

Introduction – How to best use this Parent Preview at home:

It takes diligence to train our children ‘in’ and ‘of’ the gospel and in good character each day. However, this is your ministry as a parent: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”. And by God’s Grace your child will have true “repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This letter has tips to help you at home as you reinforce the biblical character training that your child is learning in our karate classes.

1. If you invest a few minutes a day and implement some of the ideas in this monthly letter at home you will help your child get SO MUCH MORE out of the time you spend at our school as well as establish patterns for successful behavior as adults.
2. If you do not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. We encourage you to take a few seconds and just scan through the different topics.
3. Try it for a month! Print out this newsletter, and then each day pick something to discuss and practice with your children. We do it over dinner.

Here is an idea: We have five ‘I wills’, one scripture, and one definition. That is seven things total. What I try to do is take one of those seven things and discuss it, explain it, and catch my child doing it and applying it that day. Or, if they missed an opportunity to apply it I try to show them how they could have used it. So after one week, I will have reviewed all seven and I repeat it each week of the month.

I take very seriously the opportunity you give me by allowing me to partner with you to teach your child the things of God.

So, **I appeal you by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the spirit to strive together with me in your prayers to God on behalf of all the children that they would bear fruit in their lives.** Pray before and during every class your child attends for God to open his or her eyes, ears, and heart to understand and apply His truth that we will be sharing that day. **Also, please pray for us** that we would be good stewards of the time you have given us with your child and we would be faithful witnesses of our Lord and His word. **Every class, every time, please join with us in prayer.**

The Power of a Partnership and Consistency

I hope for the chance to expose your child to sound Biblical Character Training **over a long period of time.** And Lord willing, the longer the term of exposure to this curriculum the **BIGGER** the impact will be on your child and his or her growing in Christ-likeness and being a means by which God displays His Glory.

And your child will be exposed to this character building curriculum everyday you visit our school!

Enjoy the Parent preview below:

COMPASSION vs. INDIFFERENCE Parent Preview

Definition:

COMPASSION is investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.

Definition we will use in tiny tigers class:

- COMPASSION is helping others feel better.

Other definitions:

- COMPASSION is responding to a deep need with a longing to do whatever is necessary to meet it.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH COMPASSION? In a fast paced society, children are prone to overlook those in trouble or assume that someone else will stop and help.

1. I will stop to help.
2. I will listen when others want to talk.
3. I will give of my resources to those in need.
4. I will look for lasting solutions.
5. I will comfort those without regard to race, gender, faith, age or nationality.

Scripture Memory for class:

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” 1 John 3:16 (ESV)

- **Biblical Commentaries on COMPASSION at bottom of this letter**

The Concept of COMPASSION

COMPASSION is helping others heal their hurts. Sympathy is seeing someone's pain. Empathy is feeling someone's pain. Compassion is receiving someone's pain. It doesn't just see people's needs and feel responsible for helping; compassion does something about it. It is active. It is an investment. Compassion finds a way to lighten a load until healing is complete.

PRAISE CHILDREN FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Picking up someone who falls
- Stopping the game when a player gets hurt
- Checking on classmates who miss school
- Befriending new children at school
- Including others in their games
- Standing up for weaker students

Relate to other qualities:

Don't forget to praise character qualities your children have studied in the past. These are some that relate to compassion:

- **ATTENTIVENESS** "I know you had your own project to work on, but I appreciate how you paid attention to John's special needs when he talked to you."
- **TOLERANCE** "Thank you for your tolerance with Fred this afternoon. I don't think he was feeling well today."
- **SENSITIVITY** "That was very sensitive of you to give your seat to that elderly woman. You are a good example to all of us."
- **DEFERENCE** "I'm sure you would have rather played something else at recess today, but Mary needed a friend, and you stayed with her the whole time. I appreciate you showing deference to her."

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I Wills', and scripture, **COMPASSION** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – COMPASSION in nature with the ZEBRA.** Unable to keep up with the herd, sick or injured zebra fall easy prey to predators. However, rather than leaving weak members behind, the whole herd slows down enough to allow the weak to remain with the herd.
- **Hero's of Character with JANE ADAMS** – She was shocked the first time she saw the cramped slums of Chicago. Her heart went out to the people trapped in those conditions. Thankfully, she didn't just feel sorry for them; she did something about it.

Character Card Tips

Character training has no impact unless it is a part of everyday life. Biblical character training is only a short term band-aid with no long lasting effects and so powerless and 'NOT BIBLICAL' without God's enabling by His Holy Spirit. Ask God every day to enable you by His Spirit that he would give you the grace to teach and to speak truth into your child's life in an appropriate way and time.

Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, "Here are ways you can practice **COMPASSION**." Then read the "I wills" on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices and that if not by God's grace you would only make wrong choices.

Personal Evaluation – How **COMPASSIONATE** are you?

1. Are you moved to compassion when you see a group of people in need of Christ?
2. Do you pray that God will send forth laborers into the harvest?
3. When a neighbor has a need, do you say, "Let me know if I can help," hoping he will not call on you? Or do you find a way to show compassion?
4. When you see a disabled person, do you provide practical help?

5. Do you have funds or skills that are available to help those who have a need?
6. Who was the last person who asked you for help, and how did you help him?

COMPASSION in the Home Includes:

- Realizing each other's needs for love and attention, and planning outings and activities to meet those needs
- Sensing each other's need for respect and listening to ideas with an open mind
- Seeking to understand another's struggles from his or her viewpoint and experiences
- Being willing to give up activities that could disappoint and hurt one another

Rewards of COMPASSION

- FAVOR – A person who diligently seeks the good of another will receive approval and favor of those who observe their unselfish actions.
- FRIENDSHIP - Becoming involved in the life of another brings a deeper level of intimacy and friendship.

Biblical Commentaries on COMPASSION

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ¹ **1 John 3:16-18 (ESV)**

Basic Commentary:

John now illustrates the extent to which our love should reach. It is a demanding requirement! In our day (especially in highly developed nations like America) most of us have far more than we actually need to sustain ourselves. John demands that we lay down part of that which we have to give to a needy brother. ²

Indifference (1 John 3:16–17)

But the test of Christian love is not simply failure to do *evil* to others. Love also involves doing them *good*. Christian love is both positive and negative. “Cease to do evil; learn to do well” (Isa. 1:16–17).

Cain is our example of false love; Christ is the example of true Christian love. Jesus gave His life for us that we may experience truth. Every Christian knows John 3:16, but how many of us pay much attention to 1 John 3:16? It is wonderful to experience the blessing of John 3:16; but it is even more wonderful to *share* that experience by obeying 1 John 3:16: Christ laid down life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹*The Holy Bible : English standard version.* 2001 (1 Jn 3:16-18). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

²Womack, M. M. (1998). *The College Press NIV commentary : 1, 2 & 3 John / Morris M. Womack.* All Scripture quotations, unless indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1 Jn 3:17). Joplin, MO.: College Press.

Christian love involves sacrifice and service. Christ did not simply *talk* about His love; He died to prove it (Rom. 5:6–10). Jesus was not killed as a martyr; He willingly *laid down* His life (John 10:11–18; 15:13). “Self-preservation” is the first law of physical life, but “self-sacrifice” is the first law of spiritual life.

But God does not ask us to lay down our lives. He simply asks us to help a brother in need. John wisely turns from “the brethren” in 1 John 3:16 to the singular, “his brother,” in 1 John 3:17.

It is easy for us to talk about “loving the brethren” and to neglect to help a single other believer. Christian love is personal and active.

This is what Jesus had in mind in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37). A lawyer wanted to talk about an abstract subject: “Who is my neighbor?” But Jesus focused attention on *one man in need*, and changed the question to, “To whom can I be a neighbor?”

Two friends were attending a conference on evangelism. During one of the sessions, Larry missed Pete. At luncheon, when he saw Pete, he said, “I missed you at the 10 o’clock session. It was really terrific! Where were you?”

“I was in the lobby talking to a bellhop about Christ. I led him to the Lord,” said Pete.

There is nothing wrong with attending conferences, but it is easy to forget the individual and his needs while discussing generalities. The test of Christian love is not in loud professions about loving the whole church, but in quietly helping a brother who is in need. If we do not even help a brother, it is not likely we would “lay down our lives” for “the brethren.”

A man does not have to murder in order to sin; hatred is murder in his heart. But a man need not even hate his brother to be guilty of sin. All he has to do is ignore him, or be indifferent toward his needs. A believer who has material goods and can relieve his brother’s needs ought to do it. To “close the door of his heart” on his brother is a kind of murder!

If I am going to help my brother, I must meet three conditions. First, I must have the means necessary to meet his need. Second, I must know that the need exists. Third, I must be loving enough to want to share.

A believer who is too poor to help, or who is ignorant of his brother’s need, is not condemned. But a believer who hardens his heart against his needy brother *is* condemned. One reason Christians should work is so that they may be able “to give to him that needeth” (Eph. 4:28).

In these days of multiplied social agencies, it is easy for Christians to forget their obligations. “So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” (Gal. 6:10, NASB).

This “doing good” need not be in terms of money or material supplies. It may include personal service and the giving of oneself to others. There are many individuals in our churches who lack love and would welcome friendship.

A young mother admitted, in a testimony meeting, that she never seemed to find time for her own personal devotions. She had several little children to care for, and the hours melted away.

Imagine her surprise when two of the ladies from the church appeared at her front door.

“We’ve come to take over,” they explained. “You go into the bedroom and get started on your devotions.” After several days of this kind of help, the young mother was able to develop her devotional life so that the daily demands on her time no longer upset her.

If we want to experience and enjoy the love of God in our own hearts, we must love others, even to the point of sacrifice. Being indifferent to a brother’s needs means robbing ourselves of what we need even more: the love of God in our hearts. It is a matter of love or death!

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Deeper Commentary:

³Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (1 Jn 3:16). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

Love One Another

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

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The Final Judgment

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ 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 neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

⁴The Holy Bible : English standard version. 2001 (1 Jn 3:11-24). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

⁵The Holy Bible : English standard version. 2001 (Mt 25:31-46). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ 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. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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Character First! Education Series 4, Booklet 7, Oak Brook, IL;
International Association of Character Cities. (2000). Achieving True Success.
Institute of Basic Life Principles. (2001). The Power of True Success

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