



August 2016 - Compassion  
Week 33 Aug 7 - 13

**Verse:** So give freely to needy people. Let your heart be tender toward them. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all your work. He will bless you in everything you do. <sup>11</sup>There will always be poor people in the land. So I'm commanding you to give freely to those who are poor and needy in your land. Open your hands to them. Deut 15:10 (NIRV)

Compassion means "to suffer with" and is an emotional response of sympathy. But it's not just a feeling. The feeling is combined with a desire to help. Because we have compassion, we want to take action and help the person who is suffering. Here are a few ways to show compassion:

**Be a Listener** - One of the best ways to show our compassion is to listen. There is a difference between hearing and listening. Listening means we take an interest in what the person is saying. We offer feedback throughout the conversation. We take to heart what the person is telling us. Sometimes the best way to be compassionate is to shut up for a few minutes and let another person talk.

**Be Kind** - Kindness is a great way to show compassion. Some people just need that extra word of kindness to get through the day. They may just need you to pick up the thing they dropped on the floor or to tell them that their work is appreciated. Never underestimate a kind word.

