

Lesson Plan

July 19th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Broken

Bible Story: Jesus provided bread from Heaven (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-34, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14)

Theme Verse: "Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: Today we get to teach about how Jesus had compassion on people who were hungry and needed food. (Read Mark 6:34.) We explain that compassion is seeing a need and then taking action to help. The people in our Bible story did not have to do anything to earn care and compassion from Jesus. We do not have to do anything to receive His care and compassion either. Kids will learn that we need God's compassion, and He gives it to us through the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help leaders recognize His compassion.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: Hello everybody, and thanks for joining us today! Turn to the person next to you and give that friend a high five. Say, "I'm glad you are here!" (I'm glad you are here!) We are going to have a blast getting to know each other and exploring the Bible together. Our theme

today is SOS, and it is a way of saying, “I need help!” SOS is a way of saying what? (I need help!) Today we will discover more about how we are broken because of our sin, but there is good news because God helps us!

Stick it to Win it

Game Rules:

1. Split the class into three teams.
2. Invite two players from each team to the front.
3. Give each team a pad of sticky notes.
4. Choose one player from each team to be the “sticky person.”
5. Start the video. Challenge players to attach sticky notes one at a time on the “sticky person” during the two-minute video. Players may only place sticky notes on the other players’ arms and heads.
6. Remove and count sticky notes from the sticky person, declaring the winner as the team with the most sticky notes.

What You Say: We are going to play “Stick It to Win It.” What are we playing? (Stick it to Win it!) This game is fast-paced and fun. First we’re going to split into three teams. (Allow time to split the kids into teams.)

Now let's have one player from each team come to the front. When you come to the front, you and your teammate will need to choose one player to be the “sticky person.” Who are players choosing? (A sticky person!) (Allow teams to complete this step.)

Now that teams have chosen their sticky people, the other player on each team will race to put as many sticky notes on your team’s sticky person before the timer runs out. You may only place one sticky note at a time! But here is the trick—you can only put sticky notes on the sticky person’s arms and head. No sticky notes on legs, stomachs, or backs! Where can you put the sticky notes? (Arms and head!)

Are you ready to cheer for your team? Let’s get that countdown going! Say, “Ready, Set, Go!” (Ready, Set, Go!)

(Encourage players as they play and prompt kids to cheer on their teams. Start the Host Script when the video ends.) That was fun! Look at our sticky people! They are covered in sticky notes! But now, we have to get all the sticky notes off! Your new challenge is to be the first team to

remove all the sticky notes from your sticky person. What are they going to do? (Remove the sticky notes!) Be sure to count them so we can see which teams have the most! Let's get to it! (Allow teams to complete this step.)

Congrats to _____! You are our winners! Let's cheer for all our players as they throw away the sticky notes and return to their seats.

Great job! "Stick It to Win It" is a silly game, but we can take away an important idea from it. In this game, the sticky people were covered in sticky notes. Sometimes we can feel like we are covered in a mess much worse than sticky notes. Have you ever made a mess of a good situation by making the wrong choice? Do you ever feel like you have made a mess of a friendship by saying something unkind? Have you ever made a mess of your time with family by refusing to share with your siblings? Those wrong choices are called sin. Sin is when we do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. We are broken because of our sin.

Sometimes it feels like our wrong choices are stuck to us like those sticky notes. Let me hear you say, "SOS!" (SOS!) But the good news is that God always helps us get unstuck. No wrong choice we make is too big or too bad for God to forgive. God loves us so much! How much? (So much!) He loves us so much; He rescues us from our sin problem. We need help, and God loves to help us!

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: Now we get to watch a show where contestants will need skills and smarts to win. High-five a neighbor and say, "I think you could win!" (I think you could win!) I am sure we have a room full of winners here! Today's competition is between Lilly and Jim. Get the show started by saying, "SOS!" in 3-2-1! (SOS!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Raise your hand if you would like the sour snack. (Allow response.) Raise your hand if you would like the spicy snack. (Allow response.) Raise your hand if you would like the extra-dry snack. (Allow response.)

Jim really needed that coconut water after that spicy snack. Derek providing that coconut water was a way to help and show care. We call that compassion. Everyone, say, "Compassion!" (Compassion!) Showing compassion means seeing a need and taking action to help. God shows us compassion when He cares for and loves us, even though we are broken because of sin. Sin is when we do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. We all sin, and none

of us can fix our sin problem on our own. But God shows us compassion because He gives us what is needed to fix our sin problem. Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!)

Worship

What You Say: Let’s come up front and worship all together!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Matthew 14:13-21.) When we want to discover what God is like and how He is at work in the world He has made, we can turn to the Bible. The what? (The Bible!) The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. The Bible is like a mini library—it has many different books written over a long period of time. Today we will hear a story that comes from the book of Matthew. Which book? (Matthew!) If you are ready for our Bible story, say, “I am ready!” (I am ready!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: What an incredible story! Say, “Incredible!” (Incredible!) This Bible story is not just about Jesus feeding a lot of hungry people. It is a story about the love and compassion Jesus has for people. Compassion is seeing a need and then taking action to help. Jesus saw the crowd’s hunger and need for food, so Jesus fed them. What did Jesus do? (He fed them!) Jesus took the five loaves and two fish that were given to Him, and He made that little bit more than enough to feed over five thousand people!

We need God’s compassion too! Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!) We might not be hungry on a hillside, but we need something even greater—a relationship with God.

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 1) God created us for a relationship with Him! God created everything that exists, and do you know what God said when He looked at all that He had made? He said it was good. God said it was what? (Good!) God created people—you and me—in His own image. He created every person that was listening to Jesus teach in today’s Bible story. Since the very first people, God has made all people to know, love, and follow Him.

(Circle 2) Sadly, that special relationship we were made to have with God was broken by our sin, which is when we do things our way instead of following God’s way. Our sin separates us from God, and sin deserves to be punished. No matter how hard we try, we cannot live the way God created us to live on our own. In today’s Bible story, the people in the crowd were hungry and Jesus fed them. But Jesus knew they had a bigger issue that needed help and compassion. He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd, meaning they needed help, protection, and love. We are also like sheep without a shepherd because we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. SOS! We need God’s compassion. Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!)

(Circle 3) Jesus showed compassion by teaching and feeding the crowd. He gave all the people what they needed. And God showed us compassion by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from brokenness. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He died on a cross, then came back to life showing He is more powerful than both sin and death! Because of God’s love and compassion, everyone can have a forever relationship with God. Anyone who believes in Jesus, asks Jesus for forgiveness, and turns away from sin to follow Him gets to have a relationship with God and have the new life Jesus offers.

Sometimes we may wonder if God really cares about us. The truth is that He does! Even though

we are broken because of our sin, He has so much love and compassion that He made the way for us to have a relationship with Him. No matter what we do or how we feel about what is going on, we can remember and find joy because God gives us what we need most—love, compassion, and forgiveness through Jesus! Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!)

If you have questions about what it means to follow Jesus, talk with me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to tell you more about God’s compassion!

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, (Start with fists at your shoulders. Bring your fists down in front of you, stopping at your waist.)

so that we may receive mercy and find grace (Pull your fists toward you.)

to help us in time of need. (Clasp your hands in front of your chest.)

Hebrews 4:16 (Hold your hands out like a book.)

What You Say: Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!) God meets our need to have a relationship with Him by offering forgiveness through His Son, Jesus! Now we can come to God knowing that He loves us and will help us in our time of need. Let’s learn our Theme verse to help us remember this amazing truth.

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: We need God’s compassion, which means we need His help and need Him to take care of us. We are broken because of our sin, but God has shown us compassion by forgiving us when we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive us. We can be confident in His love and care for us, and we can trust Him to give us everything we need! What can we trust Him to do? (Give us everything we need!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: We need God’s help. Say, “SOS!” (SOS!) Say, “I need God’s compassion!” (I need God’s compassion!) We are broken because of our sin, and we cannot rescue ourselves. But God loves us so much that He does not want us to continue in our sin. He has something much

better for us! When we ask Jesus for forgiveness and turn from sin to follow Jesus, we get to experience life in God's family now and forever. We can be confident in His love and care for us, and we can trust Him to give us everything we need! Let's pray together in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for Your love and compassion. We have sinned by doing things our way instead of Your way, and we are sorry. Help us trust and follow Jesus so we can have a forever relationship with You! Thank You for caring for us so much. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let's discover more about God's compassion together!

1. When was a time this last week that you needed help? What did you do? Did someone help you? (Allow responses and share your own response.)
2. When someone puts sunscreen on us, it is a way of showing love and compassion because that person is caring for us and giving us what we need to prevent sunburn. How can sunscreen remind us of God's compassion? (God loves, cares for, and protects us even though we sin.)
3. The Bible tells us that we are broken, and we need God's compassion. Let's open our Bibles to **Mark 6:34,41-42** so we can read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus saw that the people were hungry, and He also saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd who needed help. How did Jesus show compassion to the people? (Jesus taught them about God and forgiveness, and He fed them.)
4. God showed us compassion by sending His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve because of our sin. How does God sending Jesus for us show God's love and compassion? (Jesus showed God's love for us by giving up His life. He suffered and died on a cross to take the punishment that we deserve for our sin.) If you have any questions about what it means to trust and follow Jesus, you can ask me anytime!

5. The Bible tells us that we need God's help because of our sin, and He helps us! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Compassion Compass

What To Do: Today we are making a "Compassion Compass" to remind us of the Bible story and know that Jesus gives us what we need most—a relationship with God! What does Jesus give us? (A relationship with God!)

First, color the images on your compass that match the sentence in each section. This will help you remember what happened in today's Bible story. (Allow time.)

Now, attach the arrow. Do this by pressing the brass fastener through the center of the arrow and the center of the compass. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Keep It Going: Invite kids to write or draw extra words or symbols that remind them of ways God shows compassion every day.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids to help each other with fastening if needed. Remind the kids that their compasses do not have to be perfect—it is about what it means!

Loud And Clear: You can use your compass to help you tell the story we heard today about Jesus having compassion on the hungry crowd. Jesus gave the people what they needed, but He also gives everyone who believes in Him and asks for forgiveness something even greater—Himself. When we turn from sin, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and follow Him, He shows us compassion by taking away our sin. He loves us so much and will give us everything we need. Just like a compass points us in the right direction, Jesus guides us to God's love and forgiveness. Is that not amazing? (Allow kids to respond.) He is our greatest help!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that Jesus cared for the people in the Bible story and gave them what they

needed. We are broken because of our sin, but Jesus shows us compassion by offering His life for us.

Loud And Clear: SOS! We need God's help. We are broken because of our sin. God created us to know and love Him, but when we do things our way instead of God's way, our relationship with Him is broken. God showed us compassion when He sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for sin. We can have a forever relationship with God when we ask for forgiveness and trust and follow Jesus.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for Your amazing love for us! We are broken because of our sin, and we need Your compassion. No matter what is happening or what we do, help us remember that You love and care for us and will forgive us when we ask. Thank You for Your compassion. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.