



WEEK FOUR – SEPTEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

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

What You Need: “Letter Template” Activity Page, small box, heart or dot stickers, and markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Ask: “Have you ever received a letter or written a letter to someone before and it has traveled through the mail?”
- Give each kid a “Letter Template” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers or crayons.
- Point out the top of the “Letter Template” Activity Page that says: “Dear _____”.
- Encourage kids to think of a friend they’d like to write a letter to.
- Help them write that person’s name in the blank.
- Direct kids to fill the open space of the letter by drawing a picture or writing a few words.
 - Give kids a few ideas of what they could write or draw about: they can write or draw about what they’ve been learning, something that happened at school or in their family, something funny their pet did, etc.
 - Help with writing, or captioning their pictures, as needed.
- Point out the bottom of the “Letter Template” Activity Page that says: “From, _____”.
- Ask kids to write their name in the blank so the friend knows who the letter is from.
 - Be prepared to help as needed.
- Show the kids how to fold the letter into thirds.

- Demonstrate how to place a heart or dot sticker on the flap to seal the letter.
- Write each kid’s name somewhere inconspicuously on the outside so you can easily hand the “letters” back out later.
- Talk about how we mail letters by placing them in our mailbox for the letter carrier to pick up.
- Set out the small box.
- Encourage the kids to place their letters into the box provided.
- Explain that you are pretending to send them by placing them in the box, and that you’ll give them back later if they would like to take their letters home and deliver them to their friends.

What You Say:

“You are all really great letter writers! Before emails, text messages, and phone calls, people would send letters to each other in the mail all the time! [Transition] Today, we’ll hear some words from a letter written by Paul to a group of people in a town called Corinth. Let’s find out the message Paul wanted them to know!”

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

Sharing Comfort

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Stuffed Animal

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Invite kids to share what brings them comfort when they are feeling upset or lonely.
- Remind kids that Paul wrote in his letter about how God comforts us in all our troubles and that all comfort comes from God.
- If it hasn't already been mentioned, talk about how some people might find comfort from a warm blanket, a soft pillow, or a cuddly stuffed animal.
- Invite kids to stand up.
- Give one kid the pillow or stuffed animal to hold.
- Instruct the kid who has the pillow or stuffed animal to squeeze it, say the ***[Bottom Line]*** **comfort others the way God comforts you**, and pass it around the circle.
- When the pillow or stuffed animal has gone around the circle, ask the kid holding the pillow or stuffed animal one of the questions below.
- Invite the rest of the kids to contribute additional ideas.
- Questions:
 - What words could you say to someone feeling sad?
 - What words could you say to someone feeling lonely?
 - How could you help a kid who is missing their parent?
 - How could you help a kid who got hurt on the playground?

- Can you think of a time you had to do something hard? What helped you?
- As the kids respond, be sure to remind them that God is always with them, that they can be present with someone, and they can get an adult to help.

What You Say:

*“Do you know that God is always with you? (Yes!) Can you trust God no matter what? (Yes!) Will God take care of us? (Yes!) When we face hard things, we aren’t alone. God’s Word reminds us that God is with us, ready to show us compassion and love. And because God comforts us in our troubles, we can comfort others. So this week, when you feel sad about something, talk to God. Remember that God is with you. And if you see someone who is sad, remind them that God is with them too. Ask God to help you **[Bottom Line]** comfort others the way God comforts you.”*

Tap Light Memory Verse

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Memory Verse Phrases” Activity Page; Tap lights

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the marked Bible to Matthew 5:16.
- Read the verse aloud.
- Choose a kid who would like to read or recite the verse to the group.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Direct both teams to line up, single file, on one side of your group space.
- Set a tap light in front of each team’s line.
- Place a set of cards from the “Memory Verse Phrases” Activity Page on the opposite side of your group space, across from each team.
- When you say, “Go!” instruct the first kid on each team to:
 - Tap their team’s light to turn it on.

- Run to grab one card from their team’s pile.
- Return to their team’s light to tap it off.
- Proceed to the end of their team’s line.
- Once their team light has been tapped off, instruct the next kid in line to start the process, repeat it, and continue until all their team’s cards have been retrieved.
- Start the game by saying, “Go!”
- When teams have retrieved all their verse cards, challenge them to work together to put the phrases in the correct order.
 - Point out the faint numbers at the bottom of the cards that kids can use to order the verse.
 - Share that if kids hold the cards over the tap light, they’ll be able to see the numbers more clearly.
- Once a team has arranged all their cards, instruct them to tap their light “off” and sit down so you can check their verse.
- If a team’s cards need to be re-arranged, tap their light “on” and ask them to try again.
- Celebrate the team that has all their cards in order first as the winning team.

What You Say:

“That was fun to see you working together! Great job putting the cards in order! When we shine God’s light, what does our verse say will happen? (Invite responses.) Others will see the good things we do and praise God! God is the One who shows compassion to us, so we can show compassion to others!”

*“One big way to shine God’s light and show compassion is by comforting others when they’re sad or hurt. We can help, listen, and show love to people who are hurting or need some encouragement. We can use kind words, offer a high five or smile, and pray for our friends and family. This week, with God’s help, you can show compassion and **[Bottom Line]** comfort others the way God comforts you.”*

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:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a close circle.
- Encourage kids to think of a friend who was sad, lonely, frustrated, or worried recently.
- Remind kids that one big way they can **[Bottom Line] comfort others the way God comforts you** is by praying for their friends!
- Encourage the kids to bow their heads and pray for the person they thought of.
- Close the group in prayer, asking God to help the kids look for ways to comfort others and show compassion this week.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and showing us compassion every day. When we face situations that make us sad, or unsure, or fearful, or frustrated, help us trust You and remember that You are with us. Thank You for the friends we’ve prayed for today. Help us to shine Your light and show compassion by comforting our friends. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, send kids home with their “Letter Template” Activity Pages. Encourage kids to talk about ways we can shine God’s light to [Bottom Line] comfort others the way God comforts you.