

Compassion Sunday 2024**Big Idea**

God has always cared for the vulnerable and marginalized. We can extend God's compassion to a child living in poverty by sponsoring a child through Compassion International.

Scripture

Micah 6:8, Mark 10:13-16, Isaiah 58:10-11, and Hebrews 10:14

Points to Keep In Mind

1. "To act justly" means behaving fairly with moral integrity. "To love mercy" involves deep compassion and kindness towards others. Both justice and mercy are foundational to God's character. God expects His followers to show love to others and to be loyal in their love toward Him, just as God is loyal to us. To "walk humbly with God" describes our heart's attitude toward God. We are to depend on Him instead of our own abilities and listen to His leading in our lives. Another way to look at it is we are outward in our faith when we act justly, inward with our faith when we love mercy, and upward in our faith when we walk humbly with God.
2. In Mark 10:13-16, Jesus cares for the well-being of these children, which shows how important children are to God. Because Jesus cares for these kids, we should care, too. Childlike faith does not have to understand all the mysteries of the universe to trust God. Complete intellectual understanding is not a requirement for a child to trust someone. Children believe those they trust. As adults, we could incorporate some of the simplicity of children into our faith by trusting God simply because He loves us.
3. Isaiah 58:10-11 tells us when we give of ourselves, our time, and our finances on behalf of those in need, our light rises. The light of Christ, the hope of Christ, shines in and through us in profound ways. This way of living, of "spending ourselves" and having compassion, is the antidote to the disease of self-focus. As we live this way, we draw closer to God, who calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. One way of living this out is to get involved in ending extreme poverty by sponsoring a child.
4. Hebrews 10:14 shows us that when God saw us in need, He did not leave us to fend for ourselves. He came Himself, in the person of Jesus, to offer Himself as the sacrifice that would meet our needs and make us whole. Jesus made his followers perfect in God's sight through his death and resurrection. At the same time, God is making us holy or set apart for His special use through His grace. Through Him, we continue to be transformed into the people He created us to be.

Additional Questions and Resources

visit communitychristian.org/nextsteps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our support page: communitychristian.org/support/
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ Discipleship Conversation by visiting: youplus.info