

Love Is...

SHOWING COMPASSION

When People Are Difficult

Ephesians 4:32a Be kind and compassionate to one another. NIV84

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion... NIV84

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. NIV84

Compassion: Being understanding and sympathetic of someone's situation.

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. NIV84

People have back stories that affect them.

- **Personalities**

- **Upbringing**

Judges 11:1 Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior. His father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute. NIV84

2 Timothy 1:5 I have been reminded of your [Timothy's] sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. NIV84

- **Past experiences**

1 Samuel 17:36-37 "Your servant [David] has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine [Goliath] will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷ The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." NIV84

Galatians 2:12 Before certain men came from James, [Peter] used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. NIV84

- **Health** (physical and mental)

Acts 3:1-8 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer — at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. NIV84

Knowing people’s stories helps us show compassion : UNDERSTANDING

Understanding our own story helps us show compassion : SYMPATHY

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. NIV84

James 3:7-8 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, ⁸ but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. NIV84

Hebrews 5:1-2 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. NIV84

Matthew 7:1-2 [Jesus said,] “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” NIV

Matthew 7:12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. NIV