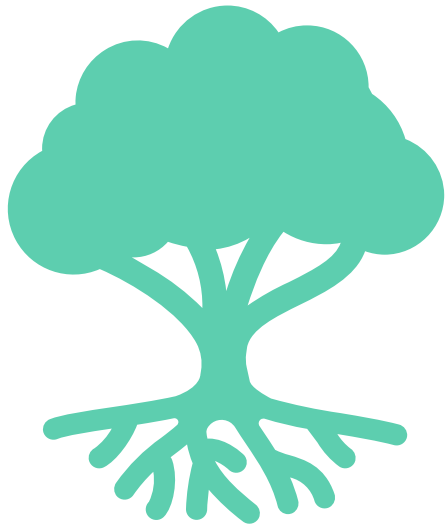


Compassion Camp

Reviewed by Marvin McLennon

Compassion Camp: Snapshot



[Compassion Camp](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS this year. This is not only a great VBS curriculum, but it has enough content that it can be adapted for an extended children's program series. Its theme is "What Every Living Thing Needs," and it focuses on Psalm 104 to promote care and compassion for God's creation. It provides a variety of activities to keep participants engaged and encourages leaders to adapt activities in ways that would best suit everyone. It's a joyful and fun program that has something for everyone, even adults.

Compassion Camp: The Basics

- **Theme:** “What Every Living Thing Needs”
- **Publisher:** [Illustrated Ministry](#), 2023 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5 as well as pre-K and intergenerational offerings
- **Format:** onsite; adaptable for alternative formats like offsite and online programs
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** music, Bible study, physical engagement, games, service
- **Starter kit cost:** sliding scale by congregation size: \$299.99 for 1–100 members, \$349 for 101–500, \$449 for 501+

Compassion Camp: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Every Living Thing Needs Shelter**
Psalm 104
- **Day 2: Every Living Thing Needs Food**
Psalm 104
- **Day 3: Every Living Thing Needs Water**
Psalm 104
- **Day 4: Every Living Thing Needs Air**
Psalm 104
- **Day 5: Every Living Thing Needs Community**
Psalm 104

Compassion Camp: Where It Shines

Compassionate and grace-filled theme and goal

The main goal of the curriculum is to cultivate compassion for each other, ourselves and the world, and that is reflected incredibly well in all of its content. This is an established curriculum, with this being the third edition of Compassion Camp. A lot of ongoing care has been put into it, and it shows.

Flexible and adaptable design

There is so much content present that it feels like a “Choose Your Own Adventure” kind of curriculum. It doesn’t lose sight of the core theme of compassion for others and the world around us. It encourages leaders to discern how they might best use the curriculum in their context, whether as a traditional 5-day program or with family pods or online.

Compassion Camp: Where It Shines

Supportive resources for directors

The Director's Guide includes everything one would need to run Compassion Camp, including scripts, prompts, and directions. Illustrated Ministry also has a Facebook Group for people leading Compassion Camp. Leaders and volunteers can swap ideas and find support from others running the program in their parish contexts.

Music offerings

The curriculum includes several upbeat original songs on Spotify and Apple Music to help campers and volunteers get excited for camp. The lyrics provide an exciting message of hope and feeling welcome in this space no matter who you are. They also have songs dedicated to each day's theme.

Compassion Camp: What We Miss

More affordable overall cost

There are three tiers of pricing, which could make it more affordable for parishes who have the means. However, the starting cost for the lowest tier may still be cost-prohibitive for some parishes.

Compassion Camp: Overall Assessment

**Curriculum
Recommended
for 2024**

buildingfaith

www.buildfaith.org