PARENT GUIDE Preteen

On My Block: Care for the people in your neighborhood

Use this guide to help your family learn how God can help us show compassion.

First, watch this week's video!

Compassion: Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

Memory Verse

"The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice.

You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God." Micah 6:8, NIrV

Bible Story

Jesus Heals Bartimaeus Mark 10:46–52

Key Question

When has someone made time for you?

Activity

Less or More

What You Need:

Painter's or masking tape (or a towel)

What You Do:

Create a line on the floor using the tape (or a rolled-up towel).

Tell your child, "This side of the line is 'less,' and this side of the line is 'more."

Read out the following scenarios. If your child's answer is "less," have them jump to the "less" side, and if their answer is "more," have them jump to the "more" side. (Add in some questions of your own that are specific to your child and your family!)

Scenarios:

- Do you spend MORE or LESS than one hour a day on an electronic device?
- Do you spend MORE or LESS than 15 minutes a day brushing your teeth?
- Do you spend MORE or LESS than 15 minutes a day waiting for your parents stop talking to their friends?
- Do you spend MORE or LESS than 30 minutes a day talking to your friends?
- Do you spend MORE or LESS than one hour a day being outside?
- Do you spend MORE or LESS than 15 minutes a day being nice to your siblings?

After the activity, say, "We get to choose how we spend our free time. Do you think you spend enough time showing compassion to others? Why or why not?"

Talk About the Bible Story

Who did Jesus help in our story today? (Bartimaeus, a man who couldn't see)

What did Jesus do for Bartimaeus? (Jesus healed him so he could see.)

Talk about a time when someone took the time to help you, even though they didn't have to.

When have you made time to help someone?

What gets in our way of making time for others?

Parent: Share about a time you didn't do something you wanted to do, so that instead you could make time to help someone else.



Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"God, thank You for Your great love and care for us. We know that we can only show compassion because You are compassionate to us! This week, we want to be friends who make time to help others. When we're tempted to keep doing what we want to do, will You remind us to show compassion and care instead? Help us treat others the way we want to be treated. We love You so much, and it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen."