

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: Anytime You Need a Friend
Mark 10:46-52 (Jesus Heals Bartimaeus)

Today's Bottom Line: Make time to help others.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The LORD has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God. Micah 6:8 (NirV)*

Monthly Life App: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Video (Media Package): Countdown (30- or 60-second version)

Leader enters, bringing out the blindfolds and bags/containers full of balloons.

Video (Media Package): Theme

OPENER

LEADER: "Hi, neighbors! It's great to see you again. This month, we're talking about how we can care for the people on our block . . . by showing some **compassion!**"

Video (Media Package): Theme Transition to Life App

"Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

Video (Media Package): Life App Transition to Theme

"Let's put that into practice with a fun game, shall we? Everyone grab a partner.

While the kids divide into pairs, dump the balloons all over the floor. Then give a blindfold to one kid from each pair while you explain.

If you have an odd number of kids, you can play yourself.

Note: If you have more than 15 kids, you may want to do

two separate rounds—one for half the kids while the others watch, then switch. That way you can keep the game from getting too chaotic.

“I’ll give each team a blindfold. Decide which one of you wants to be blindfolded and put it on. Then I’ll assign a balloon color to each team. The person who isn’t blindfolded needs to give their blindfolded partner directions on how to get to that color of balloon. When they find the balloon and pick it up, then their partner will direct them back to hand the balloon to them. If there’s still time left after that, then the blindfolded person can search for another balloon that’s the same color as the first one.

“If you’re the partner who’s NOT blindfolded, your job is to take time to help your partner find the balloons . . . but also direct them in a way that keeps them safe. In other words, you’ve got to keep them from running into other people or into objects. Show some compassion for your teammates, friends! Keep them safe and sound!

“If you’re the blindfolded person, listen carefully to your partner . . . and make sure you WALK, not run! Hold your hands out like this so you don’t bump into anyone. (*Demonstrate.*) Let’s see how many balloons you can hand off your teammate before time runs out. At the end of the game, the team with the most balloons, wins.

“All right—the blindfolded person from each team can put on their blindfold. I’ll come around and check, and I’ll tell you what color balloon your team is collecting.

Do a quick walk-through to make sure the blindfolds are secure. As you do, assign the colors to each team. It’s okay if there are multiple teams assigned to the same color.

“Everyone who’s blindfolded, stand in front of your partner. Partners, slowly turn your blindfolded partner around one time. Okay, ready? On your mark, get set, go!

Video (Media Package): Countdown (60-second version), for each round

If you’re not using a screen timer, set a 60-second timer on your phone.

Encourage the kids as they play the game. Watch closely to make sure that the blindfolded partners aren’t able to see, and make sure the kids aren’t moving too quickly.

Note: You can play as many rounds as time allows. If you anticipate playing more than a couple of rounds with the same teams, you’ll probably want to have a laundry basket or garbage bag (one per team) so the kids have a way to collect the balloons.

Celebrate the winning team at the end of each round or the team that has the most total balloons if you’re not playing multiple rounds.

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

“That was super-tricky! But I loved watching you take time to help each other get to the balloons . . . and also keep each other safe!

“Before we move on, everyone please pass all the blindfolds and balloons up here.

Collect the blindfolds and balloons so that they won't distract during Worship or the Bible Story.

“Now let's REALLY get the party started with some music! Everyone stay on your feet for worship!”

WORSHIP

LEADER: “Before we sing, let’s watch this.

Video (Media Package): *Live Loud Video from Get Reel*

“Jesus once said to His friends, ‘*Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you.*’ (John 15:12, NIV) We can care for each other because we’ve experienced God’s compassion for ourselves. God showed us the ultimate example of compassion by sending Jesus to be our Savior! Let’s sing out about we’ll love one other with the same love that God has shown us.

Video (Media Package): *“Love One Another” Dance Moves Music Video*

“God has given us a call to love and serve the people around us. We can do that if we look around and see what people need, then make a move and do something to help. Sing this with me.

Video: *“Make a Move”*

SLIDE: *Theme Background*

“Awesome! I love to make a move and worship God with all of you. You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY

Bring out the dry erase board and place it where all of the kids can see it.

1. SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Jesus had a lot of things to do when He was on Earth. Of course, there were the big things . . . like being born in Bethlehem . . . and rising from the dead.

Point to “Be born in Bethlehem” at the very top of the dry erase board then “Rise from the dead” at the very bottom.

“But between those two big things, there were also a lot of other important things that Jesus had come to do.

“Jesus spent time with people of every kind, from every background.

Write “Spend time with others” in black just below the first line.

Note: As you write on the board, make sure to stand to the side so the kids can see what you’re doing and use black. Only use the red marker at the end for the heart.

“Jesus taught people. He answered challenges from religious leaders, and He explained the most important thing we can do: love God and love others.

Write “Teach everyone” on the next line.

“Jesus welcomed people and made them feel valuable—including little kids!

Write “Welcome everyone” on the next line.

(Reference the board.) “As you can see, Jesus’ focus was always on others and how He could help them. That was certainly true about today’s story, which took place as Jesus made His last journey to Jerusalem. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“Jesus knew what was coming. *(Point to the last line on the list.)* He knew that He was about to die on the cross for the sins of the world, then come back to life! But Jesus still took time for the people He met along the way.”

Walk to the front of the stage, away from the board.

2. MEET BARTIMAEUS

LEADER: “Jesus and His disciples had come to the city of Jericho.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #1 (Jericho)

“As they left town, a large crowd traveled with them. Up ahead was a man named Bartimaeus.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #2 (Bartimaeus)

“Bartimaeus couldn’t see. There was no work he could do to earn money, so he depended on the kindness of strangers passing by. He sat by the side of the road, begging for money.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #3 (Jesus approaching)

“Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was coming by. Jesus was very famous by then, so Bartimaeus would have heard the stories about Him. Bartimaeus would have heard about people who had been HEALED by Jesus!”

3. BARTIMAEUS CALLS TO JESUS

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #4 (Bartimaeus shouting)

LEADER: “Bartimaeus knew he couldn’t let this chance slip away. He shouted . . .

Open the Bible to Mark 10:47 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!”

“Many people told Bartimaeus to stop, to be quiet . . . but he just shouted louder. He called out . . .

Open the Bible to Mark 10:48 (NIRV) and read.

“Son of David! Have mercy on me!”

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #5 (Jesus stops)

“Through all the noise, Jesus heard Bartimaeus’ cries for help. It would have been easy for Him to keep walking and push on toward Jerusalem. But instead . . . Jesus stopped. He told the people to call for Bartimaeus.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #6 (The people tell Bartimaeus)

“The people went to Bartimaeus and said . . .

Open the Bible to Mark 10:49 (NIRV) and read.

“Cheer up! Get up on your feet! Jesus is calling for you.”

4. JESUS HEALS BARTIMAEUS

LEADER: “And that’s exactly what Bartimaeus did.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #7 (Bartimaeus goes to Jesus)

“He threw his coat to the side, stood up, and made his way through the crowd to Jesus.

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #8 (Jesus and Bartimaeus)

“Jesus asked Bartimaeus, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ (Mark 10:51, NIV) Bartimaeus told Jesus that he simply wanted to see.

Open the Bible to Mark 10:52 (NIV) and read.

“‘Go,’ said Jesus. ‘Your faith has healed you.’

SLIDE: Bible Story Illustration #9 (Bartimaeus, now able to see)

“Suddenly, Bartimaeus could SEE! Jesus had healed him! It was a miracle. And Bartimaeus didn’t waste any time. He joined the crowd and followed Jesus along the road.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

5. WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “What Jesus did that day was truly incredible! I mean, Jesus was VERY busy. He had plenty of other things to do. He was surrounded by crowds of people. He was on His way to Jerusalem to fulfill His mission and save the world.

Point to “Rise from the dead” on the dry erase board.

“But in the middle of all of that, Jesus took the time to heal one man. He saw what Bartimaeus needed, and He took the time to help. He took the time to show compassion and love.

Draw a big RED heart around the list on the dry erase board.

“That’s our mission here, too—in our neighborhoods, in our classes at school, and at home with our family—we can live a life of compassion, like Jesus did. We can choose to see what others need, and we can care enough to do something about it.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“We can **[Bottom Line]** make time to help others.

“Let’s ask God to help us do that.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, we know that we often get so busy that we forget what’s truly important. But then we remember how Jesus treated people. We see the love and compassion He showed to everyone.

And that makes us want to share His love with others, too! Please show us how we can **[Bottom Line] make time to help others**. Give us the courage to see what people need then do something to lend a hand. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: Theme Background

CLOSER

LEADER: "I don't know about you, but I want to help people the way Jesus did. I want to make TIME for people the way Jesus did—like He did for Bartimaeus. After all, there are a lot of people 'on our block' who need help!

"So let's do this . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "Make time to help others. Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS: "**[Bottom Line]** Make time to help others."

SLIDE: Theme Background

LEADER: "I know it's not always easy to make time. Our days can be pretty busy. Let's look at your day, for example.

Erase the board.

"You have to get ready for school in the morning. (*Write "Get ready" on the board.*) You have to ride the bus . . . carpool . . . or maybe walk to school. (*Write "Go to school."*) You have to go to class. (*Write "Class."*) And eat lunch. (*Write "Lunch."*) After school, you have homework . . . chores . . . and maybe practicing sports or an instrument. (*Write "Homework, Chores, and, Practice."*) And don't forget some fun time just for you—whether that's TV, video games, or reading. (*Write "Fun."*) Then you've got to get ready for bed! (*Write "Bed."*)

(*Reference the board.*) "This is a lot, right? So how can we help others when we're so busy all the time? Well, sometimes it might mean giving up what YOU want to do so that you can help someone else.

(*Point to "Get ready" on the list.*) "Maybe you get up early enough that you can help your little brother tie his shoes before you run out the door to the school bus.

(*Point to "Lunch" on the list.*) "Or maybe during lunch, you walk a little bit past the table with all of your friends, and you take some time to talk to the new kid.

(*Point to "Fun" on the list.*) "Maybe some time you turn off the TV or video game and choose instead to play a board game with your sister. I bet that would make her feel special, right?

"When you make choices like that, you can show love and compassion to the people God has put in

your life. You can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated . . .** with the way you use your time!

“Let’s head to Small Group and talk some more about how we can do that.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SLIDE: Theme with music