

Alley SG—February 20th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: All I Need Is a Miracle (Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand) • *John 6:1-13*

Today's Key Question: What do you have that you can use to help others?

Today's Bottom Line: Use what you have to help others.

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: Floor tape, plush toy fish (1 per kid), note cards, Verse Plates (1 set per Group), Bibles, pens, (optional) mobile device timer

What You Do:

- Using masking tape, create a line at one end of your area.
- At the other end of the area, place a "Verse Plate" for each kid.
- Line kids up on the masking tape.
- Challenge kids to a Relay Race.
 - Kids race to the plates at the other end of your area.
 - Once they reach a plate, they place their toy fish on their plate of choice.
 - When their fish is on the plate, they grab the plate and race back to the taped line, without holding the fish to keep it on the plate.
 - If the fish falls off the plate, they must pick it up and start again at the area where the plates are lined up.
 - The first team back to the starting point, with all their plate and fishes, wins the race.
- As kids return to the taped line with a plate, give them a Bible and a pen. Tell kids to look up the verse that is on their plate.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- On a separate note card, tell kids to write what the verse says about how to show compassion.
- Encourage kids to share their verses with the group. What do the verses say about what compassion can look like?
- Verses with potential discussion questions are listed below:
 - Ephesians 4:32: Is forgiving others a way of showing compassion? Why or why not?
 - Micah 6:8: What is mercy? (If necessary, look up a definition on a mobile device.) How is showing mercy a way to show compassion?
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: How can we lift up or encourage other people?
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: What does our attitude have to do with showing compassion? How can being joyful be a way to help others? What about being thankful?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Scenes" Activity Pages (1 set per group), wall tape, markers, sticky notes (5 per student)

What You Do:

- Tape the "Scenes" Activity Pages on a wall.
- Give each kid a marker and several sticky notes.
- Tell kids to look at each scene and think of something they have to help the people in the picture.

- Instruct kids to write their idea on a sticky note and stick it to the wall under the picture.
- Encourage kids to come up with creative and “out of the box” ideas.
- The scenes are:
 - A young kid crying on the playground
 - Someone looking for something
 - A kid in a crowded lunchroom sitting alone
 - A kid on the playground with a deflated basketball
 - A kid yelling at another kid
- Review the scenes and ideas by each scene. Spend time discussing how they could use what they wrote on the sticky notes to help the people in the pictures.
- Ask:
 - No matter where you are, what do you always have that you can use to help others?
 - How can you use your ears to help others? How can you use your eyes to help others? Your hands? Your brain?

What You Say:

“Great job everyone! God has given each and every one of us so many gifts and abilities that He wants to use to help those around us. We can be like Jesus and use what we have to help others. Take some time today to think about what God has given you that you can use to help others!”

3. Just for Fun

What You Need: Plush toy fishes (from Activity 1)

What You Do:

- Pair kids up and have them face each other.
- Place a toy fish on the floor between each pair of kids.
- Kids will play a game of “Head, Shoulder, Knees and Fish.” To play:
 - Call out a series of body parts, e.g., head, shoulder, knees, ears, etc. Kids must touch the body part you call out. Make this fast pace.
 - Randomly say “Fish”.
 - As soon as kids hear “Fish” they grab the fish on the floor between them.
 - The first kid to grab the fish scores a point.
 - Play several rounds.
 - When you are done playing, the kid with the most points is the winner.

What You Say:

“Hmmmmm . . . that was interesting and fun! Luckily, there was plenty of fish to go around in our Bible Story today. Always remember, you can use what you have to help others!”

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What are things you like to do? Challenge kids to think of ways they can use what they enjoy doing to help others.
- What is something you are good at? Challenge kids to think of ways they can use what they are good at doing to help others.
- How could using what you have to help others make a difference in someone’s life?
- What can you do when you want to help someone but you don’t think you have anything to offer?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bibles, Note Cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and read it together.
- Explain one thing we all can do to show compassion is to pray for each other.
- Encourage kids to share a prayer request with the group. ***[Make It Personal] (Be prepared to share an age-appropriate prayer request you have as well.)***
- Encourage kids to write the requests on Note Cards.
- Challenge kids to show compassion by praying for each other this week.
- Close in prayer, incorporating the requests kids shared into your closing prayer.