

 PRELUDE
 SOCIAL
 STORY
 WORSHIP
 GROUPS
 HOME

 PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for giving each of us talents and gifts that equip us to show compassion to those around us. Ask God to help your few discover both what they're good at and what they have that God wants them to use to care for others. Ask God to give your kids lots of opportunities this week to care for others and see the results of their efforts.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All I Need Is a Miracle Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand John 6:1-13

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Use what you have 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.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, paper, pens or pencils, timer or smartphone

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Choose (or ask for a volunteer) one kid to go first.
- Pick a category of food (breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, holiday meal, etc.) and instruct the first kid to pick their favorite food from the category but not say it out loud.
- Ask that kid to draw the food they chose.
- As they draw, instruct the rest of the group to try to guess what that food is.
- Time each round for 30 seconds.
- If the food hasn't been guessed in 30 seconds, let the kid reveal what the food is.
- Continue for as long as time and interest allow, choosing another category when kids seem to run out of ideas in the current category.

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

GROUPS

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

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STORY

SHOWING 5,000

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pencils, timer, napkins, hand sanitizer, fish crackers, cereal or mini crackers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Challenge them to see how many dots they can draw on their papers in one minute!
- Set a timer and say, "Go!"
- Let the kids draw as many dots on their page as they can before time ends.
- After time ends, call on the kids to lay their papers on the floor in the center of your small group's area.
- Talk about how MANY people were in the crowd that day—over 5,000!
- Give each kid some hand sanitizer, a napkin with a few fish crackers (for the fish) and cereal or mini crackers for the bread.
- As the kids enjoy their snack, talk about today's Bible story using the suggested conversation below.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"A huge crowd, over 5,000 people, gathered to hear Jesus teach. But then their tummies started growling. When Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread to feed the people, Philip knew that would be impossible—and also expensive! When they looked around to see what food they had, what did they find? (*Pause.*) Yes, one boy's lunch with just five small loaves of bread and two fish. Think about the small snack on your napkin! Now look at all these dots. Would that be enough to feed so many people? No way! But Jesus took that small lunch and prayed, thanking God for the food He had provided. And then, a miracle happened. Jesus and the disciples handed out food. And there was enough for EVERYONE. In fact, there was so much food that they had leftovers. Jesus took one boy's small lunch and did something unbelievably amazing!

"Guess what? When it comes to compassion, you don't have to something big or grand or expensive. You can simply **use what you have to help others.** Whether it's sharing an extra pencil with a classmate, offering a seat next to you on the bus, or taking the time to help someone who needs an extra hand. You never know how you might make someone's day when you **use what you have to help others**."

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time you helped someone by doing something small that ended up making a BIG impact. Maybe you shared a snack with someone at school who forgot theirs. Maybe you let someone borrow your bike or gave them an old one you'd outgrown. Try to think of an example from childhood if possible.)



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

GROUPS

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

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STORY

*HELPFUL POSTCARDS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Blank white postcards, colorful markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a blank postcard and some markers.
- Guide the kids to think of someone they know who might need some encouragement.
- To prompt them, ask them who in their life is sick, maybe a parent lost a job, or there's a friend who's struggling with a sport or an instrument, etc.
- Ask: What do you have in your hand right now? (a postcard)
- Say: This postcard may not seem like much, but it could make a huge difference in someone else's life. For someone who's having a hard time, just knowing that someone else is thinking about them can help them feel loved and cared for.
- Instruct the kids to decorate the front blank side of the postcard and write an encouraging note on the left side of the back.
- Make sure they write the person's name on the appropriate mailing line.
- Direct kids to ask for an adult's help to mail it. (Or the kids can simply hand it to the person the next time they see them.)
- While the kids decorate the postcards, use the discussion questions below to get them thinking of what they have to help others.
 - What is a talent you have?
 - How can you use that to help someone else?
 - Like the boy in our story, what is something you physically have that you can share with someone else?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your postcards look amazing. I have no doubt you wrote some really kind words on the other side of them, too. Remember, ask an adult to help you make sure your postcard gets to the person you wrote it to.

"You all shared some really cool things that you have that can help others. I'm so proud of each of you and hope you will use the gifts and talents God has given you to help others. It may not seem like much, but it could make a huge difference in someone else's life.

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate story of a time someone used what they had to help you.)

"You, too, can do what this person did for me and **use what you have to help others**."



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

• Gather your group to sit in a tight circle and pray that God will help them **use what you have to help others.**

- Encourage the kids to participate in today's prayer by repeating each line below along with the actions listed.
- Instruct kids not to close their eyes for prayer today so they can watch for the motions.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, You are awesome, loving, and good. Help us use our hands (wave your hands) and feet (tap your feet), mouth (point to your mouth) and ears (point to your ears) to help others. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to point to their hands, feet, ears, and mouth as they talk to their parents about how they can show compassion this week and **use what you have to help others.**

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