

Alley SG—February 13th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: By Your Side (Jesus Talks with a Woman from Samaria) • *John 4:1-30, 39-42*

Today's Key Question: Who matters to you?

Today's Bottom Line: Show others that they matter.

Monthly Memory Verse: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8 NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Conversation heart candies (1 box per kid) Cups (1 per kid), Bibles

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give each kid a cup and a box of candy.
- Challenge kids to see how many heart candies they can flip into their cup in one minute.
- They can flip the hearts using their thumb and index finger, similar to how you would flip a coin when playing Heads or Tails.
- The kid who gets the most candy hearts in their cup is the winner.
- After a few rounds, discuss the words on the candy hearts.
- Ask:
 - How would you describe the messages on the candy hearts?
 - How can our words show others compassion?
- Encourage kids, using a Bible, to find verses showing how our words can show compassion.
- Below are some example verses, but kids can explore their Bibles to find other verses as well.
 - Proverbs 16:24 – *Kind words are like honey. They are sweet to the spirit and bring healing to the body. (NirV)*
 - Ephesians 4:29 – *Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen. (NirV)*
 - Philippians 1:3 – *I thank God every time I remember you. (NirV)*
- Ask kids to read the verses they find to the group. Discuss as a group what the verses tell us about showing compassion.
- Wrap up this activity by reviewing the memory verse, Micah 6:8.
 - Say: Think of how Jesus interacted with the Samaritan woman. What did Jesus show us that was good?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Prepared containers of popcorn kernels (2 per group), with 3 red kernels in each, mobile device timer

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Ask:
 - Where are some places in your neighborhood? *This should be fast-paced. Tick off the examples with your fingers. Stop when you get to five or eight or when kids run out of examples.*
 - Who is in your neighborhood? *Again, this should be fast paced. Tick off the examples with your fingers. Stop when you get to 10 or when kids run out of examples.*
- Set a couple of containers of popcorn kernels in the center of the circle. (kids can compete in pairs, teams or individually).
- Allow kids to take turns searching for the three red kernels, pulling only the red ones out of the container.

- Give each kid a 30-second time limit.
- If kids find all three red kernels before everyone has a chance to search, put them back into the container and mix it up again.
- Say: You had to really be intentional about noticing the color of the kernels otherwise it was easy to overlook and miss the red ones. It is like that with the people in your neighborhood, too. If you aren't intentional about noticing the people around you, you could overlook them.
- Ask:
 - Can you give an example of someone who might get overlooked? (*Remind kids not to share names or identifying details about someone else, especially someone other kids in the group might know.*)
 - Is there a time you felt invisible or overlooked? [**Make it Personal**] (**Share about a time someone showed you compassion when you were feeling invisible or left out.**)
 - When is it easy to show compassion to someone in your neighborhood?
 - When is it hard?
 - Say, "Jesus always cared about others. Especially those that would often get overlooked. We can be like Jesus and show compassion to others, and be mindful of people that are often overlooked by others. God can help us show compassion!"

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

Ask:

- Read Matthew 22:37-38. Who are your neighbors? Who do you think Jesus would say are your neighbors?
- Why is it important to show others they matter?
- How has someone made you feel like you mattered? What did they do?
- When have you felt lonely or like you didn't matter?
- How can we tell when someone may be feeling like they don't matter? How could we show compassion in those situations?

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids together and sit down.
- Select one kid to stand in front of the group.
- Ask them to strike a pose and hold it for five seconds.
- Instruct the rest of the group to count to five.
- At the count of five, everyone in the group (except the kid striking a pose) should put their head down and close their eyes.
- Quietly tell the kid standing up to change one thing about their appearance.
 - For example, untie their shoes, tuck or un-tuck their shirt, remove glasses, remove a watch, and place it on the other wrist, etc.
- Once the kid has finished changing their appearance, everyone else can open their eyes and try to figure out what has changed.
- The kid who guesses correctly gets to stand in the center of the circle next.

What You Say:

“This was a fun activity to show you how easily it is to overlook others, or to miss little details. We may not notice the small things, but God can help us to notice others and to show them His love. Let’s always remember to be mindful of others, especially those that are often overlooked!”

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Paper (1/2 sheets one per group per service)
, pens or markers

What You Do:

- Write the following sentences one at a time on a paper. Challenge kids to read the sentences:
 - OUR M1ND5 C4N D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!
 - C0mp45510n
 - I L0V3 J35U5!
 - WH0 M4TT3R5 2 Y0U?
- Explain that to make sense of these sentences you had to overlook the fact some of the letters were represented by numbers.
 - However, when it comes to people, Jesus’ taught us we shouldn’t overlook people.
 - Everyone matters to Jesus and as His followers, everyone should matter to us.
- Give kids a pen and paper and encourage them to write a prayer using letters, numbers and symbols.
- Encourage kids to see if they can read each other’s prayers.
- Close with prayer.

What You Say:

“God, Thank You! Thank You for sending Jesus to earth to remind us we matter to You! Thank You for sharing the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman to teach us the important of showing compassion. Help us to be intentional this week to observe people and find opportunities to show compassion to others. We ask this in Jesus’ name, amen.”