

Chapter 23

Show Mercy

Show kindness and compassion toward each other.
Zechariah 7:9

For the Parents:

In chapter 23 your child learned to:

- Give examples of words and actions that show compassion
- Describe words and actions that show mercy and gentleness
- Identify words and actions that carry out the works of mercy

The experience of loss is universal. Loss of relationships occurs through death, divorce, or a move across the country. People lose financial and emotional security when they lose a job. Think for a moment about how you have dealt with such losses in the past. What were some of your emotions? Which people in your life have enabled you to recover from these experiences? Probably they were compassionate, merciful people.

To be merciful is to show compassion. Compassion is the ability to suffer with another. We are called as Christians to show mercy and to be healers. Our experience of loss can lead us to a compassionate response to others who are going through painful times.

Though it may sometimes be difficult to step out of our busy schedules and make time for those in need, we are called by our baptism to share God's saving power of love. Through these actions, we learn mercy.

With Your Child:

1. Have a family meeting to plan a way that your family can live more fully according to the Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy. Make a list for your refrigerator door stating one way each member of the family can start this way of living.
2. Read about Saint Martin of Tours on the Review and Explore page.