



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment



1. MATCH AND TELL

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Sequence" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle the cards from the "Story Sequence" Activity Pages and lay them out facedown, in a grid pattern.
- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Direct each pair to take turns flipping over two cards, trying to find a match.
- When a pair finds a match, instruct the pair of kids to try to retell that part of the story to the rest of the group.
- Choose a pair of kids to begin the game.
- Continue playing until all the pairs have been found and the story has been reviewed.
- Challenge the kids to arrange the cards in story order, and review the story one more time.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How did Jesus show compassion to Bartimaeus? (*Invite responses, like: Jesus stopped to talk to and heal Bartimaeus.*) Even, though Jesus was very busy, He stopped to help Bartimaeus. More importantly, Bartimaeus believed Jesus to be God's Son. Bartimaeus was so happy and surprised by this miracle! He was filled with joy and wonder. He decided to follow Jesus and learn more about Him. When Jesus stopped to show compassion to Bartimaeus, it changed his life forever! Jesus showed us what a difference we can make when we **make time to help others.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Take Time

Jesus Heals Bartimaeus
Mark 10:46-52

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Make time to help others.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.



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MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing



*2. EYE HEART

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper plates, markers, and completed example

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a paper plate and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on the back of their plate.
- Direct the kids to place the plate on top of their heads.
- Explain that you will give them directions on what to draw while holding the plate on their head.
- Encourage kids to do their best to follow your directions even though they can't see what they're drawing.
- Share the following instructions:
 - Step 1: Draw a large heart, taking up as much of the plate as you can.
 - Step 2: Draw an oval in the middle of the heart.
 - Step 3: Draw a small circle inside the oval.
 - Step 4: Draw an even smaller circle in the middle of that circle, and color that small circle in.
- Invite kids to take their plates off their heads, and look at their pictures.
- Reveal your example during the conversation below.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job on your drawings! What do you think it resembles? *(Invite responses. Show the kids your example if they're not able to tell what they've illustrated. It's an eye inside a heart.)* Does it look exactly like an eye with a heart around it? Maybe not. It's so much easier to draw when we can look at the paper to see what we're doing.

"Sometimes, we need help to see who Jesus is. What are some things we can do to learn more about Jesus? *(Invite responses, like: going to Small Group, reading the Bible, praying, asking questions, etc.)* As we grow and learn more about Jesus, it's important to help others see who He is too. Bartimaeus experienced God's love and compassion because Jesus took the time to help him. We can help others see who Jesus is when we **make time to help others**. As we follow Jesus, God wants to help us not only see people who need help, but to also be the ones to do something about it."

[Make It Personal] (Recall a time you were busy but still chose to stop and help someone. What did you do? Were you glad you took the time to help? How did the person react?)



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

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HOME

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MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery



3. HIDE IT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at Matthew 5:16, butcher paper or poster board, permanent marker, and sticky notes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to form a circle.
- Place a piece of butcher paper (or poster board) in the center of the group.
- Give one kid who would like to read aloud the marked Bible.
- Invite the kid with the Bible to open the Bible to Matthew 5:16 and read it out loud to the group.
- Write the verse in big letters on the paper as they read.
- Invite anyone else who would also like to read the verse out loud, or invite the entire group to recite the verse together.
- Give each kid a sticky note.
- Share that the goal is to cover the verse with their sticky notes—but with a twist!
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes and then blindly place their sticky note on the butcher paper (or poster board).
- Attempt to read the verse despite it being covered, and invite the kids to join you.
- Share that a sticky note must be touching the verse to count.
 - If a kid's note isn't touching any part of the verse, instruct them to remove it and try again.
- Pause between each round to read the verse.
- Continue with additional sticky notes until most or all of the verse is covered, and the kids can recite the verse from memory.

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Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's needs

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we share the love of Jesus with others, it's like turning on a bright light. In our story today, Bartimaeus couldn't see, but he heard Jesus and called out to Him for help. Jesus stopped and showed him compassion. When we help others and shine God's light, it's like passing on Jesus' love to them. So, let's remember to **make time to help others** and be compassionate every day, just like Jesus. That's how we practice this verse!"



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



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4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group in half.
- Direct one-half of the kids to form a circle with their backs toward the center.
- Instruct the other half of the kids to form an outer circle facing the kids on the inside circle.
- Invite the kids to pray for the kid facing them, silently.
- Invite kids to ask God to help the kid in front of them see the needs of others this week.
 - Offer some specific examples, like:
 - looking for someone who needs help with their homework
 - recognizing someone who needs a friend during recess
 - helping a family member who needs help around the house
 - noticing a stranger who needs a smile, etc.
- Close the group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for the reminder that sometimes we may not see the needs of others unless we stop and look closely. Please help us have compassion so we can recognize and respond to the needs of those around us. Help us to be mindful of the people we see every day, and give us the courage to reach out and help them in any way we can. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their paper plate and explain what an eye and heart had to do with today's story.