

Topic: God is Compassion (Lesson 21)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: "Jehovah is gracious and righteous, Indeed our God is compassionate" (Psalm 116:5).

Focus: Because God is compassion, He has an inward feeling of sorrow when we are in distress and desires to help us and save us from our distress.

Practical Application: If you are walking in the park and find a baby bird that has fallen out of its nest, how would you feel? Could you walk away? Most likely you would feel sorry for the baby bird. You would feel concerned that it cannot fly or find food. You would want to find a way to return the baby bird to its nest so that its mother could help it. All these feelings are feelings of compassion. God has these same feelings when He sees us in need.

Intermediate:

Verse: "It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, For His compassions do not fail" (Lamentations 3:22).

Focus: See Elementary Focus. God is compassion and His compassions do not fail. Any compassion we have is limited, but God's compassion never fails.

Practical Application: What if you had a puppy that fell in a mud puddle every morning before school starts? Would you have compassion on your puppy and wash it before school every day? Would you eventually get mad at the puppy and decide not to wash it? This happens because our compassion is limited. There will never be a day when God's compassion fails.

Advanced:

Verse: "He is able to exercise compassion toward the ignorant and erring since he also is encompassed with weakness" (Hebrews 5:2).

Focus: God is compassion and He understands what it is like for us. When God saw that man was sinful and couldn't save himself, God became a Man so that He could die in our place for our sins to be forgiven. Because He lived as a Man He understands what it is like to be tempted, yet He never sinned. Therefore, no matter what we have done we should never be afraid to come forward to find God, because He is a God of compassion.

Practical Application: If we have never been in "someone else's shoes," it is hard for us to have compassion on him or her. Perhaps we never thought about smiling or saying hello to a new kid at school. Suppose one day, your parents move to another city and you become the new kid in the class. You will know what it is like to not know anyone, to not have any friends at school, and to not have anyone say hello to you. You will then have compassion on any new kid in your class. In the same way, God became a Man and lived as a Man on the earth. Because of this, He knows what we go through and has compassion on us no matter what we have done.