



WEEK FOUR – SEPTEMBER 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *How can you show someone you care?*

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: **How can you show someone you care?** Sometimes it's so easy to get lost in our own problems that we forget the needs of those around us. Yet God created us to be in community with one another, showing love and compassion. We can do that through physical actions or words of encouragement. We hope this question gets preteens thinking about ways they can make a difference in someone else's life by showing God's love.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Paper, pens or pencils, bowl, dry erase board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Give each kid a small piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Ask kids to think of something that brings them comfort and write it down on their piece of paper. (i.e.: blanket, chocolate chip cookies, a hug from Mom, etc.)
- Set out the bowl in front of the group.
- Tell them to fold their paper and place it in the bowl.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Tell them to choose a piece of paper from the bowl and draw what it says on the dry erase board.
- Direct the rest of the group to guess what that kid is drawing.
- Whoever guesses correctly can be the next person to draw.
- Continue to play as time allows, giving as many kids as possible a turn to draw.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job of drawing the things that bring us comfort! *[Transition]*
Today, we’re going to discover just how important comfort really is and the source of where it ALL 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

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 do you need comfort?
 - How does God comfort you?
 - What does comfort have to do with compassion?
 - How did Jesus set an example for showing compassion to others?
 - How can you show someone you care?

Verses to Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: “Lantern Light” Activity Page, scissors, markers, tape, Bibles, battery-operated tea lights, dry erase board with dry erase marker

What You Do:

- Choose 5 kids who do not mind reading aloud to the group and give each one a Bible.
- Assign each one of the following verses to look up. Allow kids to help each other.
 - Isaiah 41:10
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - Psalm 121:1-2
 - 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - Matthew 5:16
- Write out each verse reference listed on the dry erase board as kids read them.
- Have kids take turns reading their assigned verse out loud to the group.
- Explain that God’s Word can comfort us, but it may feel difficult to know how to find the right verses to help us with what we’re going through.
- Give each kid a “Lantern Light” Activity Page, and a battery-operated tea light.
- Set out the scissors, markers, and tape for the kids to share.
- Tell kids to copy the references from the dry erase board on any 5 strips of their Activity Page and decorate/color the remaining strips however they’d like.
- Direct kids to follow directions on their Activity Page to cut, fold, and assemble their lanterns.
- Provide help as needed.
- As kids finish assembling, give them a battery-operated tea light candle.
- Encourage kids to place their lanterns somewhere at home as a reminder of God’s comfort.

- o When they are going through a tough time, they can be reminded of some verses to look up that will help them remember God is with them.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Paper, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Invite kids to spread out in your group.
- Encourage kids to take some quiet time to write a letter to God about something going on in their lives—something difficult or challenging. It might be something at school, at home, with friends, etc.
- Explain to the group that sometimes writing down our prayers can bring us comfort.
- Remind the kids that God really does listen and care about how we are feeling.
- Invite kids to share with the group something they wrote about if they feel comfortable. Do not pressure anyone to share.
- Encourage kids to take their letters home to one day to remember how God answered their prayer.
- Say a prayer for the entire group, making sure to mention anything that was shared during your discussion.