



ave a Heart for the Hurting

Colossians 3:12

“You are God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient.”

Here’s an idea for you: When you get up tomorrow morning, pick out an outfit to wear for the entire week. You can’t change even once. Just imagine how much time that would save! Actually, it might be fun for awhile, but it wouldn’t be long before the clothes and YOU started to stink, would it? Others would come near you and turn the other direction after noticing the smell, the stains and the wrinkles! Not so fun anymore....

The same is true with compassion toward others. The Bible says that you are to put it on as if it were your clothes. Just as you get up every morning, put on what you’re going to wear, add accessories like socks, shoes or jewelry, so you are also to take the time to dress your spiritual life. Once again, it all goes back to Letter “A”—asking God to help you have a heart that is tender toward others. After praying, it’s time for the finishing touch, God’s Word, which teaches you how to live out this instruction.

In Luke, chapter 10, Jesus told a story of a man who was on the road to Jericho when he was robbed and beaten by some thieves. AS he lay on the road almost dead, 2 people passed by him without even helping him. A 3rd man passed by, and feeling compassion for him, put bandages on him and found a place for the man to stay until he got well. Jesus told this story so that Christians would learn how important it is to Him that we care for those who are hurting or lonely or sad.

What do you do when you see someone who’s feeling blue? It’s easy to get so busy playing, or studying or even doing stuff at church, that you pass right by them. It can also be difficult to show care to our family members and friends when they need it most, but God will help you do it as you pray to Him, spend time in the Bible and learn to put on tender mercy and kindness the same way you put on your clothes. When other kids see the way you show care for those who are weak, sad or lonely, they won’t want to turn around and walk the other direction—they’ll want to be your friend and know your secret. So put your spiritual clothes on and show God’s heart for the hurting today!

Discuss the following questions with your parent/s:

- 1. Why do you think being compassionate to others is so important to God?**
- 2. Do you ever feel jealous when others are hurt and getting attention for it? Why?**
- 3. Do you ever get so busy playing with your friends that you forget to look for others who might need some attention?**

If you like parties, “I” will be fun! Get ready to make the invitation!