

TWO-THREE CURRICULUM

SEPT 15

LIVE BRIGHT: Shine Jesus' Light

Today's Bible Story: Take Time (Jesus Heals Bartimaeus) • *Mark 10:46-52*

Today's Bottom Line: Make time to help others.

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 (NIV)*

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

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Early Arriver

What You Need: Offering container, and dot stickers

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask: "Do you have any stories about being in the dark that you wouldn't mind sharing? Maybe your home lost power, or you were outside when it got dark out, or a nightlight stopped working, or something?"
- Ask: "What kind of light would have helped you then?"
- When enough kids have arrived, instruct the group to sit with their backs to you and their eyes closed.
- Choose one kid from the group to open their eyes.
- Instruct that kid to stand a few feet behind the group.
- Give that kid a dot sticker.
- Instruct the kid to place the dot sticker somewhere on themselves.
 - If needed, offer these suggestions:
 - outside of hand
 - shoe
 - shoulder
 - over a shirt button, etc.
- Direct the rest of the kids to open their eyes and turn around.

- Encourage the kids to "Spot the Dot."
- Designate the first kid to "Spot the Dot" as the winner.
- Direct that kid to take the place of the previous kid wearing the dot.
- Play as time allows or until all the kids have had a turn wearing a dot.

1. Match and Tell

What You Need: "Story Sequence" Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Shuffle the cards from the "Story Sequence" Activity Pages and lay them out facedown, in a grid pattern.
- Instruct the kids to pair up.
- Direct each pair to take turns flipping over two cards, trying to find a match.
- When a pair finds a match, instruct the pair of kids to try to retell that part of the story to the rest of the group.
- Choose a pair of kids to begin the game.
- Continue playing until all the pairs have been found and the story has been reviewed.
- Challenge the kids to arrange the cards in story order, and review the story one more time.

What You Say:

"How did Jesus show compassion to Bartimaeus? (*Invite responses, like: Jesus stopped to talk to and heal Bartimaeus.*) Even, though Jesus was very busy, He stopped to help Bartimaeus. More importantly, Bartimaeus believed Jesus to be God's Son. Bartimaeus was so happy and surprised by this miracle! He was filled with joy and wonder. He decided to follow Jesus and learn more about Him. When Jesus stopped to show compassion to Bartimaeus, it changed his life forever! Jesus showed us what a difference we can make when we **[Bottom Line] make time to help others.**"

2. Hide It

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 5:16, butcher paper or poster board, permanent marker, and sticky notes

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What You Do:

- Direct the kids to form a circle.
- Place a piece of butcher paper (or poster board) in the center of the group.
- Give one kid who would like to read aloud the marked Bible.
- Invite the kid with the Bible to open the Bible to Matthew 5:16 and read it out loud to the group.
- Write the verse in big letters on the paper as they read.
- Invite anyone else who would also like to read the verse out loud, or invite the entire group to recite the verse together.
- Give each kid a sticky note.
- Share that the goal is to cover the verse with their sticky notes—but with a twist!
- Instruct the kids to close their eyes and then blindly place their sticky note on the butcher paper (or poster board).
- Attempt to read the verse despite it being covered, and invite the kids to join you.
- Share that a sticky note must be touching the verse to count.
 - If a kid's note isn't touching any part of the verse, instruct them to remove it and try again.
- Pause between each round to read the verse.
- Continue with additional sticky notes until most or all of the verse is covered, and the kids can recite the verse from memory.

What You Say:

"When we share the love of Jesus with others, it's like turning on a bright light. In our story today, Bartimaeus couldn't see, but he heard Jesus and called out to Him for help. Jesus stopped and showed him compassion. When we help others and shine God's light, it's like passing on Jesus' love to them. So, let's remember to **[Bottom Line] make time to help others** and be compassionate every day, just like Jesus. That's how we practice this verse!"

3. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Divide your group in half.
- Direct one-half of the kids to form a circle with their backs toward the center.
- Instruct the other half of the kids to form an outer circle facing the kids on the inside circle.
- Invite the kids to pray for the kid facing them, silently.
- Invite kids to ask God to help the kid in front of them see the needs of others this week.
 - Offer some specific examples, like:
 - looking for someone who needs help with their homework
 - recognizing someone who needs a friend during recess
 - helping a family member who needs help around the house
 - noticing a stranger who needs a smile, etc.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for the reminder that sometimes we may not see the needs of others unless we stop and look closely. Please help us have compassion so we can recognize and respond to the needs of those around us. Help us to be mindful of the people we see every day, and give us the courage to reach out and help them in any way we can. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their paper plate and explain what an eye and heart had to do with today's story.