**Leader Overview**



**Volume Overview**

**Expect the Unexpected**

*We all make plans—plans for where we’re going and what we want to do. But life is more often a story of unexpected interruptions. Our faith helps us to recognize God’s hand at work in unanticipated ways. By faith we learn to embrace life’s interruptions as the place God so often does miraculous things. We learn to respond with compassion and faith when things seem impossible.*

**Session Overview**

**Respond with Compassion**

*In this* **Live** *session, kids will discover how Jesus demonstrated compassion for people during His time on earth. Kids will learn that they need to follow Jesus’ perfect example and respond compassionately to others’ needs.*

**Bible Lesson**

Jesus Interrupts a Funeral Procession

[Luke 7:11–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.11-17)

**Faith Fact**

I can show compassion.

**Faith Verse**

[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6) (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

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| ***You Will Need***  ***Large Group***   * *Bible* * *Worship songs (Song suggestions: “Way Maker” by Leeland; “Surrounded (Fight My Battles)” by Bethel Music; “Battle Belongs” by Phil Wickham; “Zeal” Lyric Video by The Belonging Co)* * *For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:*   *• Projector or TV*  *• Laptop*  *•* ***Faith Fact Slide***  ***• Faith Verse Video*** *or* ***Slide***  ***• Bible Lesson Video***  ***• Teaching Point Slides 1–3***  ***• Large Group Hidden Picture Slide***  ***• Large Group Hidden Picture Answer Page***  ***• Large Group Game Page***   * *Scissors* * *Small container* * *Clear cup* * *Water* * *4–6 tablespoons baking soda* * *1 teaspoon dish soap* * *Red washable paint* * *1 cup white vinegar* * *9x13” baking pan* * *Balloon, not inflated*   ***Small Group***   * *8–10 foods and other items that can be identified by touch (banana, orange, cookie, piece of candy, slice of bread, bowl, spoon, crayon, baseball, etc.), one of each item per small group or share the items between groups* * *Paper lunch bags, one per item* * *Bibles for kids in the group to share* * ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid* * *Pencils or pens, one per kid*   *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [*BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready***  ***Large Group***   * *Download videos and slides if needed.* * *Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.* * *Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for Teaching Time.* * *Print the* ***Large Group Game Page****.* * *Cut the* ***Large Group Game Page*** *into slips and place the slips in a small container.* * *Fill the clear cup with water, baking soda, dish soap, and red paint. Stir the mixture together.* * *Have the cup of vinegar ready for Teaching Point 2. Use the baking pan to catch the overflow.*   ***Small Group***   * *Put each food item in a bag.* * *Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.*   *First time leading* Live *for Kids? Check out the* [*Facilitator Guide*](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)*.* |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

Hi, everyone! I’m glad you’re here to explore God’s Word with me today. God’s plans are often different from our plans. And His plans are always better. We talked last time about welcoming interruptions so we can help others. Today, we’re going to talk more about *how* we can help them.

People need help when they’re going through hard times. Raise your hand if you’ve ever been through a hard time. *(Group response)* Most of us know what that feels like. When we go through a difficult or sad time, it helps when other people show compassion. If you have *compassion*, it means you notice someone is having a hard time or feeling upset and you want to help them.

• *Insert a personal story about when you went through a hard time and someone else responded to you with compassion. Try to keep it brief and something kids can relate to.*

**Faith Fact**

We all want people to show compassion when we’re going through a hard time. Shouldn’t we do the same thing for others? Our Faith Fact today is a reminder of that. **I can show compassion.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide.***



Let’s say the Faith Fact together, but let’s show it while we say it. What do I mean by that? Well, showing compassion is noticing how someone is feeling and then showing them we care. So look at me with *compassion* while we say the Faith Fact. **I can show compassion.** One more time. **I can show compassion.**

**Game**

**Compassion Actions**

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| ***You Will Need***   * ***Large Group Game Page*** * *Scissors* * *Small container*   ***Getting Ready***   * *Print the* ***Large Group Game Page****.* * *Cut the* ***Large Group Game Page*** *into slips and place the slips in a small container.* |

God wants us to show compassion to other people. The first step is noticing how someone else is feeling. We all go through a lot of emotions every day. It’s nice when someone notices we’re feeling sad, lonely, or in pain.

In today’s game, we’ll practice recognizing other people’s emotions and feelings. We’ll divide into two teams: boys and girls. For each round, I’ll choose one person from each team to be the actor. The actors will take turns drawing a slip, reading the emotion word to themselves, and acting it out for the rest of their team. Their team will get three guesses, and if they don’t guess correctly, the other team gets a chance to steal. Any questions? *(Allow responses.)* Let’s play!

• *Choose the actors for each round, and let the teams guess the answer.*

• *Keep playing until you run out of slips.*

Great job recognizing the emotions and acting them out! I’m sure you’ve felt every one of those emotions before. It’s nice when someone else notices how we’re feeling and shows compassion to us. Our Faith Fact is a great reminder to do that. Say it with me. **I can show compassion.**

**Worship**

When we’re feeling strong emotions, it’s a great idea to bring them to God. We can give our emotions to God as we worship, and He will show compassion to us. Let’s worship Him now by singing.

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session.*

**Bible Lesson**

God wants us to be honest with Him about how we’re feeling. And when we go to God with our feelings, we can trust that He’ll show compassion. Jesus was an example of this during His time on earth. He cared about people and showed compassion to everyone who brought their needs to Him. Before we look at one example in the Bible, let’s pray. We need God’s help so we can learn to show compassion for others just as Jesus did.

**Prayer**

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| --- |
| *Dear God, thanks for showing compassion to us when You sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Help us to be like You and show compassion to others. We love You. Amen.* |

**Video Intro**

Before we find out more about how Jesus showed compassion in our Bible story, let’s watch this video.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video****.*



**Bible Story**

**Jesus Interrupts a Funeral Procession**

What a great way to get ready for our Bible story! Dash really showed compassion to that boy. And Dash told us how Jesus showed compassion too. Let’s look at the Bible story about Jesus now.

**Teaching Time**

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| ***You Will Need***   * ***Large Group Hidden Picture Slide*** * *Clear cup* * *Water* * *4–6 tablespoons baking soda* * *1 teaspoon dish soap* * *Red washable paint* * *1 cup white vinegar* * *9x13” baking pan* * *Balloon, not inflated*   ***Getting Ready***   * *Fill the clear cup with water, baking soda, dish soap, and red paint. Stir the mixture together.* * *Have the cup of vinegar ready for Teaching Point 2. Use the baking pan to catch the overflow.* |

Would you say that Jesus was busy when He was on earth? *(Group response)* I would say so! He was busy teaching and preaching to the crowds, healing sick people, and performing miracles. Plus, He still had to eat and sleep like the rest of us.

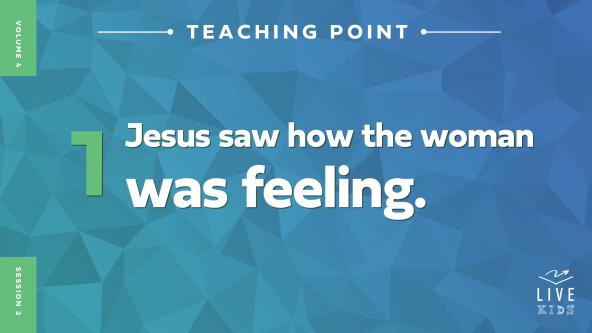
Word spread quickly about the amazing things Jesus was doing, so a crowd of people often followed Him. They were following Him on the day our story took place. Let’s see what Jesus did that shocked and amazed everyone. Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app on your device. Turn to [Luke 7:11–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.11-17).

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we recommend that the leader reads the Scripture portions aloud.*

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with a bookmark, so they can read it on their own at home.*

**1. Jesus saw how the woman was feeling.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Luke 7:11–13*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.11-13)*.*

If we look back in this chapter and the one before it, we see that Jesus had been doing a lot of traveling, healing, and preaching. Do you think Jesus was tired from all that walking and hard work? *(Group response)* He probably was! Remember, Jesus is the Son of God, but He was also a man. He got tired just like we do.

In our story, Jesus was walking toward a town called Nain and a large crowd was following Him. As they neared the village gate, they met another crowd coming out. These people were having a funeral for the only son of a widow who lived there. A *widow* is a woman whose husband has died. So that means the woman’s husband and her only son had both died. In Bible times, a woman with no husband or son would have trouble buying food and the other things she needed to survive. She was sad that her son had died and probably worried about the future.

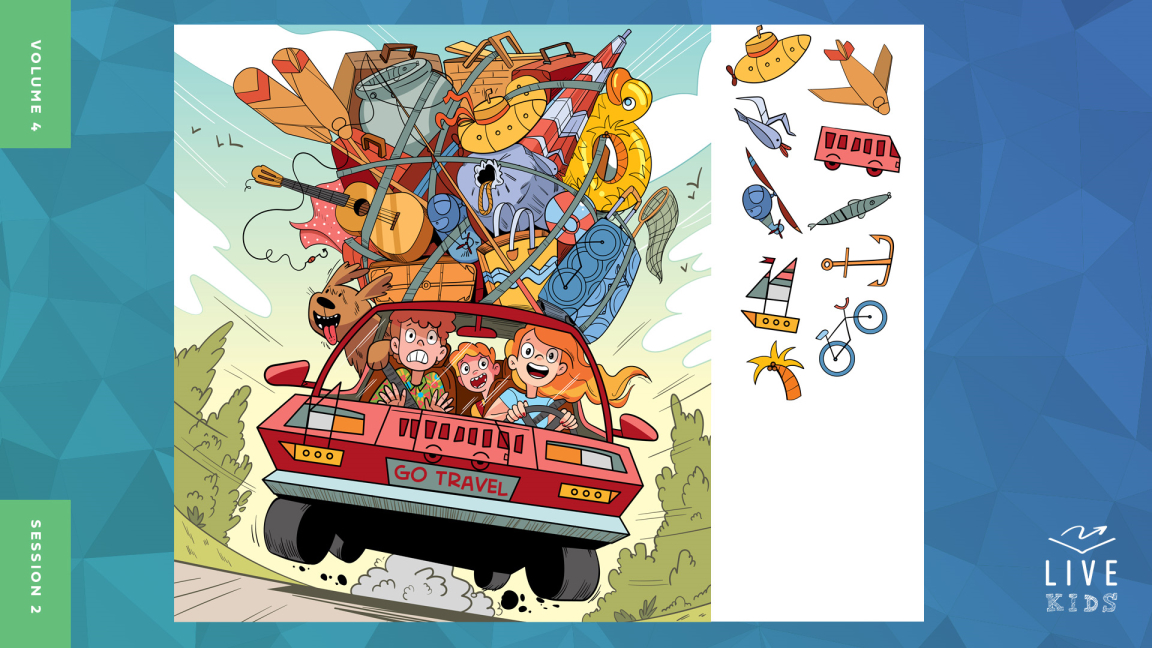
Can you picture these two groups of people meeting on the road? I’m sure there was a lot of talking and crying and noise. Maybe there was dust in the air from all the people walking on a dirt road. But in the middle of all those distractions, Jesus saw the widow. He could have hurried into town to take a break or a nap. But Jesus didn’t do that. Instead, He took time to notice one person’s pain and sadness. He lived out our Faith Fact. Say it with me. **I can show compassion**.

Jesus noticing the widow reminds me of a hidden picture. Have you ever tried to do one of these? *(Group response)*

• *Show the* ***Large Group Hidden Picture Slide****.*

• *Optional: Let kids solve the* ***Large Group Hidden Picture Slide*** *if you have time.*

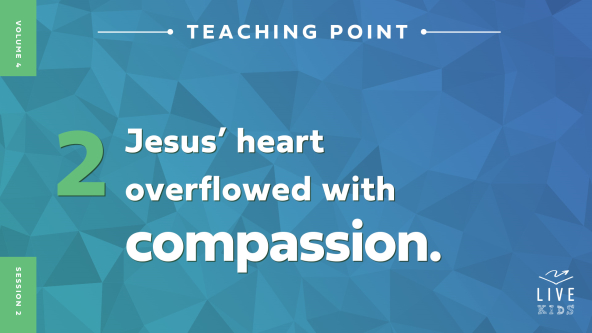
• *Refer to the* ***Large Group Hidden Picture Answer*** *Page if you need help finding the hidden items.*



Jesus saw the widow, and He sees each one of us. He knows how we’re feeling every day, and He cares about each one of us. How cool is that? *(Group response)*

**2. Jesus’ heart overflowed with compassion.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide.***



How do you think the widow felt at her son’s funeral? *(Allow responses.)* I’m sure she felt sad, lonely, hopeless, and upset about what to do next. How did Jesus respond to her sadness? *(Allow responses.)* That’s right. Jesus showed compassion and love.

• *Hold up the cup filled with the red liquid.*

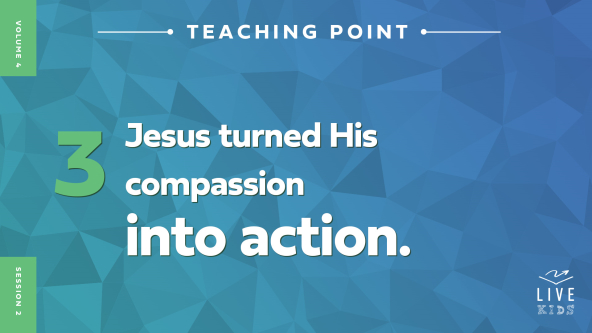
Can anyone remember what the word *compassion* means? *(Allow responses.)* That’s right, having compassion means seeing that someone is having a hard time or feeling upset and wanting to help them. Jesus’ heart wasn’t just full of compassion. It overflowed.

• *Pour the vinegar into the red mixture in the clear cup. It will react with the baking soda and cause the mixture to overflow.*

That’s what Jesus’ compassion and love for all of us looks like. There is more than enough for everyone.

**3. Jesus turned His compassion into action.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Luke 7:14–17*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.14-17)*.*

Jesus told the widow, “Don’t cry!” Then He turned His compassion into action! Feeling sorry for someone is good, but the next step is doing something about it. Jesus didn’t just comfort the widow. He changed her life for the better. He walked over to her son’s coffin and told him to get up. Can you imagine how the people looked when Jesus told a dead boy to get up? What emotion do you think they were feeling? *(Allow responses.)* What do you imagine that they were thinking? *(Allow responses.)* They were probably shocked!

But when Jesus spoke, the boy sat up and started talking! How did the people in the crowd react to Jesus’ act of compassion? *(Allow responses.)* The Bible says they were afraid, but in a good way. They praised God and called Jesus a powerful prophet. Then they started telling other people, and the news spread all over the countryside.

• *Blow up a balloon quickly but don’t tie it off. Hold it to keep the air inside.*

Jesus was filled with compassion for the widow that day. But what would have happened if Jesus had held those feelings inside and didn’t act on them? *(Allow responses.)* The boy would still have been dead, and the widow would still have been sad. Instead, Jesus acted on His compassion, and changed the woman’s life and family forever.

• *Let go of the balloon and allow it to fly around the room.*

Even now, thousands of years later, we’re still learning how to show compassion from what Jesus did that day.

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray.*

There is no one better at showing compassion than Jesus! But Jesus isn’t walking around on the earth right now. It’s been more than two thousand years since He lived here, but His ministry isn’t over. Jesus has given all of us the job of showing His love and compassion to others.

If we don’t show compassion to someone who is hurting, who will? Maybe no one. So let’s take a moment to ask Jesus to help us notice when others are hurting or upset and show them compassion.

**Prayer**

*Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you.*

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| *Dear Jesus, thanks for teaching me how to show compassion and put it into action. Help me to see others’ needs and respond just like You did. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse**

Our Faith Verse reminds us to always look to God for direction. Let’s say it together now.

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

If we ask for God’s help, He will show us the right thing to do. He will help us notice people who are hurting, so we can show compassion and take care of their needs.

**Faith Fact**

Before we move on, let’s review our Faith Fact again. **I can show compassion.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Let’s say the Faith Fact together a few more times, and each time I want you to say it louder than before. **I can show compassion.** Remember to look for those who need compassion and then show them you care.

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here.*

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**Feel It!**

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| ***You Will Need***   * *8–10 foods and other items that can be identified by touch (banana, orange, cookie, piece of candy, slice of bread, bowl, spoon, crayon, baseball, etc.), one of each item per small group or share the items between groups* * *Paper lunch bags, one per item*   ***Getting Ready***   * *Put each food item in a bag.* |

Showing compassion means paying attention to other people and trying to understand their feelings. We’ve been talking about emotions you feel with your heart, but now let’s play a game about feeling things with your hands. I’ve got some mystery items in these bags. You’ll have to guess what the item is only by feeling it. Don’t look in the bags! After each person has had a chance to feel what’s in a bag, I’ll ask you to guess what it is.

• *Pass one item around the group until everyone has had a chance to feel it.*

• *Allow everyone to guess what they think the item is, then reveal the correct answer.*

• *Keep playing more rounds until you run out of items.*

Was it harder or easier than you expected to guess the items? *(Allow responses.)* When we’re talking about emotions, it’s not always easy to know how others are feeling. Sometimes people hide their emotions, and we have trouble seeing how they’re really feeling. That’s why it’s important to pay attention and ask others how they’re feeling. Maybe they just need someone to show they care.

**Bible Lesson Recap**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before the discussion.*

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| ***You Will Need***   * *Bibles for kids in the group to share*   *No prep needed for this activity.* |

**Bible Story Review: Jesus Interrupts a Funeral Procession** [**Luke 7:11–17**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk7.11-17)

A large crowd was following Jesus when they met another group of people having a funeral for a widow’s only son. When Jesus saw the woman crying, He was filled with compassion. He stopped the funeral procession and simply told the boy to get up. The boy sat up and began to talk! The people praised God, and the news about Jesus spread throughout the area.

• *Optional: Give each kid a Bible and read the Bible story together.*

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones.*

**Questions**

What event did Jesus interrupt?

Why was Jesus overflowing with compassion for the woman?

\* How would you have felt when Jesus went to the coffin and started talking to the boy?

\* What would you have done when the dead boy sat up?

How do you think the boy’s mom felt when she saw that her son was alive again?

\* If you had been there when Jesus raised the widow’s son, do you think you would have joined the crowd that followed Jesus? Why or why not?

\* What would you do after seeing an incredible miracle like this? Who would you tell about it?

\* How can we know what other people are feeling?

\* When has someone shown you compassion?

**Live It**

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact today is **I can show compassion.** Say that with me. **I can show compassion.** How did Jesus show compassion for the widow? *(Allow responses.)* He told her not to cry and raised her only son from the dead. Jesus often did miracles because of His compassion for hurting people.

**Challenge**

Can you think of anyone who is going through a difficult, sad, or lonely time right now? *(Group response)* Now think of a way you could show compassion to that person this week. Sometime this week, ask if they need to talk, give them a hug, give them a small gift or card, or share a special treat with them. Your compassion could make a big difference for them.

**Prayer**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet.*

• *Have kids share and pray for each other’s prayer requests.*

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| *Dear God, help us to notice others’ needs this week. And help us find helpful ways to show compassion. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse Review**

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| *No prep needed for this activity.* |

Our Faith Verse is [Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6). This verse reminds us to always find out what God’s wants us to do instead of coming up with our own ideas. Let’s practice it together.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

This Faith Verse is longer than some of the others have been, so we’ll need to keep practicing it. Let’s review it one more time.

• *Say the verse as a group again.*

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Faith Verse Response**

God wants us to be ready to respond to others with compassion. That means we have to listen and pay attention to what other people need. Do you think you’re good at that? *(Allow responses.)*

As we say the Faith Verse today, let’s practice responding to different emotions. I’ll choose one person to say the first phrase of the verse, and I’ll give them an emotion to show as they say it. Then we’ll use the same kind of voice and expression to say the other phrases in the verse. Are you ready? *(Group response)*

• *Choose a volunteer and give them a way to say the verse: happy, sad, tired, angry, joyful, scared, surprised, etc.*

• *After the volunteer says the first phrase of the verse (Trust in the Lord with all your heart), lead the kids in saying the rest of the verse while mirroring the volunteer’s emotion.*

• *Repeat using different emotions as many times as you choose.*

Great job practicing the verse and responding to our volunteers’ emotions!

**Activity Page**

**See and Respond**

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| ***You Will Need***  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid*  *• Pencils or pens, one per kid*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.* |

In our Bible story, Jesus could see the widow was sad because her son had died. Jesus even told her not to cry. Recognizing others’ emotions is a first step in showing compassion.

• *Hand out a copy of the* ***Small Group Activity Page*** *and a pencil to each kid.*

Look at the pictures of different emotions on the page. You’ll unscramble the names of the emotions and then fill out the rest of the chart. Think about the signs that someone is showing that emotion. For example, if someone is sad like the woman in the Bible story, they might be crying. Then, add one way you can show compassion to that person. When you’re done, let’s talk about your ideas.

• *Give kids time to complete the chart. Talk with them individually or as a group about their responses.*

• *Keep in mind that kids might be sharing about themselves or a close family member as they complete the chart. Be prepared to minister to them if needed.*

**Dismissal**

When we read the true Bible stories about Jesus and His disciples, we can quickly learn to expect the unexpected. I’m sure no one expected Jesus to show compassion by raising the widow’s son from the dead. Let’s pray and ask God to help us surprise others by showing them overflowing compassion like Jesus.

**Prayer**

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| --- |
| *Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how to turn our compassion into action. Help us to do our best to show compassion to someone this week. Amen.* |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Can anyone remember our Faith Fact? Shout it out as loud as you can! *(Allow responses.)* That’s right. Let’s say it all together one more time as quietly as possible. **I can show compassion.** Remember to show compassion to others. See you next time!

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page.***

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid.*

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session.*