

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

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 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

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers add “sadness” rocks to a box and try to carry it, talk about the Bible point, and sing a song.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- river rocks (1 to 5 per child)
- box to hold all the rocks

#### Easy Prep

- Depending on your class size, you may have each child add a rock for each example during the “Act It Out” section, or you might have ¼ of the kids add a rock for 1 of each of the examples of sadness. If you have a very small group, have kids add more than 1 rock for each example of sadness so the box will still end up being heavy at the end. Decide what you’ll do now, and act accordingly during that section. There will be 5 examples in the story of sadness. You’ll want the box to be very heavy for a preschooler but not too heavy for a couple of preschoolers to work together to slide the box around a circle.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers remove rocks from a box and praise Jesus.

#### Supplies

- river rocks (1 to 5 per child)\*
- box to hold all the rocks\*



### OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers use objects to change water levels.

#### Supplies

- plastic cups (1 per child)
- small rocks (3-4 per child)
- marker
- plastic spoons (1 per child) (optional)
- paper towels
- plastic tablecloths

#### Easy Prep

- Add water to the cups so they’re each about half full. Then use a marker to draw a sad face above each cup’s water line on the outside of the cup. Cover tables with plastic tablecloths for easy cleanup.



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers jump and play.



### PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

#### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- facial tissue



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers crawl and balance stuffed animals on their backs without and with help.

### Supplies

- stuffed animals (1 for every 2 kids)
- place markers such as chairs, cones, or beanbags (1 for every 2 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.



## CRAFT

Preschoolers decorate tissue pack holders to give away.

### Supplies

- travel packs of facial tissues (1 pack per child)
- “Jesus Loves You” handout (1 for every 4 children) (download [here](#))
- small padded mailing envelopes (1 per child)
- heart stickers
- other craft supplies, such as foam shapes, stickers, and plastic gems
- crayons

### Easy Prep

- Cut apart the handouts.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*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.



### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers make a silly animal noise at two different friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, "Long live [name of birthday child]!"
- Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll find out that Jesus is compassionate. That means when we feel sad or hurt, he feels it in his heart, too. We'll read in the Bible about a time Jesus felt compassion for someone and did something exciting! Let's begin today by sharing about the most exciting thing that happened to us this week.**

### Share

- Share about the most exciting thing that happened to *you* this week. You can share about anything that you enjoyed a lot or was a pleasant surprise for you.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about the most exciting thing that happened to *them* during the week. Anything preschoolers perceive as being exciting is okay for them to share. They might tell about going over to a friend's house or the park or getting ice cream from an ice cream truck.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Those are some very exciting things! Wait until you hear about the exciting thing Jesus did—it was amazing! And he did it because he's compassionate. He feels our sadness in his heart, and he wants to help us. When we're friends with him, he shows us how we can be compassionate to others, too.**

Pray, thanking Jesus for being compassionate.



## Supplies

- Bible
- river rocks (1 to 5 per child)
- box to hold all the rocks

## Easy Prep

- Depending on your class size, you may have each child add a rock for each example during the “Act It Out” section, or you might have  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the kids add a rock for 1 of each of the examples of sadness. If you have a very small group, have kids add more than 1 rock for each example of sadness so the box will still end up being heavy at the end. Decide what you'll do now, and act accordingly during that section. There will be 5 examples in the story of sadness. You'll want the box to be very heavy for a preschooler but not too heavy for a couple of preschoolers to work together to slide the box around a circle.

## Act It Out

Gather the children in a circle, and give each child one to five rocks, depending on what you decided. Place the box in the center of the circle. Say: **Today we'll find out that Jesus is compassionate. That means Jesus notices when people are sad or hurt, and he wants to help them and do something to take away their sadness and pain.**

Show the Bible. Say: **The Bible tells about a time Jesus was compassionate. This is a sad story; we're going to add our rocks to this box whenever we hear something sad in the story.**

Read Luke 7:11, and then say: **The Bible says Jesus and his friends saw a funeral happening near the edge of town. A funeral is a time people get together because someone they love has died. That sounds sad to me. Let's add rocks to the box.** Instruct kids to add rocks to the box, as you determined ahead of time.

Say: **Next the Bible says a young man had died. That's very sad.** Instruct kids to add rocks to the box.

Say: **The young man had a mommy, but he was his mommy's *only* child. Her only child had died. But that's not all; her husband had also died. That's extra sad, so let's add more rocks this time.** Instruct kids to add twice as many rocks as you've previously had them add.

Say: **The Bible says a crowd of people was with her, and Jesus saw them. He saw the mommy crying. She was so sad. Let's add another rock.** Instruct kids to add the rest of the rocks to the box.

Say: **Wow! This box is very full of “sadness” rocks. It sounds like things were very sad—or we might say “heavy”—in the Bible story, like this box.** Invite kids to try to lift the box. **It's so heavy! Do you ever feel heavy or weighed down when you're very sad? I do.**

Share about a time *you* felt weighed down with sadness or pain.

Ask: • **Tell about a time *you* were sad.** Preschoolers might share about a time they lost a beloved toy, a time they had to say goodbye to a relative who moved, or a time a friend hurt them.

Say: **Those are all sad times. Everyone feels sad from time to time. This mommy was having a very sad time. The Bible says Jesus was compassionate. When he saw her, he said, “Don't cry.” Then he went and stood where the mommy's son who had died was and touched him. He then said, “Young man, get up.” And do you know what? The boy came back to life! He sat up and began to talk! Everyone was amazed, and they knew Jesus was very special and had God's special powers.**

## Pass the Box

Say: **It was kind of like Jesus lifted some of the weight from the mommy when he brought her son back to life. When he showed her compassion, it was like he *helped* her carry her heavy sadness. Since this box full of “sadness rocks” is too heavy for one of us, let's help one another pass it around the circle.** Lead kids in working together to pass the box around the circle.

Ask: • **What was it like trying to lift the box by yourself earlier?**

• **What was it like working with someone to pass it?**

Say: **When someone is compassionate, it's like the person helps with a heavy load. Think about when you're sad and someone comes and gives you a hug or sits with you. That person shows you compassion. The person maybe can't take away your sadness, but just by sitting with you, it makes you feel a little better. Jesus does that for us, and we can be compassionate with others, too. We can be compassionate by helping someone who's hurt, sitting with someone who's all alone, giving someone who's sad a hug, and sharing with someone who doesn't have what he or she needs.**

### **Sing a Song**

Say: **Let's sing a song about how Jesus is compassionate and we can be, too.** Lead kids in this song and motions to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

**Our Jesus shows us how.** *(point up)*

**Our Jesus shows us how** *(point up)*

**To show compassion.** *(hug self)*

**Our Jesus shows us how.** *(point up)*

**We help the sad little girl.** *(rub fists next to eyes)*

**We help the sad little girl.** *(rub fists next to eyes)*

**We give her lots of hugs.** *(hug self)*

**We help the sad little girl.** *(rub fists next to eyes)*

**We help the hurt little boy.** *(point to knee)*

**We help the hurt little boy.** *(point to knee)*

**We give him bandages.** *(pretend to hand something to someone)*

**We help the hurt little boy.** *(point to knee)*

**We help the hungry friend.** *(rub tummy)*

**We help the hungry friend.** *(rub tummy)*

**We share our snack with him.** *(pretend to hand something to someone)*

**We help the hungry friend.** *(rub tummy)*

**Our Jesus shows us how.** *(point up)*

**Our Jesus shows us how** *(point up)*

**To show compassion.** *(hug self)*

**Our Jesus shows us how.** *(point up)*

Repeat several times as kids learn the song.



#### Supplies

- river rocks (1 to 5 per child)\*
- box to hold all the rocks\*

#### Pass and Remove

Have kids sit in a circle, and place the box of rocks in the center. Say: **Today we learned that Jesus is compassionate. We heard how Jesus felt sadness in his heart when the mom was sad about her son. And we found out that Jesus made the boy come back to life! Jesus is compassionate to us, too. Let's talk about some ways Jesus is compassionate toward us.**

Have kids each take a turn feeling how heavy the box is by trying to push it. Say: **When Jesus is compassionate, it's like he carries some of our sadness. Like if we feel sad about a friend moving away, Jesus feels sad with us.** Take a rock out of the box and place it aside. **Or when we feel scared in the dark, Jesus understands and doesn't want us to feel scared.** Take a rock out of the box and place it aside.

Ask: • **What are some other ways Jesus is compassionate?** Help kids think of ideas, or if you did the Deeper Bible experience, have them attempt to recall the examples they shared in that activity. Have kids take a rock out of the box for each example until the box is empty. Kids might say Jesus is compassionate by making people better when they're sick, by listening when we talk to him about our sadness, and by bringing us friends when we're lonely. It's okay if kids repeat examples.

Say: **It looks like Jesus takes all the heavy sadness from us when he's compassionate.** Have kids feel the weight of the box now that it's empty.

Say: **Wow! It's so nice to know Jesus is compassionate and he understands how we feel.**

#### Pray

Say: **Let's thank Jesus for being so compassionate and ask him to help us be compassionate to others who are sad or hurting.** Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Let kids know you're glad they came to church, and share that you'd love to see them next week at church, too.



### Supplies

- plastic cups (1 per child)
- small rocks (3-4 per child)
- marker
- plastic spoons (1 per child) (optional)
- paper towels
- plastic tablecloths

### Easy Prep

- Add water to the cups so they're each about half full. Then use a marker to draw a sad face above each cup's water line on the outside of the cup. Cover tables with plastic tablecloths for easy cleanup.

### Drop Rocks in Water

Say: **Look at the sad faces on the cups. The water is below the sad faces. Let's see what happens when we put rocks in the water.**

- Give each child a rock.
- Have each child put a rock in one of the cups.
- Have kids add more rocks to the cups until the water levels rise above the sad faces.

### Take Rocks Out of Water

Say: **The rocks made the water rise higher. The water is so high now that it reaches the sad faces. It's like our cups filled up with tears. Let's show compassion and help the water go away from the sad faces again.**

- Have kids carefully use their fingers or spoons to reach into the water to remove the rocks. Use paper towels to clean up spills.
- Celebrate how the water goes away from the sad faces when kids remove the rocks.
- As time allows, let kids play and experiment with the rocks and water.

### Talk About It

Hold up one of the rocks. Say: **These rocks are like sad things that happen to us. Sad times make us feel unhappy, and we sometimes fill up with tears. In our Bible story, the mommy's little boy died, and she filled up with tears. Place the rock in a cup of water again. Jesus is compassionate. That means he cares about our sadness and wants to take away our tears. Jesus helped the woman and her son, so her tears went down again! Take the rock out of the cup. **We can have compassion and care for people when they're sad, too.****

Tell about a time *you* had compassion and helped someone who was sad.

Ask: • **How have *you* helped someone when he or she was sad?**

Say: **Jesus is compassionate. When we're friends with Jesus, he helps us show his love and compassion to people who are sad, and we help take away their tears like we made the water go down in our cups.**



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Pop Up, Up, Up

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#### Follow Fun Directions

Say: **Today we read about just one of the times Jesus showed compassion for someone. A mother was so sad after her son had died, and Jesus cared for her in her sadness and brought the boy back to life! The boy even jumped up and was very much alive. That's amazing! Let's play a fun game where you'll jump up, too.**

- Stand in the center of the room, and have everyone else spread out around you.
- Call out the following motions for everyone to do, and 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.
  - Stomp your feet fast!
  - Walk on your knees!
  - Lie flat on the floor.
  - Jump up!
  - Crouch down and hop up!
  - Sit down.
  - Lie on your back.
  - Pop up!
  - Bunny hop!
  - Walk slowly.
  - Take big jumps!

#### Talk About It

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

Say: **It's wonderful to be alive and to be able to jump and play! Maybe that's why the boy jumped up when Jesus brought him back to life. Jesus was so kind and caring to the mother and her son, and it changed their lives. We can show compassion and change lives, too!**

Share an example of a time *you* showed compassion that could have positively changed even one day of someone else's life, such as listening to and talking with someone who seemed very sad.

Ask: • **Who is someone you can show compassion to?** Help kids think of how they might show compassion to the people they share about. Preschoolers might share about being good friends who listen, giving great hugs when others are sad, or making friends with new kids at school or church.

Say: **Jesus is compassionate and shows us how we can be compassionate, too. You have amazing power to be compassionate and help make other people's lives better—so much better that they might even jump up with joy!**



### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- facial tissue

### Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: **Hi...** *(Hangs head down.)* **My back is so itchy today. Would you scratch my back?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.)*

Leader: **Thanks for giving a friendly welcome to Theo, kids!**

Theo: *(Sniffs, still hanging head down.)* **Thank you.**

Leader: **What's wrong, Theo?**

Theo: *(Sniffs, still hanging head down.)* **I'm not having a good day.**

Leader: *(Pets Theo's head.)* **I'm sorry, Theo. Sounds like you need some friends right now.** *(Looks to kids.)* **Friends, let's give Theo some more back scratches and some hugs.** *(Leads kids to hug Theo and scratch his back some more.)*

Theo: *(Sniffs and begins to raise his head.)* **That was nice.**

Leader: **Are you crying, Theo? Let me get you a tissue.** *(Looks to friends.)* **Friends, will you help me wipe away Theo's tears?** *(Leads each child to take a turn wiping under Theo's eyes or his nose with a tissue.)*

Theo: *(Sniffs.)* **That feels a little better.**

Leader: **Do you want to talk about it?**

Theo: *(Nods.)*

Leader: **So what happened to make you so sad?**

Theo: **One of my pet caterpillars died.** *(Sniffs.)* **He was my favorite pet.**

Leader: *(Pats Theo on the head.)* **I'm sorry, Theo. I can see how that would make you sad.**

Theo: *(Looks to kids.)* **Have you ever been sad like I am?** *(Listens to kids' responses, and remarks when appropriate.)* **I'm sorry those things happened to you, friends. But it makes me feel a little better to know that you understand how it feels to be sad.**

Leader: **Of course, Theo! We're your friends, and we feel sad when you feel sad.**

Theo: *(Looks surprised.)* **You do?**

Leader: **Yes, Jesus shows us how to be compassionate because he's compassionate.**

Theo: **Compassionate?**

Leader: **That means Jesus feels sad in his heart when we're sad, and he wants to help anyone who's hurting.**

Theo: ***Jesus is a good teacher, because you are compassionate. (Looks to kids.) It made me feel a little better when you hugged and petted me and when you wiped my tears and listened to me.***

Leader: **We learned from Jesus!**

Theo: ***I want to be compassionate, too. (Begins to perk up and looks to kids.) Is there anything I can help you with right now? (Listens to ways kids feel they need help. He can help kids think of ways, if needed. For example, he might ask if they need a tissue for tears—some preschoolers might even be currently upset. He might ask if he can give someone who feels lonely a hug or give a bandage to someone who has an owie. He carries out anything he's able to do on the spot.)***

Leader: **Sounds like you've learned a little from Jesus' compassion, too.**

Theo: **Thank you. (Acts as if he suddenly remembers something.)**

Leader: **What is it, Theo?**

Theo: ***I just thought of someone I can show compassion to.***

Leader: **Who?**

Theo: ***My dad. He feels sad about my pet caterpillar, too. I'm going to go give him a hug and a tissue and listen like you all did for me!***

Leader: **Great idea, Theo. We'll see you later. (Looks to kids.) Friends, give Theo a big "woof, woof, goodbye." (Leads kids to say "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)**



### Critter Crawl

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#### Supplies

- stuffed animals (1 for every 2 kids)
- place markers such as chairs, cones, or beanbags (1 for every 2 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](#).

#### Crawl While Balancing Stuffed Animals

Say: **We read in the Bible today about a time Jesus was compassionate to a woman whose son had died. Jesus can do *anything* and was very kind to the woman when he brought her son back to life! It was amazing and shows how much Jesus cares. Let's play a caring game where you'll show compassion, too.**

- Form pairs, and give each pair a stuffed animal.
- Have each pair stand about 10 feet away from a place marker.
- One partner will get on his or her knees, and the other partner will place the stuffed animal on the back of the child on all fours.
- Partners on all fours will then crawl to their place markers and back while doing their best not to let the stuffed animals fall.
- The other partners can cheer their friends on.
- Then partners will switch roles.
- After everyone's had a chance to crawl alone, have kids play the game again, but this time the partner who's standing can follow the partner who's crawling and help him or her keep the stuffed animal from falling off.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play as many rounds as time allows.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you say or do in the game to show that you care about your partner?**

Say: **We can show compassion with our words and our actions.**

Share an example of both from *your* life, such as encouraging a friend after a hard day and helping someone find a lost pet.

Ask: • **Tell whether you like to show compassion with your words or actions.** Encourage kids to explain which of the ways of showing compassion is easier for them.

Say: **Jesus is compassionate, and because we love and follow Jesus, we can be compassionate with our words and our actions.**



## Supplies

- travel packs of facial tissues (1 pack per child)
- “Jesus Loves You” handout (1 for every 4 children) (download [here](#))
- small padded mailing envelopes (1 per child)
- heart stickers
- other craft supplies, such as foam shapes, stickers, and plastic gems
- crayons

## Easy Prep

- Cut apart the handouts.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Decorate Envelopes

Say: **Jesus is compassionate**. That means he knows when we’re sad or hurting, and he wants to help us feel better. Jesus wants to take away our tears and replace them with his love instead! Sometimes Jesus uses other people to comfort us and show us compassion when we’re sad—like when friends help us up when we fall or our moms or dads help us write a letter to someone we really miss. And Jesus can use us to show compassion and love to other people, too!

Show preschoolers the sample craft.

Say: **Let’s make gifts we can give to people we see this week who are sad or crying. We’ll remind them that even when they’re sad, Jesus loves them and cares for them because Jesus is compassionate.**

- Give each preschooler a padded envelope.
- Have preschoolers decorate both sides of the envelopes with the craft supplies, using the heart stickers to represent Jesus’ love. Remind preschoolers that these are gifts for other people, and encourage them to do their best job decorating.

## Color Handouts

- Give each child a section from the “Jesus Loves You” handout, and read the verse on the handout to kids.
- Say: **Jesus’ words help us know that whenever we’re tired and weighed down by our sadness, we can always go to Jesus for rest and comfort. Jesus is compassionate!**

- Have preschoolers color both sides of the handout.
- Help each preschooler place the handout and a pack of tissues inside the padded envelope and then seal the envelope.

Say: **When you give this pack of tissues and happy note to someone who's sad this week, you'll show that person love and compassion! Jesus is compassionate to us, so we can show compassion to others.**

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