

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

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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 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 child but not too heavy for a couple of kids to work together to slide the box around a circle.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids remove rocks from a box and praise Jesus.

#### Supplies

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



### 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)



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids jump and play.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

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

#### Supplies

- stuffed animals (1 for every 2 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- A few feet from a wall in the room, lay the place

- place markers such as chairs, cones, or beanbags (1 for every 2 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

markers on the floor, separated by a few feet.



## CRAFT

**Kids 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.



## TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

**Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.**

### Supplies

- “John’s Story” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

*\*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 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'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 small groups, have kids share about the most exciting thing that happened to *them* during the week. Anything kids 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 a few kids 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 child but not too heavy for a couple of kids 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 mom'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.** Kids 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

- 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.



### 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.**



## 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. Kids 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!**



### 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 kids 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 child a padded envelope.
- Have kids decorate both sides of the envelopes with the craft supplies, using the heart stickers to represent Jesus' love. Remind kids 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 kids color both sides of the handout.

- Help each child 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.**



## Supplies

- "John's Story" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

## Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

## Discuss and Watch "John's Story"

Ask: • **What's your favorite thing about school?**

Say: **School might not seem like a fun thing to you, but it's important so you can learn and be educated. In some countries, there are kids who really, really wish they could go to school. Let's see a story about a man who helped a little boy get to school.**

Watch "John's Story."

Ask: • **What examples of compassion did you see in this video?**

- **What can you learn from this story about how to show compassion?**

Say: **In the Philippines, kids with disabilities don't have easy access to go to school. But some people with compassion started a school to help teach deaf kids. They even went out of their way to find John so they could invite him to their school. When we see people who are sad or aren't being treated fairly, we can help them. That's what it means to reflect the heart of Jesus! Jesus is compassionate, so we're compassionate.**