

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

COMPASSION

We think of God as a loving God, a good God, and a powerful God, but we don't often think of Him as a compassionate God. We are going to spend this week seeing how amazingly compassionate God is to ALL of us, ALL the time. By the end of the week you should be shouting for joy, rejoicing, and proclaiming thanks to your God of Compassion!

DAY 1

THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON US

"HIS IS A LOVING, TENDER HAND, FULL OF
SYMPATHY AND COMPASSION."

-DWIGHT L. MOODY

New International Version

Isaiah 49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you
earth; burst into song, you mountains! For
the Lord comforts his people and will have
compassion on his afflicted ones.

Isaiah 54:10

Though the mountains be shaken and the
hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for
you will not be shaken nor my covenant of
peace be removed," says the Lord, who
has compassion on you.

DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Father in Heaven, I shout for joy because You are a compassionate God. I rejoice and burst into song because You comfort Your people and have compassion on us – especially the afflicted ones. Thank You Father, that though the mountains be shaken, and the hills removed, Your unfailing love for us will not be shaken. I praise You for being full of compassion for all people. Praise to You, my heavenly Father. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: Start this week by embracing the amazing, mind blowing truth that God has compassion on you – regardless of what you do or say or who you are. Do you shout for joy or burst into song because you are so grateful for your compassionate heavenly Father? Why not? God is a God of undeserved and unexpected compassion. He loves you so much and feels so deeply sympathetic for all your hurts, fears, struggles and heart aches, that His love will never be shaken. That should make us shout for joy!

ACT: Right now, think of times in your life when God clearly showed you His compassion. If you can't think of any, ask Him to reveal His love for you. Can you shout for joy to celebrate your creator who shows you mercy, grace, unconditional love and compassion? Re-read these verses and let the power and beauty of them sink into your heart, soul and mind. And then rejoice and shout for joy because of the compassion and His covenant of peace that He has poured on you!

DAY 2

HIS COMPASSION NEVER FAILS

"COMPASSION WILL CURE MORE SINS
THAN CONDEMNATION."
-HENRY WARD BEECHER

New International Version

Psalms 51:1

Have mercy on me, O God, according to
Your unfailing love; according to Your great
compassion blot out my transgressions.

Lamentations 3:22

Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed, for His compassions never fail.

DAY 2

PRAY: O God, have mercy on me! According to Your unfailing love and Your great compassion, blot out my transgressions. Please let me not feel consumed, because You promise me that Your compassions never fail. I need You now, O God, and I ask You to pour Your compassion on to me, Your weak, broken and sinful servant. Amen.

REFLECT: Do you ever feel that God can't forgive you for something you've done or that He can't wipe away your sins? Do you get consumed with discouragement, regret, or even despair and struggle with how in the world God could ever blot out your transgressions? Well, Psalm 51:1 and Lamentations 3:22 show you how to pray and then tells you God's response to that prayer. As we cry out for mercy, the Lord's great love for us stops us from being consumed. His compassions never, ever fail!

ACT: Make a list of one to three things you've said or done that you feel guilty about, regret or think can't be forgiven. Then read the prayer out loud in Psalm 51:1, followed by God's promise in Lamentations 3:22. Now you have given these burdens to the Lord and He has poured His compassion on you. They are over. He has mercy on you and has blotted out all of your transgressions. It is done. Now, you are not consumed by them anymore. He has just blotted out your sins and you are white as snow. And His compassions never fail. Continue your day with praise and thanksgiving, and don't look back!

DAY 3

THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE TO ALL

"WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS AN
APPRECIATION FOR KINDNESS AND
COMPASSION; ALL THE RELIGIONS HAVE
THIS. LOVE. WE ALL LEAN TOWARDS LOVE."
-RICHARD GERE

New International Version

Psalms 145:9

The Lord is good to all; He has compassion
on all He has made.

Isaiah 63:7

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the
deeds for which He is to be praised,
according to all the Lord has done for us –
yes, the many good things He has done for
Israel, according to His compassion and
many kindnesses.

DAY 3

PRAY: Dear Jesus, there are examples all throughout the scriptures showing that You are good to all, You love every one of Your children and You have compassion on everyone You have created. Please help me to be more like You by being more compassionate. Let me not only tell others about Your kindness and compassion, but to live it out in my own life so that I will freely give compassion to others, the way You have so freely given it to me. Amen.

REFLECT: How compassionate are you to other people? Do you feel for others when they are hurting? Do you understand their pain, their anger, or their mean words, and respond with compassion? Or, do you respond to others in anger, impatience, or meanness? Maybe your compassion for others will grow if you focus on how compassionate the Lord is to you. As you realize His deep compassion and His many kindnesses to you it will be easier to be compassionate to others.

ACT: Choose a person who is in your life right now and to whom you need to show more compassion. Decide how you're going to do that and then plan out what kind words you need to say, or what loving action you need to take, to go out of your way to respond with non-judgmental acceptance and compassion. What they've done or said to you may have been wrong, but why don't you show them pure, Christ-like compassion in return. That may be exactly what they need to experience God's compassion and kindness through you.

DAY 4

SHOW COMPASSION TO ONE ANOTHER

"IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS
AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED BUT HAS
NO PITY ON HIM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF
GOD BE IN HIM?"

-THE APOSTLE JOHN

New International Version

Zechariah 7:9-10

This is what the Lord Almighty said:
'Administer true justice; show mercy and
compassion to one another. Do not oppress
the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or
the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'

Daniel 1:9

Now God had caused the official to show
favor and compassion to Daniel,

DAY 4

PRAY: God, You command us in Zechariah 7:9-10 and in Daniel 1:9 to administer true justice, to show mercy and compassion to one another. We are not to oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. And we are not to plot evil against each other. But we are to show favor and compassion to everyone. Help me to do that to people in authority or celebrities with whom I am angry, whom I disagree with, or whom I believe are hurting our nation. Lord, change me to be more like You. Selah! Amen.

REFLECT: We often can follow the Lord's commandments more easily to the kind people around us, but we don't think to show compassion to the people whom we read about in the paper, see on TV, or don't know personally. Many of us are very judgmental or show no mercy to our government leaders or our Hollywood celebrities because it's easier to form opinions and talk against people we're reading about in the news. What people in Hollywood do you need to show compassion to whom you may not like or with whom you disagree?

DAY 4

ACT: Are you judgmental about the celebrities and decision-makers who create our entertainment and shape our culture? Do you disagree with their choices of what they put on TV or in films, songs, or video games? Do you think they are negatively impacting our culture? Right now, stop and pray blessings on anyone in Hollywood who pops into your mind. Choose to speak words of compassion about them, not words of condemnation. Your compassion is what they need. Let the Holy Spirit take care of their hearts.



DAY 5

A FATHER HAS COMPASSION ON HIS CHILDREN

"COMPASSION IS SOMETIMES THE FATAL CAPACITY FOR FEELING WHAT IT IS LIKE TO LIVE INSIDE SOMEBODY ELSE'S SKIN. IT IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE CAN NEVER REALLY BE ANY PEACE AND JOY FOR ME UNTIL THERE IS PEACE AND JOY FINALLY FOR YOU TOO."

-FREDERICK BUECHNER

New International Version

Psalms 103:13

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who
fear him.

Luke 15:20

So he got up and went to his father, But
while he was a long way off, his father saw
him and was filled with compassion for
him; he ran to his son, threw his arms
around him and kissed him.

DAY 5

PRAY: Dear Jesus, just as the father had compassion on his prodigal son, thank You for having compassion on me. I want to have compassion on my children. Let me fear You and embrace Your unconditional compassion so I can be compassionate to other people. I want to be a loving and compassionate parent, boss, neighbor, child, friend, sibling, and co-worker, so please help me to trust You for that. Amen and Amen.

REFLECT: The prodigal son story is about selfless compassion. The father, who represents God, not only accepted his son back home after he betrayed him, but he threw his arms around him and kissed him! Acting with compassion is a selfless act. We must put aside justice and act out of obedience to God toward people who hurt us. And if we fear God, we'll see that selfless compassion has eternal significance for both the other person and for us.

ACT: Re-read the story of the prodigal son and see that the son didn't deserve the compassion his father showed him, but because of it, his heart melted and he was able to accept his father's love – with no strings attached. Who do you need to selflessly embrace? Who do you need to show compassion to, instead of waiting for them to come to you for forgiveness? Show radical love and compassion today, run to someone who doesn't deserve it and offer Christ-like compassion and love. It will be life-changing for both of you!

DAY 6

THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON THE SICK

"THE FIRST QUESTION WHICH THE PRIEST AND THE LEVITE ASKED WAS: 'IF I STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?' BUT... THE GOOD SAMARITAN REVERSED THE QUESTION: 'IF I DO NOT STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM?'"
-MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

New International Version

Matthew 15:32

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."

DAY 6

PRAY: Lord in Heaven, I want to have so much compassion for other people that I can even heal the sick and feed the hungry. Would You fill me with compassion today and show me how to resist the desire to get even or get justice. Help me trust that Your ways are better than my ways so that even when it seems to make no sense, I will choose compassion. Help me to do miracles because of my compassion for other people. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever thought about the reason behind Jesus' miracles and His healings? He not only loved people, but He felt their pain, saw their struggles, witnessed their hurts, and then responded with compassion. And He fed the poor, clothed the naked, and healed the sick not because they deserved it, earned it, or even asked for it, but because He had compassion on them. Reflect on how God has that same unconditional love and compassion for you and that He wants you to have compassion for others. It's the first step toward healing.

ACT: Step out in faith today and ask the Lord to give you so much compassion for others that you can do miracles in His name. Set aside either your anger or your indifference and connect with those who are in pain, to the point of wanting to help alleviate their pain. That's a wild step of compassion, but Jesus did it all the time and we are made in His image. Maybe today is the day to step out of your comfort zone and see what the Lord can do in you and through you. You can do it!

DAY 7

CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH COMPASSION

"IF TO BE FEELINGLY ALIVE TO THE
SUFFERINGS OF MY FELLOW-CREATURES IS
TO BE A FANATIC, I AM ONE OF THE MOST
INCURABLE FANATICS EVER PERMITTED TO
BE AT LARGE."

-WILLIAM WILBERFORCE

New International Version

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

DAY 7

PRAY: Oh Father, You have allowed me to be grafted into Your chosen people when I accepted You into my heart. Thank You that You have made me holy and I am dearly loved by You. I want You to clothe me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. I can't do it without You. So, I come to You and ask You to touch my heart new and fresh, to renew me, change me, and transform me into the likeness of Your Son. I pray this in Your name. Amen.

REFLECT: Reflect on how much God loves YOU. He has made you holy and you are dearly loved by Him. Because of His unbelievable love, you can clothe yourself, wrap yourself up, and cover yourself with the fruits of the Spirit; compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. If all of us could actually accept God's loving gift to clothe ourselves in these attributes the world would be a different place.

ACT: Commit to doing an experiment today: Only say words of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bite your tongue any time you want to complain, say something negative, get angry, frustrated, impatient, or mean. Tell someone close to you to help you and hold you accountable, if you think you'll need it. Can you make it through the whole day? How many times did you have to stop yourself? How many times did you show compassion? Try it for one day and see if you can do it. Then do it again tomorrow...