

WHO NEEDS COMPASSION?

moms everywhere



Devotionals: God's Love for the Poor



PRAY TO START

Pray that God will show you more of His love for the poor so that you, in turn, can love other people more.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If God loves the poor, why does He still allow them to be poor?

GOD LOVES THE POOR VERY MUCH

Reading through the Bible, God clearly loves the poor. In fact, poverty is mentioned over 2,000 times in there so it must be really important to God.

"The poor" can mean people who cannot make choices for themselves — perhaps orphans or widows who don't have any money or power. They are mentioned many times throughout the Bible as people we should especially look after.

"The poor" can also mean people who don't know God. They are poor as they are missing the biggest and best thing ever — God's love for us through Jesus.

Either way, God absolutely loves the poor.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:31-40, NIV

A THOUGHT

In the story when Jesus the King says "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" the people He was talking to were surprised. They had done kind things when they saw people in need, but they didn't realize they had been doing those things for Jesus. Jesus goes on to explain that when we do kind things for people in need, we really do those things for Him.

When have you done kind things for people in the past?

Can you think of times you've been unkind to others or not bothered to help when you've seen someone in need?

Can you think of some examples of kind things you might be able to do for others in the future?

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Devotionals: God's Love for the Poor [continued]



Rather than doing kind things because Jesus might be around, we need God to keep changing our hearts so that we have real love for other people that makes us want to help them. Imagine how different the world would be if people loved each other more. God can change our hearts to love more if we ask Him.

WHY NOT...

Cut out and decorate the cross box template on the next page. You can color it in, or stick on jewels, stickers, colored paper or sequins — whatever you can find that will make it look nice.

The template is in the shape of a cross to remind you how much God loves people. He sent His own Son to die on a cross for our sin so that we can be friends with Him again.

Fold the tabs along the side of your box template and tape or glue them together as shown. Now you have a box that you can keep.

Think of ideas for how you can show kindness to people around you. Write them on pieces of paper and put them in your box. Keep it by your bed and you can add ideas to the box as you have them. Remember to check in your cross box every few weeks to remind yourself of the things you planned to do and make sure you do them.

PRAYER

Thank God for loving you, even when you do things wrong. Ask Him for help to love other people.

Pray that your sponsored child would know how much God loves them.

God's Love for the Poor

CROSS BOX ACTIVITY

For best results,
print on to card.

