Compassion

1. **What is compassion**? *(John 13:34 “Love others as I have loved you”)*
   1. It is **seeing** the suffering of a person.
   2. It is **feeling** the suffering of a person. *the hurting or troubled person*
   3. It is **responding** to a person who is suffering. *hurt, or in trouble or in need*
   4. **Jesus** **is our example of compassion**.
   5. For the Christian, it is feeling and demonstrating **God’s** **love** for a suffering person. *God is a God of compassion.*

Psalm 116:5 “The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.”

2 Corinthians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

(Not on the slide) *Compassion sees and feels the need of another person and reaches out to meet the need. Love is wanting the best and doing your best for another person even if it requires a sacrifice. The two go hand in hand. Compassion is sometimes translated “pity.”*

1. **Who needs compassion?** *Jesus told stories (parables) about compassion and showed compassion to people in need. Jesus shows us who needs compassion. Each passage says Jesus had compassion or pity.*
   1. *A person who has no* ***hope*** *needs compassion*. *People overwhelmed by past or present mistakes and failure.* Luke 15: *parable of the lost (prodigal) son. “His father saw him and was filled with compassion for him;”*
   2. A person who cannot **help** himself *needs compassion.* Luke 10: The *parable of the Good Samaritan is a story of a man robbed and beaten. “A Samaritan as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him he took pity on him.”*
   3. A person who is spiritually **lost** *needs compassion*. Mark 6:34 Jesus saw *people like sheep without a shepherd.*

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.”

* 1. A person who has suffered a huge **loss**. Luke 7:12-15 *Jesus met a widow whose only son had died. “When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her?”*
  2. A person with pressing physical **needs**. Hunger/Sickness Mark 8:1-*9 Jesus saw the hunger of the crowd he had been teaching. Feeding of 4,000*

Mark 8:2.” During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2 "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat.”

*Jesus had compassion on people who were sick.*

Matthew 14:14 healing “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd; he had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

1. **How can a person feel compassion?** 
   1. **Be filled** with the love of Christ. Romans 5:5 “God has poured out His love into our hearts”
   2. **Remember** when God and others have had compassion on you. *Remember your salvation.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

* 1. **See** people as **God** sees them. Mark 6:34 When *he* ***saw*** *people, Jesus had compassion*.

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them. . .” We *need Jesus’ eyes.*

*Illustration – David Wilkerson felt Jesus’ compassion for the seven boys on trial, then the gangs, and then Nicky Cruz. He saw these teenagers as Jesus did.*

*Stephen Storms call to TC in 1971*

1. **How does a person show compassion**?
   1. **Forgive** people who need forgiveness. Matthew 18:27 – king & servant with a debt.
   2. **Restore** people who have wasted their resources. Luke 15:22, 24 - Prodigal son’s father “he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost is found.” *Father restored him as his son.*
   3. **Rescue** people who have been attacked and hurt. He couldn’t help himself Luke 10:33, 34 - Good Samaritan cared for man who had been beaten and robbed.
   4. **Meet** pressing needs of people. Mark 8:1–9 *Jesus feeds 4,000*

“Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2 ‘I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat’”

* 1. **Speak** God’s truth to people who are lost. Mark 6:34 The spiritual leaders hadn’t.

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.”

* 1. **Touch** people: Demonstrate compassion. Mark 1:41 Filled with compassion Jesus touched the leper. Luke 15:20 *Father hugged and kissed his son. Get close enough to touch.*
  2. (Not on slide) *Doing whatever it takes to help a hurting person. Ill. Brother Meppelink and Brother Reed- brought his family to TC*
  3. *People with life controlling problems have these needs. One need is compassion*
  4. *Not giving up when a person seems to reject your act of compassion.*

1. **At Teen Challenge, how can you show compassion**?
   1. **Listen** to students share their hurts. Feel their problems. *Even on work details.*
   2. **Show** students that God cares about them *and their hurts. And He will forgive them.*
   3. **Pray** with students about their problems. *Put feeling into your prayer. Most have never had a person pray with them.*

Pray with them when they share a need. 3 levels of prayer /anytime anywhere

* 1. **Meet** the practical needs of students. - *a place to stay, food, clothes*
  2. **Share** Jesus with lost people in the community. *Tell them the good news; Jesus loves them, and wants to help them. Examples: drama, jail, street ministry, school class room/assembly, choir, fair, coffee house, missions trips.*

1. **How can compassion be balanced with firmness**?
   1. Compassion does not mean we let students get away with wrong **attitudes** and **behavior**.
   2. Compassion lovingly and firmly **exposes** wrong thinking and poor responses.

(Not on the slide) *Compassion is a willingness to be misused. If you really have compassion, sometimes people will take advantage of it.*

**Compassion: Seeing the suffering, feeling the suffering, responding to the suffering**

**Example: Jesus**

1. **What are some ways you can use compassion in your Teen Challenge ministry position?**

**Illustrations:** getting books for Jeff Tyler

**When is it difficult for you to show compassion?**

When students take advantage of you, when they aren’t sincere, don’t want help

When we become an institution where rules, procedures, and protocol are more important than the student Then it ceases to be a place of compassion and love

Write down at least one idea.