Lesson 2

Compassion

Icebreakers

Devotional

Discussion questions

Worksheets

Art project
Icebreakers

Idea #1 - Compassion Quiz

**Supplies:** index cards (3 per individual), dark colored marker

Give each child 3 index cards. Mark one card “1” with a marker. Mark one card “2” and one card “3.” As you read the following situations, have each child hold up a card which best represents how sad the situation makes them feel (1 = very sad, 2 = a little sad, 3 = not sad at all). Allow the children to talk about their feelings in each situation.

- Seeing a homeless person on the street
- Seeing a hungry child on television
- Hearing a baby cry
- Seeing a dead animal on the road
- Hearing a fire truck, police, or ambulance siren
- Hearing someone make fun of another person
- Watching the news
- Seeing someone hurt an animal
- Reading the newspaper
- Being separated from a loved one
- Seeing a hurt child
- Having a pet run away
- Seeing someone having car trouble
- Watching a fight at school
- Seeing litter in the streets

Idea #2 - Compassion Pie

**Supplies:** disposable pie tin, permanent marker, small magnet, glue

Working as a team, create a recipe for Compassion Pie. Allow children to take turns adding “ingredients” (such as ½ cup kindness, 3 teaspoons empathy, etc.). As a visual, you can write the recipe suggestions on a disposable pie tin, using a permanent marker. Glue a magnet on the back of the pie tin and place on the refrigerator as a reminder to show compassion to others.
In the book, Victor’s Dream, we learn how God is always faithful. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “I know the plans I have for you, for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (NIV) Victor learned some valuable lessons from the life of Joseph. We can learn these same lessons. God used Joseph, through both his challenges and victories, to develop six godly character traits. These character traits enabled Joseph to become the great leader that God intended him to be. Joseph’s leadership saved his family and an entire nation. In the next lessons, we will learn about these six characteristics: Compassion, courage, confidence, character, commitment, calling. Today’s lesson is COMPASSION.

We see many examples of compassion in Victor’s Dream. As a foster child, separated from his parents and living in a group home, Victor sometimes felt sad and rejected. However, he had several people in his life who loved him, took care of him, and showed compassion toward him. God has put different people in our lives in which we could show compassion. Think about who you know that may feel sad or rejected, as Victor did. Think of ways you can show compassion.

We can learn to show compassion to others because God is compassionate to us. You are special to God and He loves you very much. The Bible shows us how much God loves us. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only son for whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus taught us about compassion by telling a story in the Bible. We call these stories parables. A parable is a story that has a lesson to be learned. Let’s read Luke 10:30-37. Jesus ended this story with a command. He wants us to show the same compassion for others as the Samaritan showed to the man on the side of the road. Sometimes showing compassion is difficult, but compassion is an important characteristic if we want to be a great leader. Perhaps, one day, you will grow up to save a nation, just as Joseph did!

We can learn to show compassion to others because God is compassionate to us.

Discussion Questions

What are the six characteristics of a great leader?
(compassion, courage, confidence, character, commitment, calling)

What are other words we can use for compassion?
sympathy, caring, loving, serving, helping)

In Victor’s Dream, what are some examples we see of compassion?
(the Conners cared for the children in their cottage, Mr. Conner encouraged Victor to be a leader, Coach Jacobs put his arm around Victor, Mrs. Conner made Victor’s favorite meal, the Jacob’s adopted Victor and his siblings, God showed his compassion on everyone, Joseph forgave his brothers).

Who were the people in Victor’s life who showed him compassion?
(God, the Conners, the Jacob’s)

What are some ways that other children can make fun of people?
(skin color, size, disability, appearance)

How does it make you feel when other children make fun of you or others?
(sad, angry, frustrated, want to give up)

What are some things that can cause people to feel sad or rejected?
(being made fun of, yelling, violence, loneliness)

In what ways has God shown you compassion?
(died on the cross, brought people in my life who love me)

What kinds of things can you do for others who need compassion?
Today we learned about compassion. Compassion starts with the letter “C.” Start at the green box. Follow all the “C” boxes through the maze until you get to the red box. Color the “C” boxes yellow.
Materials needed: pencil or pen or highlighter

- charity
- compassion
- courtesy
- empathy
- forgiveness
- friendly
- generous
- giving
- goodness
- grace
- heart
- helpful
- hug
- kindness
- love
- mercy
- patience
- smile
- sympathy
- tender
- understanding
Look up the word compassion in the dictionary. Write the definition below.

In the last week, what opportunity did you have to show compassion? What action did you take?

Why do you think some people do not take action when an opportunity of compassion arises?

Look up three verses that deal with showing compassion to others. Write the references below.
Compassion Hand

Materials needed:
* foam sheet (any color; one per individual)
* scissors (if possible, one per individual)
* glue
* paint stir stick or tongue depressor (one per individual)
* washable markers

1. Using a washable marker, draw the child’s hand on a foam sheet.
2. Cut out the hand pattern.
3. Write the word “compassion” on the palm of the hand.
4. On each finger, write something you can do to show compassion.
5. Glue the hand to the end of the paint stir stick or tongue depressor.
6. Use as a daily reminder to show compassion to others.
Lesson 2; Early Elementary

Lesson 2; Elementary