

CITY LG – Dec 5th/6th

Bible Story: Yes, Mary, This Is a Savior (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-38*

Bottom Line: God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

Worship:

Christmas This Year - Toby Mac

Angels We have Heard on High - Chris Tomlin

Emanuel - Chris Tomlin

Host enters, this week in full-on Christmas spirit.

Opener

HOST: “Good morning, everyone! Or, I should say, merry Christmas! I’m feeling much more in the Christmas spirit after I heard about our first Compassion Challenge last week, and I’m super excited to see there’s another challenge waiting for us this week! You guys may remember we’re talking about compassion all month.

CG: *Compassion Slide*

“Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else’s need. And this box last week gave us a fun challenge to show compassion. Or, I should say, this box TRIPLE DOG DARED us to show compassion.

Video: Christmas story clip

CG: *Triple Dog Dare Theme Slide*

Let’s see what fun challenge we’ve got today!

Walk over to the present, open it up, and read the challenge.

“For this week’s compassion Challenge, watch this movie clip for a clue....”

Video: Polar Express Clip

Keep reading the clue

“So our Compassion Challenge will show you the importance of keeping your eyes open to see the needs of others. Inside this box, you will find a hat for the conductor of the Polar Express. Choose a volunteer to be the conductor, and choose 5 kids who will form the train behind the conductor. The conductor should lead the train down the tracks you see on the ground, but here’s the challenge: the conductor will be blindfolded. The rest of the people in the train must keep their eyes open and guide the conductor down the track. If the train can make it safely down the tracks to the North Pole, you will win this Compassion Challenge!”

“Awesome! This sounds like fun! Let’s see ... *(look into the box and pull out the hat)* ... aha! Here’s the conductor hat. Now I just need a conductor.

Choose a volunteer to be the conductor. Take the conductor and the children to the back of the room, and blindfold and put the hat on the conductor. Line the train up behind the starting point of the track. Get the rest of the audience to move away from the track.

“Okay, Polar Express, you’ve got to make it to the North Pole before the time runs out. If you step outside the tracks, you have to start back at the beginning. Those of you at the back of the train, you have to guide your conductor. Be on the lookout for when the conductor needs your help to stay on the tracks. Are you ready? *(To the audience)* You guys count down with me. Three ... two ... one ... GO!

CG: 60-second countdown *(note: adjust the time for your environment as needed)*
SFX: “The Polar Express”

Keep an eye on the train and if it “derails,” bring the conductor back to the beginning. If the train makes it to the North Pole before the countdown ends, get the audience to celebrate and cheer. If the train doesn’t make it there in time, still have everyone cheer for them. Be sure and praise the kids in the train for the way they helped the conductor in his or her time of need.

SFX: Fade music

“That was an exciting Compassion Challenge, and it was great to see all of you on the train helping out the conductor.

SFX: Train horn

“Ah, there’s my cue to start the Bible Story!

Video: 252 Story Week 2

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: Our memory verse for this month says it best, If you know this verse you can say it with me, John 3:16.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

“God saw our greatest need: our need for a Savior—a Rescuer. And so He met that need by sending us Jesus. The question is: Whose needs do YOU see? There are needs all around you: in your family, your friends, your neighbors, your classmates. You can’t meet the needs of those around you, though, unless you SEE their needs first. So you have to look around and think about someone other than yourself. Or here’s another way to think about it: Maybe you CAN think about yourself—about what you would want from a friend or neighbor and how you would want to be treated—and then treat others that way. Look for others’ needs, and do something about them. Remember ...

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see? This is SO important for you to remember! So I will say, God saw our greatest need” and you will say, “Whose needs do YOU see?”

ST: “God saw our greatest need”

KIDS: “Whose needs do you see?”

ST: One more time as loud as you can! “God saw our greatest need.

KIDS: “Whose needs do you see!”

Let’s pray and ask God to help us see others’ needs.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for seeing our greatest need—our need for a Savior—and for sending Jesus to meet that need. We want to follow Your example and meet the needs of those around us. Please open our eyes to the needs of others, and help us to look out for ways we can meet those needs. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“And we should also keep our eyes open to the needs of others because it’s what God did for us.

CG: Parkview Kids Challenge

ST “Before you go, in the CITY we are doing our own Compassion Challenge to help kids your age in our area! All month long we’ll be collecting school supplies for the teachers at Taft School in Lockport. This school does not have a lot of money so they are not able to buy supplies for the teachers. We are collecting these three things:

- Markers for their dry erase boards

- Post it notes
- Paper clips

You can bring these things when you come to church one of the next 3 weeks and can put them_____. And our challenge will be_____ and they will win_____.

SFX: Train horn

“Yikes, sounds like another train’s on its way in! I’ll catch you guys next week for another Triple Dog Dare Compassion Challenge!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.