

CITY SG – September 21 - 22, 2024

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

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)

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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: note cards (one per kid), markers or pens

What You Do:

- Ask: "What are some ways people can experience comfort when they feel sad, afraid, or worried?"
- Some ideas might include:
 - getting help from a friend or family member
 - receiving a treat
 - giving someone a hug
 - someone listening, etc.
- As kids arrive, give each kid a note card and a marker or pen
- Direct the kids to write down or draw one way of experiencing comfort on their card.
- Once some kids have finished, invite kids to take turns standing in front of the group to act out the comfort action.
- Instruct the rest of the group to try to guess what the kid is acting out.
- Say, **"Today in Large Group, we're going to discover where all comfort truly comes from!"**
- If still have time, ask kids some connection questions such as: "What was the best part of your week?"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Comfort or Trouble?

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Story Situations" Activity Page (2 per group), small beanbags (one per kid), Large cardstock signs "Trouble and Comfort"

What You Do:

- Show the kids the Trouble and Comfort signs.
- Talk about each word and what it means.
- Set out the "Trouble" and "Comfort" signs in the middle of the group as far apart as possible.
- Give each kid a beanbag.
- Explain that you will read a statement related to the Bible story.
- Kids will decide if it describes a situation of "Comfort" or "Trouble" by tossing their beanbag on one of the signs in the middle when you say, "Shine bright".
- Read the first statement from the "Story Situations" Activity Page.
- Give kids a moment to think, then say "Shine bright!" and direct them to make their choice.
- After each round, ask the kids: "Why is this statement/situation one of trouble?" or "Why is this statement/situation one of comfort?"
- Repeat for each statement.

- Ask: “What are some of the not-so-fun things that happened this week?”
 - Prompt the kids with some ideas of your own, if needed. For example:
 - Your brother wouldn’t let you join him and play in his room.
 - A friend ignored you while you were riding on the bus.
- Say: “No matter what we face, Paul reminded us in this letter that we don’t face them alone. Even when hard things happen, we can remember that God is with us and will give us comfort.”

2. Comforting Others

Application Activity

What You Need: Blue “Comfort Challenge” Cards (2 sets per group), and Green “Comfort Scenarios” Cards (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Set out the blue “Comfort Challenge” Cards, face down in the middle of the group.
- Give each kid a green “Comfort Scenarios” Card.
- One at a time, go around the circle and invite the kids to take turns turning over a blue Comfort Challenge” Card in the middle of the circle.
 - If the kid thinks the blue card they turned over is a way to show comfort that match their green “Comfort Scenarios” Card, direct them to keep the card and explain to the group why it’s a match.
 - If the kid does not think the card is a match, direct the kid to return the card to the middle, facedown, and take another turn after the rest of the kids have gone.
- Repeat until kids have found and discussed a match for their “Comfort Scenarios” Card.
- Ask, “Today, we heard that all comfort comes from God. Can you think of times when God has comforted you?” (*Invite responses.*)

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.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - “*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 and bring it back next week for a prize

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to share today’s bottom line, **comfort others the way God comforts you.**