



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Comfort Stations" Activity Page, battery operated tea lights, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to share some ways they can feel God's comfort.
- Highlight the following three ways God shows us comfort as you tape each sign from the "Comfort Stations" Activity Page to different walls in your group space:
 - The Bible
 - Prayer
 - People
- *NOTE: If using wall space is not an option, set the signs out on the floor in different parts of your group space.*
- Place a tea light near each sign.
- Explain that after you read a scenario, kids should stand near the sign that shows how they would prefer to feel God's comfort if that happened to them.
 - Emphasize kids may have different responses, and that is expected!
- **Scenarios:**
 - You tried out for the soccer team but didn't make the cut.
 - There's a kid at school who keeps teasing you.
 - Your cat runs away, and you don't think you're going to find it.
 - You failed a big science test, and it's a huge portion of your grade.
 - You auditioned for the school play but didn't get the lead role like you were hoping.
 - Your parents are arguing—a lot.
 - Your best friend moves away.
 - You have to switch to a new school, and you're nervous about not knowing anyone.
 - You break your ankle jumping on a trampoline.
 - You're in an argument with your friends and you feel lonely.
- Repeat until every scenario card has been read.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Why do you think we sometimes want to experience comfort in different ways?
 - Is it difficult to know how someone else may want to be comforted? Why or why not?
- Remind kids that we can comfort others because God comforts us.
 - They can offer to help by simply being WITH them—even if they aren't sure what to say or do.
 - Showing compassion like this to someone else—even in a small way—can shine Jesus' light.
- **[Make it Personal] Tell the kids about a time when you felt God's comfort in some way. Share what happened and explain how you knew God was comforting you.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Carry You

Sharing God's Comfort
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you show someone you care?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Comfort others the way God comforts you.

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.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW] WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:
Ask:

- When do you need comfort?
- How does God comfort you?
- What does comfort have to do with compassion?
- How did Jesus set an example for showing compassion to others?
- How can you show someone you care?

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WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Invite kids to spread out in your group.
- Encourage kids to take some quiet time to write a letter to God about something going on in their lives—something difficult or challenging. It might be something at school, at home, with friends, etc.
- Explain to the group that sometimes writing down our prayers can bring us comfort.
- Remind the kids that God really does listen and care about how we are feeling.
- Invite kids to share with the group something they wrote about if they feel comfortable. Do not pressure anyone to share.
- Encourage kids to take their letters home to one day to remember how God answered their prayer.
- Say a prayer for the entire group, making sure to mention anything that was shared during your discussion.

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