

Stories of Compassion

We discussed the news story about the compassionate stranger. In November there was a terrorist attack on London Bridge. We discussed the News Story of the bystander helping out by pinning down the attacker. We talked about how brave he must have been and how he had thought of protecting others first. We decided that he was compassionate to those who were in danger. We also tried to place ourselves in the shoes of the attacker and asked ourselves 'Why?' **Why don't you watch out for compassion in the news?**



We discussed the Bible story about some compassionate friends. Some friends knew that their best friend was ill and needed help. They had to carry him on his bed to Jesus. However, they could not get him to Jesus as it was so packed! They decided to remove the roof tiles and lowered their friends bed through it !! Jesus listened to the man and healed him. Jesus showed the man compassion and commended the friends for their compassion. We retold the stories of the Ugly Duckling and the Lion and the Mouse- **Why don't you read them and think about how the characters did or did not show compassion?**

? **QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....**

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

The traveller was attacked as he walked along the **ROAD**

Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog **----**

The Samaritan **---** the innkeeper to look after the man **----**

The Samaritan acted with courage. He was **----**

We sometimes talk about the **----** of friendship (rhymes with pond) **----**

Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find) **----**

The Samaritan in the story was **----**

Small things count! No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.

Include others.

Try and understand someone even when they can't explain.

Believe in community.

Look for ways you can help others.

Donate to charity.

Listen.

Don't let what someone looks like stop you from helping.

Our building blocks for COMPASSION

When someone asked Jesus the question 'Who is my neighbour?' he told a story about the stranger on the road who was kind. The hero was from Samaria but those who were listening were mainly Jews. At that time Jewish people and Samaritan people usually kept well away from each other.

A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho. (The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances, they knew it was a lonely, dangerous road.) As the man reached a rocky and desolate place a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him taking all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. In the distance the man saw a man from the Temple and called out for help. But to his amazement the man walked past! As the injured man got weaker he heard footsteps again. He saw a Levite- one of his own people- and called out for help. Surely this Levite would take pity and have compassion. But the Levite kept on walking too!

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger a Samaritan had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wound and giving him water to drink. The Samaritan slowly took the man upon his own donkey to an inn. There he paid for the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the compassion and kindness of the Samaritan stranger.

Jesus said 'Go and do the same.'