

Compassion

The Christlike virtue of compassion is more than an emotion. The apostle Paul identifies compassion as a defining characteristic in followers of Jesus. Join us as we look in the gospels to witness the compassionate character of Christ. Then we'll discuss how compassion relates to empathy and its connection to comfort. We will see examples of God's compassion to discover the roots of our own capacity for compassion and what it looks like in our everyday lives.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you define compassion?
- Who in your life would you describe as compassionate? Why?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Compassion](#)

READ [Matthew 9:36](#), [Colossians 3:12-14](#), [2 Corinthians 1:3-4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee explains compassion this way: “Compassion is to suffer with—to bear with somebody; and not just to suffer with them, but the compassion also leads us to work to alleviate the suffering of the other person.” How does Scott’s explanation compare to the definition you gave in the awareness section above? Do you tend to find it more natural to “suffer with” or to “alleviate the suffering” when offering compassion? Why do you think that is? Why are both important?
- How has God shown you compassion?
- What are some of the challenges or obstacles that make it more difficult for you to be compassionate?
- Throughout the episode Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss the important connections between compassion and 1) comfort, 2) the ministry of presence, and 3) forgiveness. Why are these connections important? How does compassion help you practice comfort, the ministry of presence, and forgiveness? How do comfort, the ministry of presence, and forgiveness help you nurture and practice compassion?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 14:14](#), [Matthew 125:32](#), [John 11:33-38](#), [Hosea 11:7-9](#), [James 2:15-16](#), [Luke 15:11-32](#)

CONCLUSION

Think about the spaces you inhabit and the people you interact with daily. How can you offer comfort and show compassion to the people you encounter? What are some ways you can nurture compassion in your character? Close your time by sharing your reflections with God in prayer and by giving thanks for the compassion he has shown you.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/compassion>

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