

LESSON 3: JESUS BRINGS A WIDOW'S SON BACK TO LIFE

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Luke 7:11-17

03/22/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 7:11-17
- In This Passage: Jesus sees a funeral procession for a boy. The boy's mother is a widow, and he is her only son. Filled with compassion, Jesus touches the coffin and tells the boy to get up. The boy sits up, alive again!
- Bible Point: Jesus is compassionate...
- Application: ...so we're compassionate.
- Summary Verse: "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need" (Proverbs 17:17).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is compassionate.* Kids can't bring people back to life like Jesus did, but they *can* show compassion. Receiving compassion is life-giving in a different way. Jesus' heart overflowed with compassion just at seeing the widow's pain. Help kids develop hearts that notice and feel others' pain.
- Think About: Think about someone you have compassion for. Pray for that person!

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray for the kids in your class who need compassion to sense God's care for them. And pray that all your kids' hearts would be open to the pain and insecurities of others.

Quick Tip

- Dig In regularly includes questions that invite kids to share their personal stories and experiences. Show compassion as kids share their hurts. Some kids may be facing immense hardships like homelessness, divorcing parents, or absentee fathers. Other kids' trials may seem more superficial to you, but the hurt they feel is just as real. Demonstrate Jesus' compassion whenever anyone shares something that is a hardship in his or her life.

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids show compassion by carrying each other's burdens.

Supplies

- Bible
- laundry basket
- heavy books (enough to make the laundry basket nearly impossible to drag—you'll need at least 3-4 per child) (classroom Bibles work well)
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase or washable marker
- river rocks (1 per child)
- permanent markers
- small basket or box
- cup
- baking pan
- pitcher of water

Easy Prep

- Set out the laundry basket near a wall, and load it with heavy books.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray compassionately for others and make a heart out of teardrops.

Supplies

- "Tears of Compassion" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- pens or markers
- tape



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids do a lot of quick motions to celebrate being alive!



CRAFT

Kids make jack-in-the-box toys.

Supplies

- "Back-to-Life Box Instructions" handout (download [here](#))
- "Back-to-Life Box" handout copied onto card stock (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- markers
- scissors
- tape
- 2-liter soda bottles (1 for every 10-12 kids)
- craft knife (for teacher use only)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

- paper fasteners (1 per child)
- string



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids walk while trying to balance paper wads on their feet.

Supplies

- paper
- pens
- place markers such as beanbags, cones, or chairs (1 for every 3 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- A few feet from a wall in the room, lay the place markers on the floor, separated by a few feet.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids support heavy objects with paper cups.

Supplies

- 3-ounce paper cups (approximately 20 for every 4 kids)
- plastic trays or metal cookie sheets (1 for every 4 kids)
- heavy books* (classroom Bibles work well)



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids explore various ways to be part of Jesus' compassion.

Supplies

- Bibles
- sticky notes
- facial tissues

Easy Prep

- Write the following references on sticky notes, and use the notes to bookmark those verses in a Bible.
 - Psalm 34:18
 - Isaiah 43:2
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - Matthew 11:28-30
 - Romans 8:28

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Welcome

Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids shout this birthday cheer: Two, four, six, eight; it's birthday time—let's celebrate! Gooooo, [names of birthday kids]!
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus is compassionate, so we're compassionate.**

***Compassion* is a big word that means feeling someone else's pain in your own heart. We'll see how after Jesus showed compassion, things got really exciting!**

Share

- Tell kids about something exciting that happened to *you* this week.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about something exciting that happened to *them* this week.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Luke 7, and say: **Those are exciting things! Let's look in the Bible to see what exciting things Jesus did when he showed compassion. God gave us the Bible, his special book, to show us how compassionate his heart is. The Bible helps us get to know God and reflect his heart. Plus, God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Let's talk with God now.**

Pray, praising Jesus for being compassionate.



Supplies

- Bible
- laundry basket
- heavy books (enough to make the laundry basket nearly impossible to drag—you'll need at least 3-4 per child) (classroom Bibles work well)
- whiteboard or poster board
- dry-erase or washable marker
- river rocks (1 per child)
- permanent markers
- small basket or box
- cup
- baking pan
- pitcher of water

Easy Prep

- Set out the laundry basket near a wall, and load it with heavy books.

Help Carry Burdens

Say: **Today we're learning that Jesus is compassionate, so we're compassionate.**

Compassionate is a big word. Let's think about what it means.

Choose a child to drag the basket.

Say: **Imagine that this basket is full of [name of child]'s troubles and sadness. [Name of child] has to drag this basket back and forth across the room.** Pause and let the child try.

Say: **Compassion is feeling someone else's pain in your own heart. It's taking some of the person's sad heart and helping carry the sadness. So let's show compassion to [name of child].**

Have kids show compassion by each taking a few books out of the basket and carrying them across the room so the child dragging it has a lighter load. Then take all the books out and gather kids together.

Show Compassion

Say: **Now that we understand compassion, let's dig in to our Bible story. As you listen to these verses, put a book in the laundry basket each time you hear something that makes you feel compassion toward the woman. We'll imagine the laundry basket is her heart.**

Read Luke 7:11-12.

Ask: • **What things did you hear that made you put a book in the laundry basket?**

Say: **This woman had lost so much. She was a widow, which means her husband died before this story. In those days, being a widow meant being poor, because most women didn't have a way to make money. So she'd lost her money and food. Her only hope was for her son to provide for her, and now she'd lost him.**

That's a lot of sadness. Think about people you know who've faced really difficult times.

Have kids share situations they've personally seen happen to other people that have made them feel compassion. As kids share, record the general concept of each event on a whiteboard or poster board.

Say: **When we see people face difficult things, we often feel compassion. Their hurt makes us hurt. And when Jesus felt compassion, he *showed* compassion. Listen to what happened. Pay attention to how Jesus showed compassion. As you hear something compassionate Jesus did, take a book out of the basket.**

Read Luke 7:13-15.

Ask: • **What things made you take books out of the basket?**

Say: **Jesus is compassionate, so we're compassionate.** But we can't always show compassion the same way Jesus did. Jesus was able to raise the boy from the dead to take away the woman's sadness! Let's think about what we could do to show Jesus' compassion in tough situations.

Go through the list you recorded earlier, and have kids share ideas of how they could show compassion in each situation.

Overflow Compassion

Say: **We've considered how to show compassion to others. Now let's experience Jesus' compassion in our own struggles.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Give each child a river rock, and have kids write their names on their rocks. Get out the small basket or box.

Say: **Think about something you'd like compassion for—a hard thing that you need a person, or lots of people, to share with you. We're going to pass this basket around. When it gets to you, name your situation. You can share as much as you want, or if it's too personal, just say "compassion for me." Then put your rock in the basket.**

Give kids a few moments to think, then add your own rock to the basket and share. Pass the basket around so everyone has a turn. Set a respectful tone by listening well to each child and not dismissing any problem as "too small."

When everyone has placed his or her rock in the basket, say: **This basket has gotten heavy! There's a lot of sadness in here. But we can show compassion by carrying each other's burdens to Jesus.**

Have kids each take a rock out of the basket, making sure no one picks up his or her own rock.

Say: **Jesus is compassionate.** Listen to how the Bible describes Jesus' compassion for the widow in our Bible story. Read Luke 7:13.

Have kids gather around the baking pan. Place the cup in it.

Begin pouring water from a pitcher into the cup as you say: **When we face sad times or see other people face sad times, we know that Jesus is compassionate to our problems. We can bring our problems—or other people's—to Jesus.**

When the cup is about to overflow, say: **Jesus' heart overflows with compassion for us. And that compassion can overflow out of our hearts, too, as we pray for others.** Let the cup overflow and fill the pan to at least an inch.

Have kids pray for the people whose names are on their rocks and then place the rocks in the water, asking for Jesus' compassion to overflow in each child's life.

Pray: **Jesus, thank you that your heart overflows with compassion into our lives. Pour that compassion out of our hearts, too. In your name, amen.**



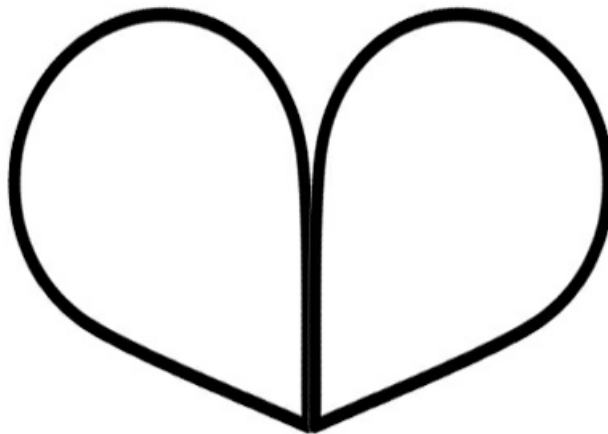
Supplies

- “Tears of Compassion” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- pens or markers
- tape

Pray for Others

Say: **We’ve been learning that Jesus is compassionate, so we’re compassionate. Think of someone you know who needs compassion right now. Maybe that person is sad, sick, or lonely.**

- Give each child a “Tears of Compassion” handout, and set out scissors to share.
- Have kids cut out the two teardrops on the handout.
- Each child will write on one teardrop the name of someone who needs compassion. Let kids know they can choose someone they know or someone they’ve heard about on the news. They could even describe a situation that requires compassion, such as a senior citizen in a nursing home or a person having cancer.
- Kids will write “Jesus” on the other teardrop.
- As each child prays for the person who needs compassion, he or she can tape the two teardrops together to form a heart.



Say: **When we’re sad, sick, or lonely, Jesus is compassionate. He feels our pain and cries with us. And we can show Jesus’ compassion for others, too.**

Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, thank you for your compassion. Help us show your compassion when we see people who are hurting. In your name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Leap of Compassion

Follow Fun Directions

Say: **Today we read about one of the times Jesus showed compassion and brought a boy back to life! The boy suddenly sat up, alive. That's amazing! Let's play a fun game where we go from being still to moving very quickly.**

- Stand in the center of the room, and have everyone else spread out around you.
- Call out the following motions for everyone to do. Move through them quickly, allowing 10 or 15 seconds for doing each motion. If you have time, you can run through them two or three times. Demonstrate the motions for kids if needed.
 - Shuffle your feet and move quickly to the right!
 - Sit down and freeze.
 - Shuffle your feet and move quickly to the left!
 - Kneel and freeze.
 - Walk on your knees!
 - Lie flat on the floor.
 - Jump up!
 - Sit down and freeze.
 - Crouch down and hop up!
 - Sit down, lie on your back, and then pop up!
 - Bunny hop!
 - Freeze in place.
 - Walk slowly with *big* steps.
 - Lie down and freeze.
 - Take big jumps!

Talk About It

Say: **It's wonderful to be alive and to be able to jump and play! That's what the boy could do after Jesus brought him back to life.**

Ask: • **What motions were the most fun, and why?**

• **What would be the first thing you'd do if you were the boy in the Bible?**

Say: **Jesus is compassionate and showed compassion when he brought the boy back to life. Jesus can use *you* to show his compassion!**



Supplies

- “Back-to-Life Box Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- “Back-to-Life Box” handout copied onto card stock (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- markers
- scissors
- tape
- 2-liter soda bottles (1 for every 10-12 kids)
- craft knife (for teacher use only)
- paper fasteners (1 per child)
- string

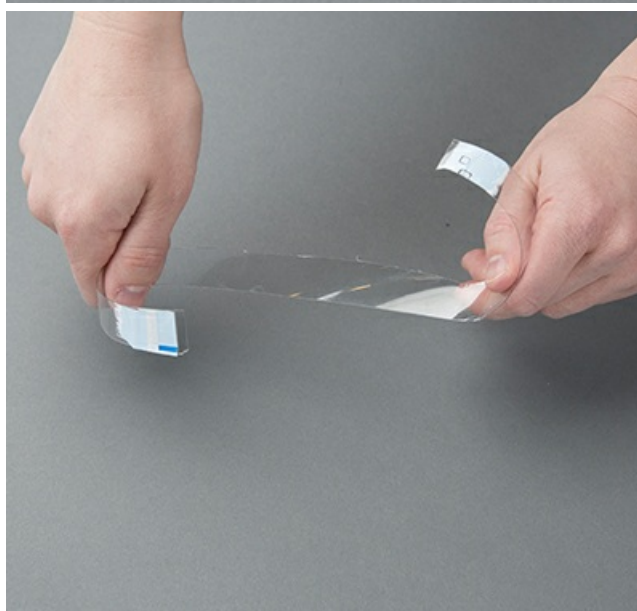
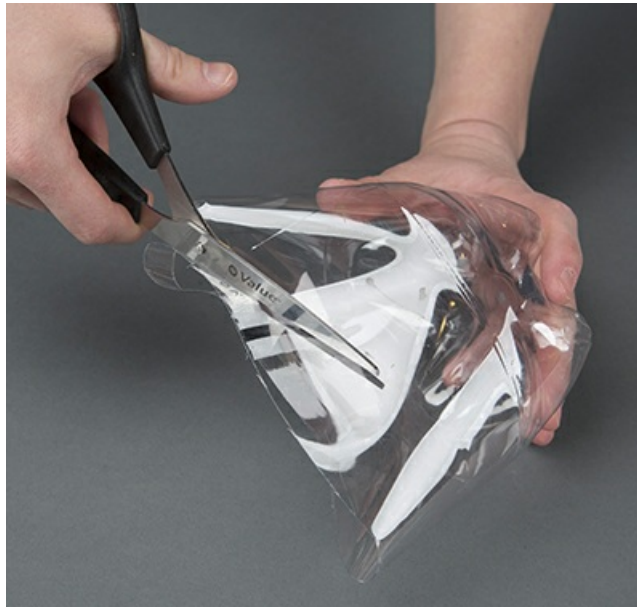
Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Jack-in-the-Box Toys

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a “Back-to-Life Box” handout, and set out the remaining supplies to share (except the craft knife). Have kids follow the directions on the “Back-to-Life Box Instructions” handout to make jack-in-the-box toys. As kids work, cut the 2-liter bottles into 1-inch rings. Then cut each ring on one side so it makes a curved strip, as shown below.



- Cut out the box and the picture of the boy.
- Decorate the box, and color the boy.

- Fold the box on the dotted lines, using tape to hold it in place.
- Poke a paper fastener through the front of your box.
- Tape a short piece of string to the top of your box. To hold the box closed, you can wrap the string around the paper fastener.
- Open your box. Get a soda-bottle strip from your teacher, and tape it to the inside bottom of the box.
- Tape the boy picture to the part of the soda-bottle strip that's the most upright.
- Cut off any extra plastic.
- Close your box. When you open it, the boy should pop up!
- Practice telling today's Bible story with your craft.

Talk About It

Say: **Our Back-to-Life Boxes are surprising. When the box opens, something pops out! I bet it was a lot more surprising when Jesus healed the boy and he popped up! Jesus is compassionate, and sometimes the compassionate things he does may surprise us!**

Ask: • **Tell about a time something surprised you.** Share your own story first.

• **What could Jesus do in your life that would be surprising?**

Say: **The way Jesus shows compassion might be surprising sometimes. But there's one thing that's not a surprise: Jesus is compassionate. We can count on him to be there with us when we need compassion.**

Have kids take their boxes home and use them as a reminder to boldly help and love their friends, families, and others.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Compassionately Carry On

[10 min]

Supplies

- paper
- pens
- place markers such as beanbags, cones, or chairs (1 for every 3 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- A few feet from a wall in the room, lay the place markers on the floor, separated by a few feet.

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Carefully Balance Paper Wads on Top of Feet

Say: **Today we learned about a time Jesus was compassionate to a woman whose son had died.**

Let's play a caring game where you'll show compassion, too.

- Form groups of three, and give each child a piece of paper and a pen.
- Each child will write his or her name on a piece of paper, then crumple it up and trade paper wads with someone else in the trio.
- Have each trio stand about 10 feet away from a place marker.
- One person in each trio will put his or her feet together and balance the paper wad on top of them.
- Remember that the paper wad represents the person whose name is on it, so kids need to be careful!
- The teammate balancing the paper will then waddle to the place marker and back while doing his or her best to not let the paper fall.
- The other teammates can walk beside their friends and hold their arms for support.
- Then teammates will switch roles.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you do in the game to treat the paper wads with care?**

• **If your friend is going through a hard time, what would it look like to treat him or her with that kind of care?**

Say: **Jesus is compassionate, and because we love and follow Jesus, we can be compassionate, too, in what we say and do.**



Supplies

- 3-ounce paper cups (approximately 20 for every 4 kids)
- plastic trays or metal cookie sheets (1 for every 4 kids)
- heavy books* (classroom Bibles work well)

Test One Cup's Strength

Say: **Do you think this paper cup is strong enough to hold heavy books? Let's experiment and find out!**

- Form groups of four, and give each group a cup and several books.
- Have each group turn the cup upside down on a flat surface and then balance books on top until the cup gets smashed.

Use More Cups

Say: **A single cup got smashed pretty easily under the weight of the books, so let's surround it with some support.**

- Give each group more cups and a tray or cookie sheet.
- Explain that groups will use upside-down cups to create a foundation, then place the tray on top.
- Have groups hypothesize how many books they'll be able to put on the tray without the cups getting smashed. Record each group's guess.
- Have kids add books to the tray until their cups get smashed.
- If you run out of books, encourage kids to find other objects in your classroom to stack on top.
- If a group has cups that do not get smashed, have kids remove the books. Then ask for a willing child from that group to try standing on the tray. Be sure to lend a hand to help steady the child as he or she steps onto the tray. (Note: Be sensitive to kids with self-image issues.)



Talk About It

Say: **The group of cups didn't get smashed as quickly because the cups distributed the heaviness so each cup had to hold less weight. That's why a group could hold up more weight than one cup on its own.**

Ask: • **How does this experiment remind you of friends supporting each other during a hard time?**

Say: **When a friend's going through something heavy or sad, we can surround him or her with love and support. That's what showing compassion is all about!**

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone supported you during a hard time.** Share an example from your own life to begin.

Say: **Jesus is a friend who will always love and support us. Jesus is compassionate. In our Bible story, he supported the mom whose child had died. He cared about her sadness and did something to help. We may not be able to make everything better for our friends or take their sadness away, but we can support and care for them when they need us the most.**



Supplies

- Bibles
- sticky notes
- facial tissues

Easy Prep

- Write the following references on sticky notes, and use the notes to bookmark those verses in a Bible.
 - Psalm 34:18
 - Isaiah 43:2
 - Jeremiah 29:11
 - Matthew 11:28-30
 - Romans 8:28

Set It Up

Say: In today's Bible story, Jesus showed compassion by bringing a dead boy back to life.

Ask: • Tell about a time you personally saw Jesus bring a dead person back to life. Pause as if expecting answers, but realize that kids are unlikely to share real stories. If kids do have something to share, listen respectfully.

Say: Hmm...it doesn't seem like we've had a lot of Jesus' compassion in the same way today. So how *does* Jesus show compassion today? Let's dig in to that.

Dig Deeper

Say: First of all, Jesus can and does do miracles today. It might not seem like it happens as much today as it did in the Bible, but miracles are still one way Jesus shows compassion. If you haven't seen any miracles, that doesn't mean Jesus isn't compassionate toward you. Let's look at three *other* ways Jesus shows compassion today. The first one is by telling us how to be compassionate.

Have a child read Romans 12:15 and 1 John 3:17-18.

Ask: • Tell about a time another person showed you compassion in one of these ways. Share your own story first.

Say: Jesus wants all of us to reflect his heart! That means Jesus shows compassion through other people...or maybe even through you! We can share in the joys and sadness of others to show compassion, and we can reach out to help other people. Let's see how else Jesus helps carry our heartaches.

Have a child read Romans 8:26-27.

Say: Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us pray. Even when we don't have the right words to say, the Holy Spirit prays with groans that communicate more than our words can!

Ask: • Tell about a time you weren't sure what to pray because a problem seemed too big. Share your own story first.

Say: When we're too upset to even know what to pray, Jesus is compassionate. He gave us the Holy Spirit to help.

Last, we have something people in Bible times would've loved to have had: God's Word! It's full of comfort when we need it, like this verse.

Have a child read Psalm 56:8.

Ask: • If you know other comforting Bible verses, share them. Don't pressure kids or make them feel bad if they don't know any verses.

Experience Compassion

Say: **Let's experience Jesus' compassion now. You can choose whether you need compassion through other people, through the Holy Spirit, or through the Bible.**

If you feel like life is going really well right now and you don't need compassion at the moment, you can be one of the people who shows compassion! Have any kids who are interested in that role stand near you.

Say: **Everyone else, you can find compassion by talking to one of us. We'll be here just to listen and to be sad with you and to give you a tissue if you need it.**

Or you can go find a quiet place to sit and talk to God. If you can't find the right words, just sit quietly and remember the Holy Spirit is praying for you, too.

Or you can find more of God's compassion in some verses that are bookmarked in this Bible. Hold up the Bible you prepared. Hand it to a group that's interested in finding compassion through the Bible, and encourage kids in that group to take turns reading the bookmarked verses aloud.

When everyone has chosen a way to show or find compassion, allow at least five minutes for kids to pray, read Scripture, or share their stories with compassionate listeners.

After at least five minutes, close this block with prayer. Pray: **Jesus, you are compassionate. Thank you that you still hurt with us, just as you did in Bible times. Thank you for all the ways you show compassion to us. In your name, amen.**