

Alley SG—February 6th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Reasons Why (Jesus' Mission Statement) • *Luke 4:14-24, 28-30*

Today's Key Question: What's your purpose in life?

Today's Bottom Line: Following Jesus means caring about 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: Jigsaw puzzles (2 per Group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible and look up the memory verse, Micah 6:8.
- Read the verse out loud.
- Ask:
 - What does it mean to be humble?
 - What does being humble have to do with compassion? (*In order to care for someone else, you have to put others ahead of yourself.*)
- Challenge kids to memorize Micah 6:8 this week, and then tell them, "We are going to play a game to practice being humble now!"
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Gather teams at one side of your space.
- Give each team a box of puzzle pieces.
- Identify an area for each team to assemble their puzzle.
- When you say, "Go!" one kid from each team selects a puzzle piece, races to their designated area, and places the piece down.
- If they see any puzzle pieces that can be joined together, they can quickly assemble those pieces before returning to their team.
- Kids continue to select pieces and race to the puzzle until all the pieces are on their team's designated area.
- The kid to place the last puzzle piece on the area assembles as much of the puzzle as they can.
- If they need help, they can shout out, "I need help," and one teammate can run to the puzzle to help.
- If they still need help, they can shout out "I need help," one more time for one more reinforcement.
- The first team to assemble their puzzle wins.
- After a winner is declared, gather the group together to talk about the game and the memory verse.
- Ask:
 - In this relay, to assemble the puzzle you could ask for help from your team. But in life, it isn't always easy to ask for help. Why do we sometimes hesitate to ask for help?
 - ***[Make it Personal] (Share a time someone showed you compassion, and you didn't even have to ask.)***
 - Can you think of a time someone cared enough to help you even though you didn't ask for help?
 - How did it make you feel, knowing someone was paying attention cared enough to help you?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Index cards (3 per student), pens or markers, a container (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Ask: What do you want to be when you are older?
 - Encourage kids to think of three ideas and tell them to write each one on a separate index card.
- Put the index cards in a container.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Teams will compete in a guessing game, similar to the game Fishbowl.
 - There will be three rounds with three different sets of rules.
 - “Clue Givers” have one minute to get their team to guess as many words as possible.
 - Teams score a point for each word they guess correctly.
 - After each round, teams return the clues to the container.
- Round 1:
 - The Clue Giver draws cards and gives verbal clues to their teams; teammates guess what word is on the card.
 - Verbal clues cannot be “sounds like” or a clue how to spell the word. For example, “it starts with a G.”
- Round 2:
 - Teams select a new Clue Giver.
 - The Clue Giver draws cards and acts out clues for their team to guess the word on their slip of paper.
 - Just like in charades, the Clue Giver cannot make a sound.
- Round 3:
 - Teams select a new Clue Giver.
 - The Clue Giver draws cards and gives one-word clues to their teammates.

Note: Although giving clues gets more difficult in each subsequent round, as they play the game in Round 2, kids are also forming a mental “word bank” for later rounds.

- Declare the team with the most points at the end of Round 3 the winner.
- Gather kids in a circle and ask:
 - Is having a job the same thing as having a purpose? Encourage kids to explain their answer.
 - What do you think your purpose is in life?
 - Is it the same as what God’s purpose for us is?

3. Discussion Questions

- How does Jesus show compassion to you?
- What are some things we can do to show compassion to others?
- When have you seen someone caring for some else’s needs?
- When is it hard to show compassion?
- What if you notice someone needs something but you aren’t sure what to do? For example, you notice your friend seems sad but you don’t know why or what to do?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Paper, pens or markers

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to create an acrostic prayer using the word “COMPASSION” (an example is below.)
- Encourage them to include ways they might show compassion.
 - **C**ompassion is so important to you God.
 - **O**ne thing I can do this week is to
 - **M**ow the lawn to help my parents
 - **P**erhaps I can help my brother with his homework
 - **A**nd walk the dog.
 - **S**ometimes it is hard to see how I can help others
 - **S**o I need You God to help me
 - **I**nstead of focusing on what I want
 - **O**pen my eyes to see where I can help others
 - **N**ever forgetting the ways Jesus cared for my needs.
- Encourage kids to share their prayers with the group.
- Close with prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You are compassionate! You care enough about us to provide for us, to help us, and to guide us. Even when we don’t know what to do, You are always there to help us. Thank You for caring enough about us to send Jesus to rescue us so we can be with You now and forever. Help us to follow Jesus’ example and show compassion to others. Amen!”