

COMPASSION FOR CHILDREN
AND
ALL GOD'S PEOPLE



THE WORD **COMPASSION** MEANS:

- Understanding how another person feels
- Caring about others
- Showing concern through kind thoughts, words and actions
- Helping and giving
- Listening and being patient
- A kind response to suffering



THE GOLDEN RULE

The message from the Bible and other major religions is that we are to be loving to all people we meet, no matter where they're from or how different they appear from us. God will always be with us to help if we ask for God's help to be loving and kind.

Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

Islam: Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.



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HOW TO USE THE GOLDEN RULE:

To use the Golden Rule, you must imagine yourself in the exact place of the other person who needs your help. If you think you are acting compassionately toward another, but would not wish to be treated the same way in the same circumstance, then the rule is not being used correctly.

To apply the Golden Rule you need to know what effect your actions have on the lives of others. You need to be able to imagine yourself in the other person's place - the person who is receiving your help.

The Golden Rule means that our actions toward another person are no different than what we would want for ourselves, if we were in a similar situation.

The Golden Rule, which runs through most faiths and cultures, is a good way to help fix difficulties or conflicts. As countries in the world work more and more together, the need for acting with the Golden Rule becomes more necessary than ever.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE BIBLE

God is love. Those who live in God's love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 4:16b

He will put his angels in charge of you to protect you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11

Because you love me, I will rescue you. I will protect you because you know my name. When you call to me, I will answer you. I will be with you when you are in trouble. I will save you and honour you.

Psalm 91: 14, 15

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:11



WHO AM I TO GOD?

The message from the Bible and from other major religions is that God loves you and wants to help you live a loving life.

- God wants to help you but you need to remember that and ask God for help to solve your problems or follow your dreams. Those who trust God will be helped by God.
- In simple language, as if you were talking to your very best, trusted friend, let God know about your problems, hopes, and goals. God hears your prayers.
- No matter how bad things get or how impossible your dream seems, keep on believing that God will help.
- You may have to wait if the time is not exactly right. That may be hard. Trust that God knows what's best for you, and when.
- Listen for God's calm, quiet voice. Correct the problems God points out. Make the changes God requests. God will help.

WHO AM I TO OTHERS?

The message from the Bible and other major religions is that we are to love our brothers and sisters.

- God is there to help when we see any kind of mean thing or trouble happening to people or animals.
- If you see someone in trouble, but are frightened to go and help, God will give you the strength you need if God wants you to help.
- Always say a little prayer - as little as, "God I want to help; please help me to help my friend."
- God will tell you what to do and strengthen you to do it.
- God wants us to help the people and animals on earth, and God wants to do that along with us.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Think about these examples and talk with your family about how each of you would act using The Golden Rule in each situation.

- A student at a bus stop drops papers out of his back pack when she's looking for her bus pass. She doesn't see them fall. You are walking by; what do you do?
- A friend's lunch gets taken by bullies at your school. You see it happen. What do you do?
- You are walking in the woods and see a hurt bird. What do you do?
- You and your parents see a homeless person standing outside a dough-nut shop. She looks hungry. What do you do?

THINGS TO DO

Read the Bible story at Luke 10:25-37.

Who was compassionate in the story?

How were they compassionate?

Who was not compassionate in the story?

How were they not compassionate?

Watch the movie *Beauty and the Beast*.

Where do you see compassion in this story?

THOUGHTS ABOUT COMPASSION:

How have you seen compassion used in your life?

- When someone in your family has had a hard day, does another family member give them a hug or a back rub?
- When you fall, does someone help you up and take care of your cuts and bruises?
- If you have a pet, what do you do when he is hungry? What other ways do you show him you love him?
- If you see an injured animal, do you help it or run to find someone else who can help?
- Have you seen someone being bullied? How did the people who cared help the person?
- If your friend is visiting and they are hungry, do you give them something to eat?

