

Topic: Proper Humanity – Sympathetic

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “...be all of the same mind, sympathetic, loving the brothers, tenderhearted, humble-minded” (1 Peter 3:8).

Focus: To be sympathetic is to feel what others feel.

Practical Application: How would you feel if you see a bird wounded or a friend/sibling hurt? Do you just walk away or do you feel sad and go over to help? To have that feeling of being sorry for a wounded bird or an injured friend/sibling is to be sympathetic.

Intermediate:

Verse: “And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, Do not weep” (Luke 7:13).

Focus: To be sympathetic is not just to help someone outwardly but also to share in their inward feelings.

Practical Application: Do we ever feel what others feel? Have we ever sympathized with others? We may help others, but we may not have sympathy for them. For example, we may give food and medicine to sick people but we may not feel their pain. It would be good to have a friend (or be a friend) who not only renders help but also sympathizes with us when we have a bad day at school or are feeling sad and lonely.

Advanced:

Verse: “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

Focus: Sympathy was a characteristic of the Lord when He was on earth.

Practical Application: The Bible records many examples of the Lord sympathizing with men. Before He cleansed the leper, he was moved with compassion and touched him (Mark 1:40-45). He sympathized with the hungry and fed the five thousand and the four thousand with the loaves (Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-10). When he saw the grief of the widow whose son has died, he was moved with compassion and raised him without being asked (Luke 7:11-17). As the good Samaritan, His utmost care for the dying one showed His tenderness and sympathy (Luke 10:25-37).