



WEEK THREE – SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When has someone made time for 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. 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. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn’t just to bring joy into each other’s lives, but also to bring glory to God. 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: **When has someone made time for you?** Whether you’re seven or 77, it feels good when people make an effort to spend time with you. It especially means a lot when someone is busy and they go out of their way to make you feel seen or welcomed. The same is true when we take the time to see others. This question allows preteens to think about other people in a different context, and invites them to explore the bigger world around them and how they can make a difference.

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: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Choose two kids who don't mind being the center of attention to go first.
- Explain that they are going to work together to tell a story.
- Direct them to sit, facing each other, in front of the group.
 - They will tell a story by alternating single words to formulate sentences. For example:
 - Kid 1: *Once*
 - Kid 2: *Upon*
 - Kid 1: *A*
 - Kid 2: *Time*
- They will continue to go back and forth until they have completed a short story.
- After they finish their story, invite two more kids to take a turn.

What You Say:

“What amazing teamwork! In this game, you really had to help each other out!
[Transition] In Large Group today, we'll hear about how Jesus made time to help someone and how it changed that person's life forever.”

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

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - When has someone made time for you?
 - How does it make you feel when someone makes time for you?
 - Do you like receiving help from someone else? Why or why not?
 - Why is time so valuable?
 - What are some ways you can make time to help others?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Prepared “Seek and Find” Activity Page, blindfold, envelope, Bibles

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to gather and form a wide circle.
- Choose a volunteer to stand up. Secure a blindfold over their eyes.
- Explain that you are going to place an envelope somewhere in your group space for them to find by slowly walking around and listening for guidance from the rest of the group.
- Explain the rest of the group will give clue words, like *Hot, Cold, Warm, or Cool* to let the blindfolded kid know whether they are getting closer or farther away from the envelope.
- Set out the envelope and invite the group to start calling out clue words until the blindfolded kid finds it.
- Once they do, help take off their blindfold. Direct them to take one card out of the envelope and hold on to it.
- Repeat with different kids until all the cards have been removed from the envelope.
 - If preferred, you can give each kid a turn even after all the cards have been removed.
- Give each kid who has a card a Bible and ask them to look up the verse reference written on it.
 - Allow kids to help each other with finding the verses if needed.
- Give each kid a turn to read their verse out loud for the entire group.
- After each verse, ask:
 - What stands out to you about this verse?
 - What does it have to do with helping others?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Prayer Plan” Activity Page, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Direct kids to spread out in your group space.
- Explain that when we pay more attention to others, we are more likely to notice what they need.
 - We may not be able to plan for those needs, but we can practice making ourselves aware and available.
 - One way we can help others is by spending time praying for them.
- Give each kid a copy of the “Prayer Plan” Activity Page and a pen or pencil.
- Direct kids to write their names at the top of their Activity Page.
- Give kids time to think of how they can make a plan to pray throughout the week.
 - They can take time to write in the space provided on their “Prayer Plan” Activity Page about how they plan to pray and who they plan to pray for.
- Offer suggestions if kids need prompting for ideas on when to pray, where to pray, etc.
- Ask for a volunteer to pray for the group before you dismiss.