



WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Jesus Heals Bartimaeus | Mark 10:46-52*

Bottom Line: *Make time 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 (NIV)*

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: Make time to help others. Think back to a moment when someone helped you learn a new skill or helped you with a school project. How did you feel in that moment? When we make time to help others, we reflect Who Jesus is to them. Not only can we make a lasting impact in their life, but the act of showing compassion changes us too.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Use the painter’s tape to make a line, the length of all of your kids side-by-side, on one end of your group space.
- Direct the kids to line up, side by side, behind the tape line.
- Stand at the other end of your group space, facing the kids.
- Let the kids know that for the first round, you will be the ‘Traffic Light’.
- Explain that you will call out two commands for them to follow.
- Share the two commands and their directions:
 - “Green light”—move forward towards you
 - “Red light”—immediately freeze in place
 - Share that kids who are caught moving after this command are to return to the starting line.
- Designate the first kid to reach you as the new “Traffic Light” for the next round.
- Begin the game by calling out one of the commands, and repeat.
- When you call out, “red light,” look for kids who are still moving to return to the starting line.
- Continue additional rounds, as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Great job! Do you think it was easier to move forward or to have to stop? (Invite responses.) [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and hear about a time Jesus stopped and showed compassion to someone who needed it.”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 3, we head to Mark 10:46-52. Jesus was headed out of the city with His disciples and a crowd in tow. Even though there were several people surrounding Jesus, one voice stood out above the others. A man named Bartimaeus, who was blind, sat on the side of the road begging for help. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, he shouted to ask Jesus for mercy. The crowd tried to shush Bartimaeus, but Jesus brought him forward and made time for him, changing his life forever.

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

Match + Tell

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Story Sequence” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Shuffle the cards from the “Story Sequence” Activity Pages and lay them out facedown, in a grid pattern.
- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Direct each pair to take turns flipping over two cards, trying to find a match.
- When a pair finds a match, instruct the pair of kids to try to retell that part of the story to the rest of the group.
- Choose a pair of kids to begin the game.
- Continue playing until all the pairs have been found and the story has been reviewed.

- Challenge the kids to arrange the cards in story order, and review the story one more time.

What You Say:

*“How did Jesus show compassion to Bartimaeus? (Invite responses, like: Jesus stopped to talk to and heal Bartimaeus.) Even, though Jesus was very busy, He stopped to help Bartimaeus. More importantly, Bartimaeus believed Jesus to be God’s Son. Bartimaeus was so happy and surprised by this miracle! He was filled with joy and wonder. He decided to follow Jesus and learn more about Him. When Jesus stopped to show compassion to Bartimaeus, it changed his life forever! Jesus showed us what a difference we can make when we **[Bottom Line] make time to help others.**”*

Eye Heart

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Paper plates, markers, and completed example

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper plate and a marker.
- Instruct the kids to write their names on the back of their plate.
- Direct the kids to place the plate on top of their heads.
- Explain that you will give them directions on what to draw while holding the plate on their head.
- Encourage kids to do their best to follow your directions even though they can’t see what they’re drawing.
- Share the following instructions:
 - Step 1: Draw a large heart, taking up as much of the plate as you can.
 - Step 2: Draw an oval in the middle of the heart.
 - Step 3: Draw a small circle inside the oval.

- o Step 4: Draw an even smaller circle in the middle of that circle, and color that small circle in.
- Invite kids to take their plates off their heads, and look at their pictures.
- Reveal your example during the conversation below.

What You Say:

“Great job on your drawings! What do you think it resembles? (Invite responses. Show the kids your example if they’re not able to tell what they’ve illustrated. It’s an eye inside a heart.) Does it look exactly like an eye with a heart around it? Maybe not. It’s so much easier to draw when we can look at the paper to see what we’re doing.

*“Sometimes, we need help to see who Jesus is. What are some things we can do to learn more about Jesus? (Invite responses, like: going to Small Group, reading the Bible, praying, asking questions, etc.) As we grow and learn more about Jesus, it’s important to help others see who He is too. Bartimaeus experienced God’s love and compassion because Jesus took the time to help him. We can help others see who Jesus is when we **[Bottom Line] make time to help others**. As we follow Jesus, God wants to help us not only see people who need help, but to also be the ones to do something about it.”*

[Make It Personal] (Recall a time you were busy but still chose to stop and help someone. What did you do? Were you glad you took the time to help? How did the person react?)”

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:

- Divide your group in half.

- Direct one-half of the kids to form a circle with their backs toward the center.
- Instruct the other half of the kids to form an outer circle facing the kids on the inside circle.
- Invite the kids to pray for the kid facing them, silently.
- Invite kids to ask God to help the kid in front of them see the needs of others this week.
 - Offer some specific examples, like:
 - looking for someone who needs help with their homework
 - recognizing someone who needs a friend during recess
 - helping a family member who needs help around the house
 - noticing a stranger who needs a smile, etc.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for the reminder that sometimes we may not see the needs of others unless we stop and look closely. Please help us have compassion so we can recognize and respond to the needs of those around us. Help us to be mindful of the people we see every day, and give us the courage to reach out and help them in any way we can. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their paper plate and explain what an eye and heart had to do with today’s story.