

That's Love

What's It All About?

Mom packed a lunch for Jerome and his dad to take on their Saturday trip to the big city. They were going to stop by a big research library so Dad could get some books he needed for a class he was taking. Then they were going to picnic in the park before visiting some museums.

Jerome was very happy when it was time for lunch; he had worked up quite an appetite. However, as Jerome pulled out his sandwich, he saw a young boy sitting on a bench, watching him as he took a bite. He heard the boy say to the woman sitting next to him, "I'm hungry." Jerome sat for a minute and then asked his dad if he

could offer the little boy one of the extra sandwiches Mom packed. Dad smiled. "That's very kind, Jerome," he said. "Perhaps they're both hungry and would like to share what we have." They both stood and headed toward the bench.

What is your attitude about sharing what you have with others? Some Juniors may not have much to give when it comes to food or money. What other ways can someone your age show compassion and kindness? How is compassion related to justice?



Learning From God

Some people may think that justice only means punishing others and making them suffer the consequences of their behavior. They may not realize that God's justice calls for compassion toward others. Today's verses outline some ways you can treat others in a caring and compassionate way.

Leviticus 19:9–18, 33–37, NIV—"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. 11 "'Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. 12 "'Do

not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. 13 "'Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. 14 "'Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD. 15 "'Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. 16 "'Do not go about spreading slander among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD. 17 "'Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. 18 "'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Verses 33–37—"'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in

Egypt. I am the LORD your God. **35** "'Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. **36** Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. **37** "'Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD.'"

If you are striving to live justly and reflect the justice of God, then you will show compassion, love, and kindness toward others. It may be easy to do if you think how compassionate, loving, and kind God is toward you.

What I Have Learned

Several actions are listed. Are they acceptable or not acceptable to God?

1. Stealing

Acceptable

Not acceptable

2. Being honest

Acceptable

Not acceptable

3. Sharing with others

Acceptable

Not acceptable

4. Spreading rumors

Acceptable

Not acceptable

5. Feeling hatred toward someone

Acceptable

Not acceptable

6. Loving others

Acceptable

Not acceptable

Keep In Mind

"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:34, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

1 The poor

Here are some people to whom God wants you to be kind. How can you show compassion to each one?

2. Those who are physically disabled
3. Your neighbor
4. Someone you hold a grudge against

Doing My Part

One of the greatest ways you can treat people with compassion is to pray for them. Your challenge this week is to create a prayer that: 1) asks God to help you live a life of justice and compassion, and 2) asks God to show compassion to others.



So Ungrateful

What's It All About?

"I'll open that one first." It was Jeremy's birthday. He could not wait to open the big package on the table. Jeremy just knew that the game system he wanted would be inside. Even though money in the house was tight, Jeremy counted on his mom to get what he wanted.

Jeremy shook the package. Yes! It weighed the same as the game system. Jeremy tore into the paper and opened the box. Then he froze. In the box were two pairs of jeans. . .and no game system!

Jeremy smiled and thanked his mother, but he was fighting back tears. *I don't want these*, he thought to himself.

Have you ever experienced a disappointment similar to Jeremy's? What do you think about Jeremy's attitude: should he be disappointed or should he be thankful? Explain your answer.



Learning From God

People don't always get what they want. Such was the case with the Israelites. But God made sure they got what they needed. How did they respond? They complained. They complained about the food that God provided for them and complained about all of their hardships.

Numbers 11:1–6, NIV—Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. 3 So that place was called Taberah, because

fire from the LORD had burned among them. 4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Moses took the Israelites' complaints to God.

Verses 10–15—Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. 11 He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? 12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? 13 Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. 15 If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

Do you think the Israelites had a right to complain? Why or why not?

What I Have Learned

Answer the following questions.

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1. Why did the people complain (Numbers 11:1)?

2. How did God respond to their complaints (v. 1)?

3. What else caused the people to complain (vv. 4-5)?

4. If you were Moses, what would you have said to the people?

Keep In Mind

"The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

(Numbers 11:4–6, NIV).

Choosing What's Best

Can you tell the difference between a want and a need? Look at the pictures below. Circle the things that you need.





Doing My Part

Do you sometimes find yourself complaining more than giving thanks for your blessings? Your challenge is to name five things that you are thankful for right now. List them below.

1.			
2.			

3	
~ / /	

4.	