



LIVE COMPASSIONATE

Purpose for Weekly Resource: to increase our imitation of the compassionate ministry of Jesus in our lives for the sake of the world.

→ **What about being known for our compassion?**

On Sunday, Micah quoted a church father, Tertullian: “It is our care of the helpless, our practice of loving-kindness that brands us in the eyes of our opponents.”

- How might the church be losing its ‘brand of compassion’ in our culture? What can we do to solidify a reputation of loving-kindness...especially in the eyes of our opponents or non-believers?
- What are you doing now in terms of living compassionate to help solidify the witness of the church?

→ **What about the parable of the sheep and the goats?**

READ: Matthew 25:31-46

- What about this parable is most shocking to you?
- Our compassion for the least of these is reminiscent to the mystery of Jesus becoming King. From a crown of thorns to a crown of glory...how have you seen Jesus alive and active in the midst of your service?

→ **What is your next step in living compassionate?**

On Sunday, Micah closed his message with these words: “The vulnerable should never be left alone...not when the church is called by the Compassionate Christ to act.”

- How can you grow in your capacity to live compassionate for the sake of others?
- READ & CONSIDER Colossians 3:12-14. In what specific ways is the Compassionate Christ calling you to clothe yourself with compassion in the days/months to come?



Children's Corner:



LIVE COMPASSIONATE

Micah is continuing his sermon series over the next few weeks about our discipleship values. If you haven't had a chance to talk about those in your family, please visit our website @ www.altamesa.org under the "About Us" tab to review them. Each value has a "kid's version" on the Children's Ministry page under the "Connect" tab that will help our kids begin to understand the values with more simple language.

The value we will focus on this week is **Live Compassionate** & our "kid's version" of this value is:

CHOOSE KINDNESS → Love others well and share the hope of Jesus.

I read recently where someone used the following definitions to help children understand the difference between compassion & kindness:

COMPASSION = feeling sympathy for someone who is going through a tough time

[sympathy = concern for the sufferings or misfortune of others]

KINDNESS = an act of being nice, helping someone in need, or helping someone going through a tough time

Take some time to talk with your children about compassion & kindness this week and how we are able to love others well and share the hope of Jesus with compassionate hearts & through acts of kindness.

READ: Colossians 3:12-14

KINDNESS SKITTLES GAME: click the link to access your printable Skittles game!
{you will need at least 1 package of skittles per family}

KINDNESS OBJECT LESSON: {you will need 1 tube of toothpaste per child}

1) Talk about the importance of our words.

- What do nice words look like? How do they make you feel?
- How do mean words make you feel?

2) Have your child squirt the toothpaste onto a cutting board, foil, or wax paper.

3) Have your child try to put the toothpaste back in the tube - you can even give them toothpicks to help. You might give them time to struggle with this for a bit.

4) Talk about how our words can be similar to the toothpaste in that once words come out of our mouths, we cannot stop what has been heard. Our words can be helpful & encouraging or they can have really hurtful effects on people. We can ask for forgiveness, but the words can still have a heavy weight on people.

5) Practice some examples of kind words or phrases together as a family.

FAMILY TALK TIME: *Consider these questions & then spend time praying over your children.*

1) What do you think of when you think about the kindness of God?

2) What helps you be able to choose to be kind to others?

3) Name at least 2 people, groups of people, or situations that you feel or have felt compassion for and why?

