

# The Delicate Art of Compassion

*Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.*  
Romans 12:15 NLT

## 1. Be compassionate because Jesus was compassionate.

*May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! He is the compassionate Father and God of all comfort. He's the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort other people who are in every kind of trouble. We offer the same comfort that we ourselves received from God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 CEB

## 2. Show compassion even when you think they don't deserve it.

*So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.*

Luke 15:20-24 NIV

## 3. Healthy compassion recognizes our own brokenness.

*And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart.*

Ezekiel 11:19 NLT

## 4. Your compassion needs boundaries.

*I'll tell you what it really means to worship the Lord. Remove the chains of prisoners who are bound unjustly. Free those who are abused! Share your food with everyone who is hungry; share your home with the poor and homeless. Give clothes to those in need; don't turn away your relatives.*

Isaiah 58:6-7 CEV

*Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.*

Matthew 14:22 NIV

## **5. Focus your compassion.**

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

1 John 3:16-18 NIV

## **6. Prayer leads to healthy compassion.**

*Let your compassion quickly meet our needs, for we are on the brink of despair.*

Psalms 79:8 NLT