in sad and desperate places bring a sense of hopefulness.
Bless the Christians facing daily opposition showing a faithful witness.
Bless the generosity of the rich and powerful for the gift of thoughtfulness
Bless the peacemakers working in conditions that are often hazardous.
Bless the politicians whether good or bad for decisions affecting all of us.
Bless our words and actions as we carry your light into places shrouded in darkness.
Bless your children whoever they might be with the warmth of your love and grace.

© John Birch

I. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - *Invitational, Inclusive, Inspiring*

GATHER:

Find a place where you can be still, without interruptions. You might like to light a candle as you begin.

I wonder what you think of when you hear the word **compassion**.

I wonder who you think of when see others in trouble and distress? Do you feel sorry for them? Does it sometimes make you angry that others are suffering?

I wonder if you can think of a time in your life when you helped others? Or you stood up for others who were suffering?

ENGAGE:



Watch this short video of Manchester Utd. player Marcus Rashford talking about his own experience of childhood poverty. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr-lxlrTbWU&feature=emb_logo

He knew what it was like to be hungry and wanted to do something to prevent this happening to other children. His actions led to a government turnaround on free school meals for children over the summer holidays.

In pairs, talk about how he showed **compassion** in action.

We are going to use the story that appears in all four of the gospels this week - The Feeding of the 5000. In this story Jesus feels compassion for the people and shows a how even a small boy can be the key to meeting needs of others.

Here are some retellings of the story of the Feeding of the 5000. Which do you like best!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyXP-kQfooU> this is a filmed reconstruction of the story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCA4oivfSYk> this is a cartoon version based on the Beginners Bible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfTBwsPy05g&feature=youtu.be> This storytelling version is by Rob James The Cannon of Wells Cathedral

If you'd like an interactive version, then you can find a version here: <https://engageworship.org/ideas/feast-for-5000-responsive-reading>

There is also a version of the story using beautiful photographs from Freebibleimages:

<http://freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-5000/>

REFLECT:



This image is a modern take on the Feeding of the 5000 painted by artist Eularia Clarke (from the [Methodist Modern Art collection](#)), with fish and chips!

In the section before the story of the Feeding of the 5000, the Bible says that Jesus 'had compassion' on the crowd – and had been healing those who were sick.

Looking at the crowd, the disciples saw that they would be getting hungry and went to Jesus to find out what he wanted them to do.

In the version in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus spoke probably some of the most challenging words that the disciples had ever heard:

'You find them something to eat'!

Imagine you are there in the crowd... one of the 5000+ men, women and children.

Imagine your reaction as you hear Jesus speak those words... It seems impossible.

But Andrew had a different approach: 'Here is a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fishes' (verse 9)... A child's packed lunch!

It's a start. Rather than moan about what they haven't got, Andrew's attitude is 'What have we got? Where can we start from?' This is an attitude Christians believe that Jesus can use to perform miracles.

So, what have **we** got? What can we offer in compassionate response the people's needs?

Display the image of the five loaves and two fish (courtesy of freebibleimages.com)

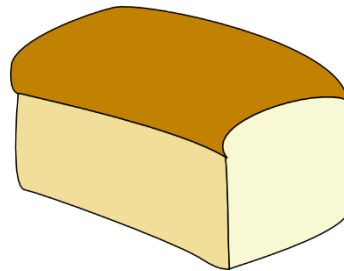
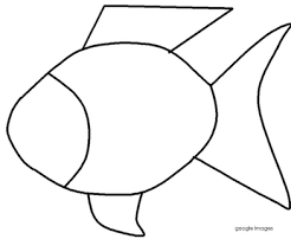


Today the problems of the world can seem just too big...poverty, starvation, pandemics, refugees, climate change ... What difference can we make?

Many Christians believe that we can bring our 'loaves' and 'fishes' to Jesus and he can perform miracles.

What 'loaves' and 'fishes' have you got to bring? You might think it's not enough, but we all know what Jesus did with the little boy's lunch!

Print and cut out the pictures of the loaf and fish below. Think about what you can do to show compassion to others: Write down what you could do on the loaves and fishes. Keep those in a book, wallet or purse you look at regularly as a reminder.



SEND OUT:



Display the image on your screen and draw children's attention to the word 'action'.

What **actions** might demonstrate compassion to others today.... Tomorrow.... This week?

Go out from this place with **compassion** in your heart, and the desire to **act** it out.

Blow out your candle as a sign that your time of worship has finished.

2. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to reflect on compassion. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for something that was good for you today
2. ASK FOR HELP with someone who is struggling at the moment
3. REFLECT on your day and think about the things that you were able to do to help those in need 😊 and the things that you could have done but didn't 😞
4. SAY SORRY for the times you have lacked compassion and not helped someone when you could have
5. DECIDE how you will keep helping others tomorrow - something we can all do is to start by finding out why they are suffering.

ACTIVITIES that can help develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Use the reflective reading, with props, 'When I was...' using the words of Jesus in Matthew 25. (the script, and a video, can be found in the extra materials supporting the #faithathome resources)

When asked: think about the things that Jesus said – and how compassion is at the heart of what Jesus taught about belonging to God's kingdom.

What examples do you think Jesus might use if he was speaking these words today? Have a go at writing and performing your own reflective reading, using objects of your choosing to match your version.

The video with wondering questions can be found here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7CaLypwQgo&feature=youtu.be

CONVERSATIONS STARTERS that can help develop RELATIONSHIPS-COMMUNITY:

Support your local food bank:

Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thIN4TK_Mxk (Liam Payne donates to foodbanks)

You might not be able to give loaves and fish (unless it's canned tuna!) to a food bank, but there is much that you can do to support their vital work. Add something that the food bank needs to your shopping list each week. As you drop it into the box at your local centre or supermarket, **pray** that God will meet people's needs through your donation. Is this a modern-day opportunity to feed the 5000?! Remember that it may not be a large donation, but the boy's packed lunch wasn't much either!

What does your local foodbank need most at the moment?

Read

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/2020/03/27/liam-payne-helps-provide-360000-meals-people-struggling-result-coronavirus-outbreak/>

3. PASTORAL CARE - *ideas for looking after...*

Ourselves & Our staff

Self-compassion. If you take some time to stop and reflect on the thoughts in your head, are they more positive or critical? Once you have identified any negative thought, you can begin to introduce more positive thoughts and 'turn the volume down' on the critical voices.

This is from the Anna Freud Centre's materials Supporting Staff Wellbeing in schools.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/7653/3rdanna-freud-booklet-staff-wellbeing-web-pdf-21-june.pdf>

Staff Prayer Stations One school has some simple prayer stations in their PPA area. These give staff an opportunity to pray or reflect for people and situations that are on their hearts and minds.

Our families & Our community

"Love your neighbour as yourself" is like a piece of knitting, each stitch supporting those around. If I love you as myself, and you love me as yourself and we love them as ourselves, we all end up supported. Jesus said that this was how people would tell his true followers, that we love one another. (John 13:35)

Like the knitting, though, if you drop stitches, the holes begin to show in community and those can get bigger and bigger.

Read: Brian Bilson's Poem '**Refugees**' Make sure you read it twice, the second time from bottom to top!

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poem/refugees/>

'It's a no money day' by Kate Milner

Stepping Stones: A refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs, Nizar Ali Badr & Falah Raheem

This page gives details about the book and includes a fascinating video by the author.

<https://www.cbc.ca/books/stepping-stones-a-refugee-family-s-journey-1.4214673>

GOING DEEPER/FURTHER RESOURCES

There are lots of ways in which you can show compassion and help feed others. Check out the resources on the Christian Aid website for primary pupils.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/primary-teaching-resources>

Compassion is not just about helping it's about challenging the situations and policies that cause people to suffer. You need to find out why people are living in poverty, why climate change is such a threat to the poorest and then you need to do what you can to change things as individuals and groups. Many schools are doing this. Check out the global neighbours' scheme here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme>

Refugee Rucksacks Prayer activity: This activity encourages pupils to think about refugees who are leaving their homes and countries with little more than the rucksacks on their backs. It encourages the pupils to think about themselves, to reflect on their own homes and possessions and opportunities, and to imagine what it would feel like to lose almost everything.

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/78>

Lifeboat Prayer Activity This activity encourages pupils to think about refugees who are leaving their homes and precious possessions behind in order to escape danger. It encourages them to think about themselves, to reflect on their own homes and possessions and opportunities, and to imagine what it would feel like to lose almost everything.

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/77>

Cardboard Home: This activity encourages pupils to think about street children that are of a similar age to themselves and to think about how it would feel if they did not have a home, but rather just a cardboard box to live in.

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/11>

Creativity and Compassion: Michael Faraday.

<https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/idea/creativity-and-compassion-michael-faraday>

