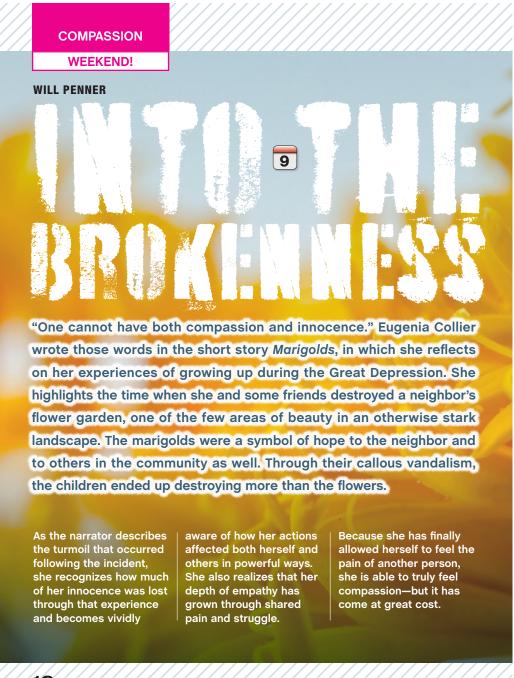
RISING GENERATIONS THE UPPER ROOM



12 JULY>AUGUST 2016

july 1-10

COMPASSION

WEEKEND!

+ people who act as
if they're smarter,
funnier, prettier,
more athletic, or

willing to e
brokennes
to demons

than we are?
+ bullies who are

just plain better

actively mean?
Romans 5:8 tells us
that God's love is not
restricted to those who
are easily loveable; Jesus
was willing to die for us
even when we were the
worst of the worst. He
submitted himself to the
vilest form of brutal
torture and death to
demonstrate how much
he loved us. God was

willing to enter into the brokenness of humanity to demonstrate true compassion.

Our world is full of brokenness and pain. As Christians, we are not supposed to separate ourselves from the world's brokenness. We are called to enter into it and to be part of God's redemptive work. We can't fix many of the injustices in the world, but we can be willing to get down in the muck and grime of life and to walk alongside others in their times of need.

Compassion sounds good, but most of us limit our compassion to those we naturally care for. We show compassion for family members or close friends because we have already invested deeply in our relationships with them. When they are hurting, we hurt with them; and when we wrong them, we automatically feel twangs of guilt.

But how can we develop compassion for

- + people with whom we have not developed relationships?
- + kids who are so different that we barely understand what they're talking about?

Will Penner is a husband, father, teacher, youth worker, author, and speaker in Fairview, Tennessee. He believes compassion to be one of the only redemptive features of the loss of innocence.

10 NEXT DAY STRETCH

A member of my youth group once told me, "I wish I'd never come on this mission trip; I don't want to know that people live like this." My heart broke. She wanted to go back to believing that everyone lived as she had lived—with a loving family, a feeling of complete safety, and pretty much everything she wanted. The mission trip had destroyed her innocence, but it also offered her opportunities for compassion that were previously unavailable to her.

What are the fairy tale endings or the protective bubbles that you are actively constructing in your life to keep from seeing the realities around you? Pray about how God is calling you out of the comforts of your naiveté and into compassion for others.

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