



COMPASSION | WEEK 2 | SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

## Elementary Lesson

# More Than Enough

**Monthly Virtue:** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else’s needs

**Bible Story:** More Than Enough (Jesus Feeds 5,000) • *John 6:1-13*

**Key Question:** When is it hard for you to have compassion? What do you think God could do if you had faith in that situation?

**Basic Truth:** I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

**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.” *Matthew 5:16 (NirV)*

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*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. 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.*

**Key Question:** When is it hard for you to have compassion? What do you think God could do if you had faith in that situation? When you think of light, do you typically think about the brightest light in the sky, or the little light emitting from your phone? When you're in the dark, either one could come in handy and help get you where you need to go. This question is a great way to engage preteens in moving from seeing light to being a light, making a difference right now with what they have.

In week 2, we read about a massive miracle found in **John 6:1-13**. Jesus had just crossed over the Sea of Galilee with His disciples when a massive crowd arrived. Jesus knew that the people would be hungry . . . and instead of sending them on their way, He had compassion on them and fed them. With a little boy's small meal of only five loaves and two fish, Jesus turned a small amount of food into a huge blessing.

#### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

#### Morning Flow

Doors Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group Starts  
10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE TWISTED)** “This is specifically for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders: We have a special event that’s just for YOU and YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS! On September 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 PM, we are having a game of kickball. But not just regular kickball – TWISTED KICKBALL! We will be celebrating your whole 5<sup>th</sup> grade year by having extra fun that’s just for you guys. We are *kicking* off the year with kickball. We’ve got some fun surprises for you, so you don’t want to miss it! Make sure you register to attend.

**(SLIDE: 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FUNDAY)** “It’s coming up on one of my FAVORITE KidCity holidays at the end of this month...5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY FUNDAY! That’s right, I totally count it as a holiday, because it only comes like 3 or 4 times a year. This month, we are celebrating by having a GLOW party. It’s going to be totally awesome and you’re going to want to bring your friends with you.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (4 Min)

#### PASS THE SHIRT

(2 XXL Shirts)

Today, we are continuing our conversation about COMPASSION. That’s a big word, so let’s define it...

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else’s needs

The greatest example of compassion we have is God caring for us enough to send us a rescuer from the consequences of our sin. God gave us His son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place and then raised Him back to life so we can have a right relationship with Him. Now, we can’t do the

same thing, only Jesus could make a way for us to have a right relationship with God again, BUT we can still have compassion for other people and treat others the way we want to be treated. Check out our monthly verse...

**(SLIDE: 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.” *Matthew 5:16 (NirV)*

More on that later, but for now, let’s play a game!

**(SLIDE: PASS THE SHIRT)**

**(SLIDE: FUN MUSIC)**

**HOW TO PLAY:**

- Split your group into two teams by gender (if possible) and have everyone tuck in their shirt.
- Select two members of each team to be the passers. If you have students who might feel uncomfortable with the size of the shirt, it would be a great idea to make them the passers.
- Have each team make a single fine line. Have the first player in each line put on the oversized shirt. One passer should be on each side of the player wearing the oversized shirt.
- On “Go,” have the second player in each line turn to face the person with the oversized shirt on.
- Both players hold each other’s wrists and make an archway.
- The two passers grab the bottom of the oversized shirt and pull it up and over the connected arms onto the second player.
- Passers must fully pull the oversized shirt onto the second player before that person can turn around and create an archway with the next person in line to keep the game going.
- Do this until the last person has the shirt on. First team to complete this task wins.
- **SUGGESTED VARIATIONS:**
  - If you have lots of kids, put 20 kids per line instead of doing the whole room
  - If you have a smaller amount of kids, have them work together to see how fast they can do it.
  - If you have a smaller amount of kids, make it a relay style race where teams have to go from point A to point B. After they’ve passed on the shirt, they go to the back of the line.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

## **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE, RIVER)**



## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

Ok, I'm going to say a couple of items and I want you all to quickly raise your hands and tell me how each of those things can be used to help someone in need. *(Say 3 things like: tape, fidget, and ping pong ball. Affirm the creative ways that kids can use these items to help others, but don't dwell on them too long.)*

It's always good to get a chance to think about the ways we can help others! Too many of us make excuses for why we can't help others in need. Even someone as old as me has a ton of excuses! Like. . . 'I don't have time to help out.' Or 'I don't have the money to meet their need.' Or even, 'I have never met that person, so why would I help them?'

"Likewise, many of you probably have your reasons for not helping someone out. Maybe you've thought to yourself, 'I'm too young to make a difference. 'Or I don't have money to meet their need.' Or maybe, 'I have to go to practice and can't help right now.'

"But what if the excuses we tell ourselves aren't exactly true? What if we could make a big impact on the lives of others by simply changing the way we view the things we already have? These are great questions for us to think about today.

"In fact, these are the sorts of questions people have been talking about for thousands of years, even back during the time of Jesus! And our story from the Bible reminds us about a few things related to trusting God with what we have to help make a difference in the lives of others. Let's check it out!

### (VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)

I love that Jesus used the faith of the young boy to show everyone how powerful He is. AND, I love that the young boy, in faith, gave what he had even though he didn't know how or if Jesus was going to use it!

COMPASSION and FAITH go hand in hand. We have eyes to see the needs of those around us, we have compassion to move towards those in need, and we have faith that God will use our acts of compassion for our good and His glory.

It can be scary or awkward sometimes to show compassion in a way that isn't easy. Like, when the Holy Spirit - who is God - is prompting you to pray with a friend about a tough time they are going through. We can psych ourselves out of it by thinking that other people will see us and make fun of us for praying, but that's where FAITH comes in. We believe that God can use us to show His love to our friends. We also believe that God can use even our small acts of compassion to make a BIG difference!

Here's the thing...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.

God doesn't always ask us to do GRAND things in faith that a lot of people can see – like going on a mission trip or giving all of your savings to the church as a tithe offering – but He does ask us to trust Him by doing smaller acts of compassion that add up over time. If there is someone in your class who you don't get along with, but you believed that God still wants you to show compassion to them, start by saying hello and smiling at them every time you see them. Can you imagine what that will do to your heart over time? It would probably change it for the better! Can you imagine what that would do in that other kid's life? Who knows? Maybe that kid feels like no one really likes them, but God is showing them through you that He loves them!

We don't always see the end results of our acts of compassion, but we can have faith that God is using them to make a BIG difference.

Think on this question...

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** 'When is it hard for you to have compassion? What do you think God could do if you had faith in that situation?'

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...."

"I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you for the way Jesus showed love and compassion, and for the example He gave us of how we should treat other people. Please help us to shine your light to the people around us every single day. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**



## SMALL GROUP

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

Key Question: When is it hard for you to have compassion? What do you think God could do if you had faith in that situation?

*(Answers will vary: when I might be seen by people who don’t know Jesus – God could use me to start a conversation with them about what I believe; when I am mad at my siblings – God could use me to be a peacemaker in my family, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

Look Up: John 1:1-5

Say: “The book of John is in the *New Testament*. In this passage, ‘*The Word*’ means Jesus. The author of this book – John – was one of Jesus’ 12 disciples. John was writing this book to Jews and Gentiles – people who grew up with the same customs as John and Jesus (Jews) and those who didn’t (Gentiles like you and me). John often explained to the Gentiles reading why what was happening was important to Jewish customs.

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(“Share the Light” Activity Page – 1 per group cut into strips, Brown Paper Bag, Finger Lights – 1 per kid)*

What You Do:

- Put the strips into the bag and mix up. There are 9 scenarios – if you have more than 9 kids in your group or want your group to have an extra challenge – have kids put the scenarios back into the bag once it’s drawn and come up with a different solution if drawn again.

- Ask someone to draw a card, read it out loud for the group, then give an answer on how they could share what they have in that scenario.
  - **ASK:** How would you need faith in this situation? *(There are no wrong answers but try to get kids to associate that every act of compassion is done as a result of faith – faith that Jesus changes our hearts when we are saved or faith that God will use us for our good and His glory.)*
- After they share, tell them to pass the cards to the kid on their left.
- Give the kid who just went a finger light and turn it on and hold it in their hands while the rest of the group takes their turns reading scenarios.
- Continue around the circle, allowing each kid to respond to a scenario and get a finger light.
- Once everyone has had a turn, admire the circle lit up with everyone’s lights.
- Explain that everyone has something to share, even if it’s as simple as offering up a smile to brighten someone else’s day. When we choose to share with others and show compassion, we are living brightly to shine the light of Jesus to the world around us.
- **ASK for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>:**
  - What do you have that you can use to help others?
  - Do you know someone you can help? If so, how can you help them?
  - Why should you help others?
  - What can stand in the way of your ability to help others?
  - Why is it sometimes hard to share?

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Supplies Vary)

### What You Do:

- Follow the instructions of the “Books of the Bible” activity that is in your bin.

## PRAY

“God, please help us have compassion even when it’s hard. Please help us to step out in faith to show others you care – even when we may feel awkward or nervous. We know that you work all things for our good and your glory. Amen.