



WEEK TWO – SEPTEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *More Than Enough* | John 6:1-13

Bottom Line: *Use what you have to help others*

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.”. – Matt. 5:14-16 (NIRV)*

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*

Series Overview: Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, or teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It’s like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn’t always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. We are reflections of Who God is, and as we “Live Bright” this month, we’ll discover exactly how we can shine God’s light.

Bottom Line: **Use what you have to help others.** Some light is better than no light.

Whether it’s a flashlight lighting up what’s in front of you or a spotlight illuminating the whole stage, each light impacts those who need it. God has given each of us something we can offer to help someone else—whether we have a lot or only a little. Any amount of light can make a difference in someone’s life.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Flashlight; Timer

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Instruct the group to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid in the circle a flashlight.
- Explain that you will set a timer for 15 seconds.
- During those 15 seconds, kids will pass the flashlight around the circle.
- When the timer goes off, whoever is left holding the flashlight should share a time they brightened someone's day.
- Set a timer for 15 seconds and begin the game.
- When the timer goes off, ask the kid with the flashlight to share with the group a time they brightened someone's day.
 - Some suggestions might include:
 - helping a parent with a specific chore
 - opening the door for someone
 - helping a friend with their homework
 - sharing their lunch or snack with someone
 - inviting someone to play with them, etc.
- Repeat several times.

What You Say:

“Those are some amazing ways you brightened someone's day. So many of you did something to help someone else or shared something that you had. *[Transition]*”

Today we'll discover how one boy brightened a lot of people's day by sharing what he had."

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we read about a massive miracle found in John 6:1-13. Jesus had just crossed over the Sea of Galilee with His disciples when a massive crowd arrived. Jesus knew that the people would be hungry . . . and instead of sending them on their way, He had compassion on them and fed them. With a little boy's small meal of only five loaves and two fish, Jesus turned a small amount of food into a huge blessing.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Little To More

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Large index cards, scissors, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen or pencil.
- Brainstorm ways kids can use what they have to help others.
 - Some suggestions include:
 - sharing something they have
 - showing compassion to someone who is hurting
 - listening to someone talk
 - helping someone with their homework

- doing things for friends and family
- explaining a verse, sharing God’s love with others
- volunteering at church or in your community
- hugging someone who is having a bad day, etc.
- Instruct the kids to write their ideas on how they can help others in the center of the card.
- When done, ask the group to count how many corners their card has (four).
- Give each kid a pair of scissors.
- Encourage kids to cut off one corner of their index card and give it to someone in the group.
- When done, ask them to count how many corners the card they’re holding now has (five).
- Encourage kids to cut off a different corner of the index card they’re holding and give it to someone in the group.
- Repeat several times.
- Ask kids to count the corners on the card they’re holding when they’re done.

What You Say:

“Did you notice the more corners you cut off, the more the corners kept multiplying? How is this like our Bible Story today? (Invite responses, like: the more Jesus divided the bread and fish, the more He had to give away; the people had more than enough, etc.)

“You may not feel like you have a lot to give, but Jesus can use whatever you have. You can give by offering your time or help to others. For example, if you notice a classmate looking upset or lonely, you could invite them to join in your game or conversation. Or when you see someone struggling to carry heavy bags or books, you can offer to help them carry their load.

*“Can you think of other ways you can use what you know or have to help others? (Invite responses.) When you choose to trust Jesus and offer what you have, He can use it to meet the needs of other people in a big way. We can show compassion when we **[Bottom Line] use what you have to help others.**”*

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time you used your talent/skill/time to show compassion to someone. Maybe you noticed a neighbor’s garden looking overgrown and you weeded it. Maybe you took the initiative to help someone clean up after a gathering. Or you told the cashier who was having a bad day that you would pray for them.)

Roll the Dice Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page, spatula, and dice

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Matthew 5:16 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 5.
- Read the verse together several times.
- Leave one Bible open to Matthew 5:16 so the group can use it as a reference.
- Instruct the kids to sit in a close circle.
- Set out the cards from the “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page in the middle of the circle, facedown.

- Invite each kid to flip over a card using the spatula.
- Direct the entire group to work together to arrange the cards in verse order.
- Instruct the kids to read the completed verse a few times.
- Give one kid a dice to go first.
- Direct the kids to take turns rolling the dice, inviting the kid with the dice to go first.
 - If the kid rolls a 1-5, instruct the kid to remove that number of cards from the verse.
 - If the kid rolls a 6, instruct the entire group to stand up, walk around the circle once, and sit down in their original spot.
- After each kid in the circle has rolled the dice and removed the designated number of cards, lead the group to recite the verse.
- Choose another kid to roll the dice.
- Continue until all of the cards have been removed and the group can recite the verse from memory.

What You Say:

*“Jesus wants us to know that our actions have the power to shine God’s light to the world around us, drawing attention to God’s goodness. When we use what we have to help others, whether it’s a smile, a kind word, a helpful hand, or sharing our lunch, we’re letting God’s light shine brightly through us. So, let’s go out there and make a difference in the lives of those around us, so others get to know God through our actions. **[Bottom Line] Use what you have to help others.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.

- Ask: “What’s one skill, talent, or thing you possess that you can use to help others around you?”
- Invite any kids who would like to share to do so.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for the opportunity to learn more about shining Your light in the world. Help us to see how we can use the skills, talents, and resources You have given us to help others. May we be instruments of Your love and kindness, reaching out to others with compassion. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share one way they’re going to practice and remember to [Bottom Line] use what you have to help others.