

# NAZARENE ESSENTIALS—WEEK TEN PARENT’S GUIDE

## Purposeful Compassion

**To Parents:** Weeks four through ten explore each of seven traits in kid-friendly language. These traits depict what should characterize every local Church of the Nazarene. This week’s lesson is on *Purposeful Compassion*.

*Purposeful Compassion* displays the loving heart of God. Jesus’ life, ministry, and death are our model for compassion. Jesus was particularly moved with compassion in love and care for those who were poor, lost, sick, marginalized, and vulnerable.

- Purposeful compassion displays the loving heart of God.
- Purposeful compassion is always done in the name of Jesus. We do every act of service, generosity, or mercy in Jesus’ name; and we offer our efforts to reveal Jesus’ love.
- Purposeful compassion respects the dignity of each person.
- Purposeful compassion flows naturally from transformed believers.
- Purposeful compassion is our mission.

**Lesson Objective:** To help children understand that compassion is the response to the suffering of others and motivates a desire within us to help. When we show compassion, we show God’s love. Help your child(ren) understand that compassion is not just to feel bad for someone but to also take action.

**Bible Story with Discussion:** Jesus has Compassion (Matthew 9:35-38, *NIV*)

**Ask:** Who showed compassion in this story? Why did He have compassion? How did He show compassion? Do you feel compassion toward anyone today? Who? Why?

**Ask:** How can you and your children show compassion to others?

**Scripture Memory Verse and Activity:** 1 John 3:16 (*NIV*)

<sup>16</sup>This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

### **Personal Challenge:**

Discuss with your children how Jesus may want us to live as a result of hearing this Bible story. Listen to their responses. This week, look for opportunities to show compassion to others. Talk about possible scenarios, and engage in some role play. If you see someone who needs assistance, take the time to stop and help. Look for opportunities to tell someone about Jesus and how much He loves them.

### **PRAYER:**

God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Thank You for the compassion that You have shown to us. Help us, Lord, to look past ourselves and our own concerns and see the needs of others. Help us to have a heart of love and compassion. Help us to be more like You. In Jesus’ name. amen.