

COMPASSION

BIG IDEA

Compassion feels the pain and plight of others. It will enable us to convey a deep feeling of love and concern that moves us to meet their distresses, struggles, and needs.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 3:8
“Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: BIOGRAPHICAL STORY

- No materials required for this lesson.

GAME

- No materials required for this game.

CRAFT

- Colored cardstock
- Glue
- Stickers
- Markers
- Glitter glue or other decorations

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)



COMPASSION

Lesson 6

LESSON

Once there was a slave named Androcles who had a very cruel master. He was so mean that Androcles ran away and hid in a cave in the woods. That night a loud noise woke him up. It was a roaring lion. Androcles was so scared! He thought for sure the lion was going to kill him. But the lion did not kill him, in fact the lion was not angry he was limping and hurt.

Androcles calmed down and observed the lion more closely and lifted his paw to see what was the matter. The lion stopped roaring and began to rub his head against Androcles shoulder in trust. It turned out that the lion had a long thorn stuck in his paw. Androcles felt sorry for the lion, he wanted to pull the thorn out but he knew it would hurt the lion even more and it might make him angry. Poor Androcles, he was torn between compassion and fear.

After a few moments Androcles looked the lion in the eye and said, "I'm sorry, this is going to hurt." Though he knew the lion could not understand his language. He took a deep breath, grabbed the thorn and gave it a strong yank. The lion jumped up scaring Androcles yet again! But the lion was happy and grateful. He licked the hands and feet of his new friend.

For many weeks Androcles and the lion lived together in the cave. The lion went hunting every day and brought meat back which Androcles would cook for his meals. For the first time in his hard and sad life, Androcles felt safe and relaxed. He slept in peace with the lion by his side.

One day some soldiers who were marching through the woods happened to find the cave. When they spotted Androcles they knew immediately who he was and they arrested him. In those days it was the law that a slave who ran away from his master would be put in a stadium with a hungry lion while a crowd of people watched him fight for his life. For them it was entertainment like a circus or a football game.

When the day came for Androcles to fight a lion he was paralyzed with fear! He could hear the hungry lions roaring and he was certain he would die. A soldier marched him into the center of the stadium. He looked around at the crowd hoping to find compassion on their faces, but he saw no compassion.

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LESSON

Suddenly an iron gate opened up and a hungry lion rushed in. In one giant leap the lion reached Androcles. In an instant Androcles fear melted away and he was full of joy. The hungry lion was his old friend the lion from the cave.

The people in the stadium were amazed. They saw the young slave boy reach up and hug the lion. Then they saw the lion lie down and lick the boy's feet. Then Androcles petted the lion's head which completely puzzled everyone! The stadium was silent.

"I am a human," Androcles said, "but no human has ever offered friendship or compassion to me! My only friend is this poor lion who has been so kind and generous."

In those days the crowd could make the final decision about the life or death of a slave.

"Let them be free! Let them be free!" The crowd yelled.

And so Androcles and the lion were set free. Free from death. Free from slavery. Free to continue their lives and friendship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is compassion?
2. How did Androcles show compassion to the lion?
3. How did the lion show compassion to Androcles?
4. How did the crowd have compassion?
5. What changed the crowd's attitude?
6. Have you ever shown compassion?
7. What are some ways we can be more compassionate in our world?

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CRAFT & GAME

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: HANDS OF LOVE

Make a stretchy card with paper hands.

DIRECTIONS

- Trace and cut out a left hand and right hand.
- Cut a 1 x 10 inch strip of cardstock.
- Write a kind message on the paper strip.
- Fold the paper strip in a zigzag and glue the ends to the center of the left and right hand.
- Decorate the outside of the hands with markers, stickers, glitter glue, etc.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Colored cardstock
- Glue
- Stickers
- Markers
- Glitter glue or other decorations

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- precut 1 x 10 inch paper strips
- pre-traced hand shapes
- precut hand shapes

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: EVERYONE IS IT!

Kids try to be the last person tagged.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

No materials required for this game.

INSTRUCTIONS

In this super simple game everyone is it! All players place one hand on their head. Everyone runs around using their free hand to tag the elbow (the elbow that is up in the air) of other players. As players are tagged they step out of the play area. The last person standing is the winner!

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTION

To save time toward the end of the game declare the last 3 players to be winners.

