

Compassion

God Story

A Sinful Woman
Comes to Jesus
Luke 8:26-39

Big Idea

We can share God's love
by being compassionate.

Key Verses

...[God] is the Father who
gives us tender love. All
comfort comes from him.
He comforts us in all our
troubles. Now we can
comfort others when they
are in trouble.
Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIRV).

Leader Tips

Prepare for the activities
before the kids arrive, so
you can lead with
confidence and
enthusiasm! Remember
to pray for your group,
too.

My Story

1. Conversation Starter

2 MINUTES

Use the discussion questions about compassion to set the tone for your group's time together. Introduce today's Big Idea.

2. Intro Activity

5 MINUTES

Share ideas for ways to show compassion in a variety of situations, then wrap up with prayer.

God Story | Life Story

3. Weekly Video

12 MINUTES

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

My Story

4. Small Group Activity

12 MINUTES*

Engage the kids in thinking about real-life ways they could show compassion and God's love to people they know.

5. Wrap-Up Activity

8 MINUTES

Encourage teamwork as the kids review the Key Verses for this series.

Our Story

6. Dismissal

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities

My Story

1. Conversation Starter

Supplies

- None

Leader Tip

- Help everyone better understand what compassion is by sharing your own age-appropriate example.

Instructions

- As the kids arrive, gather them together.
- Chat about what the word “compassion” means. Make sure everyone understands that it includes doing something to help someone who’s hurting.
- Ask: When have you felt sad or hurt and someone showed you compassion? How did they help you?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce this week’s Big Idea: **We can share God’s love by being compassionate.**

2. Intro Activity

Supplies

- Masking tape
- Compassion pictures
- Start sign
- Pray sign

Before the Activity

- Before the kids arrive, create a path on the floor with masking tape and the pictures.
- Tape the Start sign on the floor at the beginning of the path and the Pray sign at the end.

Instructions

- Gather everyone at the start of the path.
 - Lead the kids to move in a fun way (e.g., hop like a bunny, crabwalk, etc.) to the first picture.
 - Encourage everyone to share ideas for how they could show compassion in the situation shown in the picture. If the kids need help, prompt them to think of a time when they were in a similar situation. Ask what they might need or want.
 - Move in a different fun way to the next picture.
 - Continue inviting everyone to share their ideas for being compassionate, then move on to the next picture.
 - When the group arrives at the Pray sign, stop and pray together. Pray that the kids would share God’s love by showing compassion to their friends, family, and people they don’t even know!
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God Story | Life Story

3. Weekly Video **Instructions**

Supplies

- Video file

a. Play the video. It includes:

- Host segment
- God Story (A Sinful Woman Comes to Jesus | Luke 7:36-50)
- Key Verse segment
- Life Story (Chef Nathan shows how he works to feed the less fortunate and his compassion for people).

b. Discuss:

- What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**We can share God's love by being compassionate**) connect?
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My Story

4. Small Group Activity

Supplies

- Sad, Sick, Lonely activity pages
- Stickers
- Markers

Leader Tip

- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

Instructions

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Give each person an activity page.
- Place the stickers and markers where everyone can reach them.
- Read aloud the question on the page: "Who in my family, school, or community is sad, sick, or lonely?"
- Direct the kids to draw a picture in each of the circles of someone they know and/or write the person's name. Help with ideas and spelling as needed.
- Discuss: How might Jesus show compassion to these people? How could you?
- Encourage the kids to draw or write two different ideas in the rectangles.
- After they fill in all the rectangles, direct them to place a sticker beside one to show that they'll try to do that thing this week.
- Flip over the page and read aloud the question on the back: "How does my compassion show God's love to others?"
- Explain that when we show compassion, we show others God's love.
- To wrap up, pray that God would help the kids in your group share his love with others by showing them compassion.

5. Wrap-Up Activity

Supplies

- Key Verses sign
- Paper strips
- Markers
- Tape

Instructions

- Hold up the Key Verses sign so everyone can see it.
- Say the verses together a couple of times.
- Place the paper strips and markers where everyone can reach them.
- Direct the kids to work together to write the words of the verses on the papers as follows: God / is the / Father / who gives / tender / love. / All comfort / comes from him. / He comforts / us in all / our troubles. / Now we can / comfort others / when they / are in trouble. / 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Guide the group to put the words in order.
- Tape the strips together to form a paper chain.
- Use it to practise saying the verses together.

Our Story

1. Dismissal

Supplies

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse Colouring pages

Leader Tip

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

Instructions

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
 - b. Give everyone a weekly take-home card as well as the monthly Key Verse card and colouring page.
 - c. Remind the kids to take their crafts.
 - d. Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.
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