



WEEK FOUR – SEPTEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Sharing God's Comfort | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

Bottom Line: *Comfort others the way God comforts you*

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: Comfort others the way God comforts you. What brings you the most comfort? Maybe it's a blanket, ice cream, or giving your pet a big squeeze. Maybe it's talking with a friend or binge-watching your favorite show. As good as those choices may be, the best comfort of all comes from God. And because of God's comfort towards us, we can be a comfort to others too.

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: Strips of Paper; Markers; Stapler

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Ask: “What are some ways people can experience comfort when they feel sad, afraid, or worried?”
- Some ideas might include:
 - getting help from a friend or family member
 - receiving a treat
 - giving someone a hug
 - someone listening, etc.
- Give each kid a strip of paper and a marker.
- Direct the kids to write down or draw one way of experiencing comfort on their strip of paper.
- Once everyone has finished, invite kids to take turns standing in front of the group to act out the comfort action.
- Instruct the rest of the group to try to guess what the kid is acting out.
- After each round, staple each strip of paper into a circle, linking them together to create a “comfort chain.”

What You Say:

“I love your ideas on how you can comfort others. Next time we come across someone who is sad, afraid, or worried, we can think of the ideas on our ‘comfort chain’ to offer compassion to them. We can also think about which of these things would help us feel better next time we need to experience comfort. [Transition] Today we’re going to discover where all comfort truly comes from!”

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

Large Group Overview: For Week 4, we head to 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Paul was writing a letter to the church in Corinth in which he shared about the troubles he and Timothy had faced. Yet in the midst of all their difficulties, Paul and Timothy were still able to praise God because of the comfort God offered them. In this passage, Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to offer comfort to others who were in trouble because of the comfort they had experienced from God.

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

Comforting Others

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page, and “Comfort Scenarios” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Set out the cards from the “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page, face down in the middle of the circle.
- Give each kid a card from the “Comfort Scenarios” Activity Page.

- One at a time, go around the circle and invite the kids to take turns turning over a card from the “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page in the middle of the circle.
 - If the kid thinks the card they turned over is a way to show comfort that matches their card from the “Comfort Scenarios” Activity Page, direct them to keep the card and explain to the group why it’s a match.
 - If the kid does not think the card is a match, direct the kid to return the card to the middle, facedown, and take another turn after the rest of the kids have gone.
- Repeat until kids have found and discussed a match for their card from the “Comfort Scenarios” Activity Page.
- Collect the cards from the “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page to be used again during the Pray and Dismiss Activity.

What You Say:

“Those are all wonderful ideas to comfort someone. Did you know that Jesus showed us what it looks like when God comforts people? Today, we heard that all comfort comes from God. Can you think of times when God has comforted you? (Invite responses.)

*“We can ask God for comfort when we’re feeling sad or scared. God can work through other people to comfort us, and God can use us to comfort others! So, what are some ways you can comfort those who are feeling down and sad? (Invite responses.) Maybe you can offer to play a game with them or just listen to them. Or maybe you can ask an adult to help. We can show compassion to someone who needs it. **[Bottom Line] Comfort others the way God comforts you.**”*

Sound Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Memory Verse Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Set out the “Memory Verse Cards” in verse order.
- Invite the kids to gather around the cards.
- Read the verse to the group.
- Encourage the kids to recite the verse a few times.
- Explain kids will take turns substituting a sound effect for different phrases in the verse.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Instruct that kid to pick any card/phrase from the verse.
- Direct that kid to choose a sound they want to replace that phrase of the verse with.
- Instruct that kid to read the verse—replacing the phrase they chose with the sound effect they chose.
- Invite the rest of the group to recite the verse in the same way.
- Choose another kid to do the same thing with a different phrase.
- Instruct that kid to read the verse—replacing the phrase they chose and incorporating the previous sound effect as well.
- Invite the rest of the group to also say the verse with both sound substitutions.
- Continue this way until everyone has had a chance to substitute a phrase with a sound.
- By the end, there may be more sounds than words.

What You Say:

*“Jesus wanted us to shine our light by doing good deeds so others can see Him through our actions. One way we can do that is to **[Bottom Line] comfort others the way God comforts you.** God's love and comfort are like a warm hug when we're feeling sad or scared. And just like God comforts us, we can comfort others when they're feeling down or upset. We shine our light when we offer comfort and support to those who need it. When we do these things, we're sharing God's love with the world.”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page from Comforting Others Activity

What You Do:

- Give each kid a card from the “Comfort Challenge” Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to take a few minutes to think of someone they know who needs comfort in a similar situation to the one on their card, or in any situation they can think of.
- Encourage the kids to pray for that person, and give kids a moment to do so.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for comforting us when we need it most. Help us to be a source of comfort to others, just as You comfort us. Help us to remember to show compassion to those in need. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share today’s [Bottom Line] “comfort others the way God comforts you.”