

# Acts of Worship

**Virtue: Love of Neighbour/Compassion**

Virtue statement:

*I know that loving my neighbour means loving EVERYONE.*

*I show my compassion when I am patient, understanding and loving to my neighbour.*

**Week 1 – theme – Compassion is a gift from God**

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth (Ordinary time)

A golden envelope – the word 'COMPASSION' written on the front. Pictures of an ear, image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, children hugging and laughing.

Key word cards: Friendship, hope, love, patience, listening, tenderhearted, understanding, comfort

Friendship bracelet

Candle

Word: Ephesians 4:32

***Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.***

Response to/reflection on the Word

How can we cheer someone up when they are upset? What do we do? How do we react if someone loses their temper or is angry? How do you show you care if someone is troubled? How can you comfort someone who is sad? What does tenderhearted mean?

Discuss which words might be in the envelope as the ingredients for a recipe to show someone compassion. How is compassion shown in the pictures? Why is important to listen and to understand how someone is feeling?

Play some reflective music. What does compassion mean to us? Devise a recipe together to make a compassion cake. Refer to the key word cards.

# Acts of Worship

Going forth

Ideas for music:

I Give You My Heart (This is my desire) by Reuben Morgan Mark 10 Mission

<https://youtu.be/SicogPtT64l>

You got a friend in me, Toy Story

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## **Week 2 – theme – Growth in compassion**

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth (Ordinary time)

Image of a flourishing tree/plant or an actual plant

Candle

Word:

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

<sup>25</sup> And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read?” <sup>27</sup> And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have answered right; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, <sup>34</sup> and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> And the next day he took out two denarii<sup>[a]</sup> and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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### Response to/reflection on the Word

What choice did the Good Samaritan make? Why did he show compassion? Why didn't he ignore the helpless man and carry on like the Levite did? Is there a difference between pity and compassion? God appoints you as neighbour through a call to show compassion. If you accept the call, then you love your neighbour and will earn a blessing and have an opportunity to love.

Play reflective music

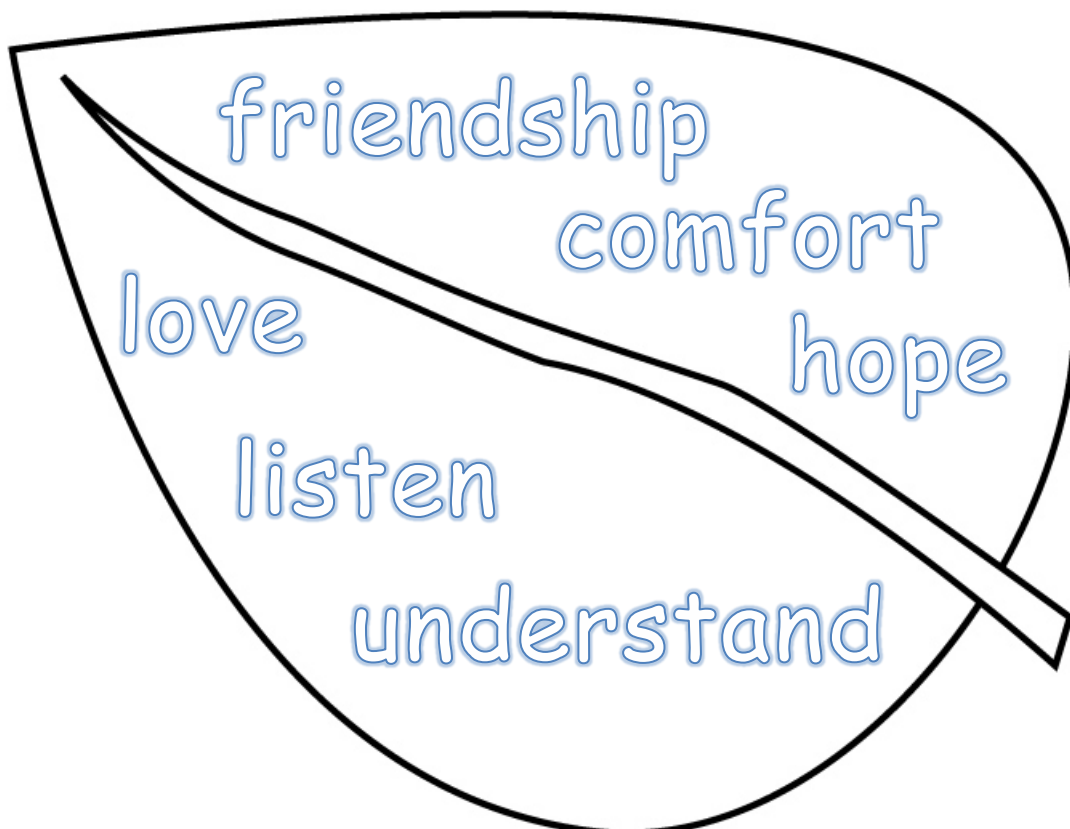
Whilst the music is playing, ask the children to colour in the words that show the choices the Good Samaritan made which showed compassion towards the helpless man .

### Going forth

Ask the children to place their completed leaf on the focal point table at the front of the classroom or onto a tree to show how we can grow in compassion.

### Ideas for music:

- 'I'll stand by you' The Pretenders
- 'Anytime you need a friend' Mariah Carey
- 'Fix you' Coldplay



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## **Week 3 – theme – Living our compassion**

### Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth (Ordinary time)

Green plant

Candle

Word:

Matthew 22:34-40

<sup>34</sup> Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. <sup>35</sup> One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

### Response to/reflection on the Word

What does Jesus want us to do? How can we love ourselves? What do we do if we feel angry or sad? How can we help others who are feeling this way? What can we do to grow in compassion? If you feel alone on the playground, what would you want your friend to do? If you feel angry about something that isn't fair, what would you want your friend to do? If you feel worried, what would you do? How can you make someone feel better who is worried? Listen to a new commandment.

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<https://youtu.be/yy7W8avIXIY>

### Going forth

Ask the children to think about how we can live out our compassion towards others in the coming week.

Say together:

Loving God,

You walk alongside us and speak to us through the scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds, to help understand and help those in need so that we may be your witness throughout the world.

Amen

### Ideas for music:

'A new commandment'

'Follow me'

'Be not afraid'

'Lord of all hopefulness'