

ALLEY SG – September 21 - 22, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Carry You (Sharing God's Comfort) • 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Today's Key Question: How can you show someone you care?

Today's Bottom Line: Comfort others the way God comforts you.

Monthly 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)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Paper slips, pens, container (1 per group), dry erase board (2 per bin), dry erase marker, dry eraser

What You Do:

- Have kids use their Bibles to look up 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- Read the verse together.
- Give each kid a small piece of paper and a pen.
- 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.
- (Read through them quickly to make sure they are all appropriate☺).
- 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.
- Explain that we can take the comfort we have been given by God and use that to motivate us to provide comfort to others. The mirror represents what it's like when we reflect God's light to the world around us.
- Invite kids to share how they can comfort someone else.
- Remind kids that compassion requires action. Compassion means "caring enough to do something about someone else's needs."

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: "Comfort Stations" Activity Page, wall tape

What You Do:

- Highlight the following three ways God shows us comfort as you set the "Comfort Stations" signs in different areas of your group space:
 - The Bible
 - Prayer
 - People
- Explain that after you read a scenario, kids should stand near (or point to if you are at a table) the sign that shows how they would prefer to feel God's comfort if that happened to them.
 - Emphasize kids may have different responses, and that is expected!

- **Scenarios:**
 - You tried out for the soccer team but didn't make the cut.
 - There's a kid at school who keeps teasing you.
 - Your cat runs away, and you don't think you're going to find it.
 - You failed a big science test, and it's a huge portion of your grade.
 - You auditioned for the school play but didn't get the lead role like you were hoping.
 - Your parents are arguing—a lot.
 - Your best friend moves away.
 - You have to switch to a new school, and you're nervous about not knowing anyone.
 - You break your ankle jumping on a trampoline.
 - You're in an argument with your friends and you feel lonely.
- Repeat until every scenario card has been read.
- Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - Why do you think we sometimes want to experience comfort in different ways?
 - Is it difficult to know how someone else may want to be comforted? Why or why not?
- Remind kids that we can comfort others because God comforts us.
 - They can offer to help by simply being WITH them—even if they aren't sure what to say or do.
 - Showing compassion like this to someone else—even in a small way—can shine Jesus'

3. Discussion Questions

- 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?

3. Sound Verse

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Memory Verse Cards” (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - *“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 (NIV)*
- Set out the “Memory Verse Cards” in verse order in the middle of the group.
- Encourage the kids to recite the verse a few times.
- Explain kids will take turns substituting a sound effect for different phrases in the verse.
- Choose one kid to go first.
- Instruct that kid to pick any card/phrase from the verse.
- Direct that kid to choose a sound they want to replace that phrase of the verse with.
- Instruct that kid to read the verse—replacing the phrase they chose with the sound effect they chose.
- Invite the rest of the group to recite the verse in the same way.
- Choose another kid to do the same thing with a different phrase.
- Instruct that kid to read the verse—replacing the phrase they chose and incorporating the previous sound effect as well.
- Invite the rest of the group to also say the verse with both sound substitutions.
- Continue this way until everyone has had a chance to substitute a phrase with a sound.
- By the end, there may be more sounds than words.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, thank You for comforting us when we need it most. Help us to be a source of comfort to others, just as You comfort us. Help us to remember to show compassion to those in need. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share one way they will comfort someone who needs it.