



Read LUKE 1:30-33

Day 1

God created everything, including man and woman. He created the world around us, supplying everything we need in it: food, water, trees for fire and shelter. Not only that, He always intended for us to have a relationship with Him. But then sin entered the picture, leaving a big divide between us and God. God saw this gap and knew this was by far our greatest need: our need for a Savior.

What are some of our greatest needs? Use the clues below to find the needs in the word search.

CLUES

- Lake
- Plants and animals
- Trees
- Family and friends
- Jesus
- Doctors and medicine



THANK God for seeing our greatest need: for a Savior.

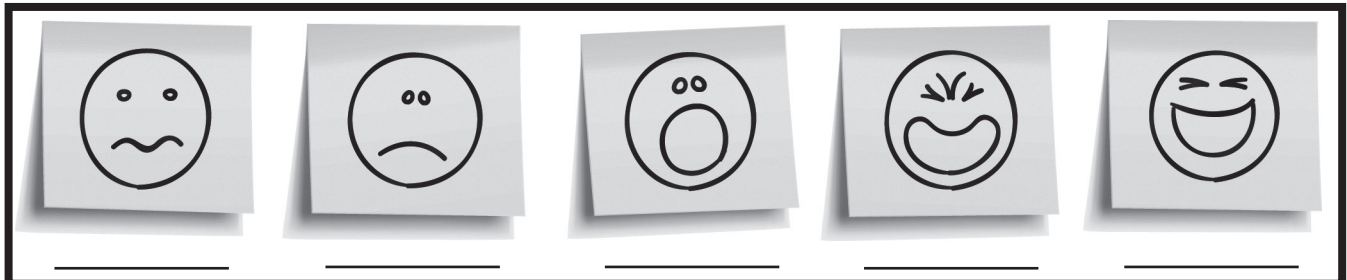
Answers: water, food, shelter, love, Savior, health

Read ROMANS 12:15

Day 2

Have you ever been having a really, really bad day and no one even seems to notice? And then your brother gets some great news and is super excited to tell you, but it's hard to even make yourself look up to say, "Congratulations." If we want people to show us compassion, we also need to pay attention to them and their needs.

What emotion do each of these faces represent? Write your best guess under each one.



Think about a time when you felt one of these emotions very strongly and someone noticed and understood. Then how did you feel? This week, try to pay special attention to the feelings of those around you.

ASK God to help you see and understand how people are feeling.

**WEEK
ONE**



READ NEHEMIAH 9:19

Day 3

The Israelites were not really what you would call “easygoing” or “laid back.” For many of the 40 years that they spent wandering the desert, they were whining and griping at Moses and at God. Not to mention, the very reason they were in the desert at all instead of being in the Promised Land as God had intended was because they disobeyed God!

But despite all the trouble and grief that God’s people caused Him, God didn’t give up on them. He continued meeting their needs of food and water, and He used a cloud and pillar of fire to lead them safely through the desert. God knew that His people were tired and hungry and felt deserted, so He showed them compassion.

God continues to meet our needs too, even when we don’t deserve it. Interview a parent or older friend about a time when they had a need that only God knew about, and how He met that need. Ask them if they felt they deserved God’s compassion and how they felt when God met that need.

LOOK for ways that God meets your needs every day.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:25-26

Day 4

Have you ever heard the phrase “walk a mile in their shoes”? This doesn’t literally mean to wear someone else’s shoes, but it means to imagine yourself in their place. To be compassionate, you not only have to see others’ needs, but you have to be able to feel sympathy. In other words, you have to be able to imagine how that person feels and how you would feel if you were them.

Find someone else’s shoes in your house to wear. Take a walk around in them and think about a need—something that’s going on in their life right now that could use some prayer and compassion. Talk to God about them and their need before returning their shoes.

KNOW that compassion requires imagination.