Worship Theme:

God values compassion.

Weaving Faith Into Life:

Kids will worship God for his compassion and share that compassion with someone else.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Sequence</th>
<th>What Children Will Do</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Praise God!</strong>&lt;br&gt;(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td>Sing&lt;br&gt;- “His Mercy” (Titus 3:5a) (track 1)&lt;br&gt;- “We Should Do Good” (Galatians 6:10) (track 4)&lt;br&gt;- “Brotherly Love (Romans 12:10)” (track 3)&lt;br&gt;- “The Work of His Hands” (Psalm 19:1) (track 6)&lt;br&gt;- “Love Is” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) (track 8)&lt;br&gt;- “Fairest Lord Jesus” (track 2)</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit:&lt;br&gt;Songs From FaithWeaver&lt;br&gt;<strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong>&lt;br&gt;CD player, M&amp;M’S candies, tempera paint, newspaper, buckets, water, paper plates, paper towels, wet wipes, markers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preschool</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Let’s Learn the Point!</strong>&lt;br&gt;(up to 25 minutes)</td>
<td><strong>Good Sam</strong>&lt;br&gt;Make marshmallow men and hear the story.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 mini-marshmallow and 1 large marshmallow per child, uncooked spaghetti, wet wipes or hand sanitizer</td>
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<td><strong>God Is Love</strong>&lt;br&gt;Participate in the telling of a story.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ball</td>
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<td><strong>Love Your Neighbor</strong>&lt;br&gt;Demonstrate compassion through activities.</td>
<td><strong>Classroom Supplies:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Toys, broom, powdered drink mix, paper cups, pitchers, water, spoon</td>
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### Session Sequence

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<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Pray!</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Offering</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Offer their gifts to God.</td>
<td>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Songs From FaithWeaver:</strong> (track 6)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“The Work of His Hands” (Psalm 19:1)</td>
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<td>Classroom Supplies:</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Offering bowls, CD player</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>God of Compassion</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thank God for specific times of experiencing God’s compassion.</td>
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<td><strong>Scripture Prayer</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prayerfully reflect on a passage.</td>
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**Let’s Learn the Point!** *(up to 25 minutes)*

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Modern Parable</strong></td>
<td>Create modern parables and act them out.</td>
<td>Classroom Supplies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letters of Compassion</strong></td>
<td>Mail letters to themselves.</td>
<td>Bibles, writing paper, pens, envelopes, stamps, box</td>
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* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let’s Learn the Point! Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.
Jesus told the story about the good Samaritan in response to a question from a Jewish teacher of the Law. The teacher “tested” Jesus with a question about how one obtained eternal life. Jesus countered the man's question with his own question, one that pointed the man back to his own knowledge of the Law. The man’s response satisfied Jesus, until the man asked a further question about the definition of a neighbor.

Jesus answered the teacher’s second question by telling a story. The story begins with a man’s trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, which was about 17 miles and included a descent of over 3,000 feet. The rocky terrain provided many places for bandits to hide and ambush solitary travelers. In the story, the man was attacked by robbers and left for dead while on his journey. Since Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience, the assumption would have been that the man was a Jew.

The identities of the three who came along after the man had been robbed and beaten are significant. The first, a priest, was considered to be a representative of God. A parallel today might be a pastor—one who is involved in committed service to God. The second to come by was a Levite. He was someone who assisted the priest; he was a spiritual person but in a layperson’s role. And the last one, a Samaritan, was despised by Jews because of his heritage.

One can imagine the excuses the priest might have had for not stopping to help the man. He might have been afraid of being attacked by the same robbers who had beaten the traveler. Or he may have thought the man was dead and didn’t want to become unclean by touching a dead body. If the latter were the case, Jesus’ story may have been intended to criticize how the religious leaders cared more about ritual than about compassion. The Levite, who came by next, did essentially the same as the priest, likely for the same reasons.

Finally the Samaritan stopped to help. Not only did the Samaritan bind up the man’s wounds, transport him to a place of safety, and take care of him there, but he also made sure the man would be taken care of as he healed. The two silver coins the Samaritan gave to the innkeeper were significant in value: They would have been worth about two days’ wages. That was likely enough to pay for lodging at an inn for several weeks. Not only that, but the Samaritan promised to stop by on his return trip to take care of any additional expenses incurred.

Having told this story in response to the teacher’s question about who we were responsible to love as our neighbors, Jesus returned to the question after the parable but turned it around. Rather than ask whom we’re responsible to as a neighbor, Jesus asked who had been a good neighbor.

Several points can be made for us: God expects us to treat all people with love and compassion, no matter who they are, what race they are, or where they are from. Showing love isn’t just a matter of words, but also of actions. And sometimes those actions will cost us, just as the Samaritan’s neighborly actions cost him.

**Devotion for Leaders**

We’re all sinners, and without Jesus to cleanse us from our sin, we’re hopelessly unclean. But, greater than the good Samaritan, Jesus showed us kindness that changed our lives forever. Praise Jesus for his mercy!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** Think about how God has shown you mercy in your life. How have those experiences affected you? God wants to save us through the sacrifice of his Son, but he also wants us to share his mercy through our acts of kindness. Consider some ways you can be a good neighbor by communicating God’s message of mercy to others through your actions.
**Why We Worship for Leaders**

Today we worship God because he values compassion. Throughout the Bible, God demonstrates his compassion to his people again and again. Today’s story about the good Samaritan shows us that God wants us to value and practice compassion also. Let’s help children discover God’s compassionate character and learn to be people of compassion as they explore the story.

**Easy Prep for Leaders**

“The Good Samaritan”—Set up a TV and DVD player, and cue the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* to “The Good Samaritan” (4). Watch it at least once before the worship session so you’ll be familiar with it.

Letters of Compassion—Compile a list of the addresses of the children who come to children’s church.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

Web Help—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at kidsownworship.com.

1. **Let’s Praise God!**

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Spring 2011* as children arrive. Greet children by name, and say to each one, “Who is your neighbor?” Give everyone an M&M’S candy. Ask kids to find others who have the same color candy, form a group with them, and find out where everyone else in the group lives as they eat their candy.

When all kids have arrived,

**Say** Hello, everyone. Welcome to the neighborhood!

**Ask**

- Is everyone in your group your neighbor? Why or why not?
  (Yes, we all live in the same town; yes, we’re all in the same church; no, we don’t live close to each other.)

**Say**

God says everyone is our neighbor. God has compassion for everyone, not just certain groups of people. Having compassion means showing kindness, mercy, and care to others. God is compassionate. Let’s sing “His Mercy” and celebrate God’s compassion, mercy, and grace.

Sing “His Mercy” (Titus 3:5a).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say**

One of the glorious things about God is his compassion. Compassion is important to God. That means that God values love and kindness. God shows compassion and love to us, and God wants us to show his compassion and love to one another. Let’s sing about that.

Sing “We Should Do Good” (Galatians 6:10).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.
Because God first loved us, we love and praise him. And because God first loved us, we love one another.

Sing “Brotherly Love” (Romans 12:10).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Because God is compassionate, he saves us. God feels compassion for us because he created us to be like him. In fact, God created each of you and gave you worth. We’re all made in God’s image, but each one of us is different. Let’s make pictures with our handprints. Each handprint will be a little different from all the others.

Place newspapers or plastic on the tables to protect them. Place buckets of water, wet wipes, and paper towels on each table. Place small amounts of thick tempera paint or finger paint on paper plates in the center of each table.

Give each child a paper plate and a marker, and pair older children with younger children. Ask the children to write a characteristic of God—love, kindness, or compassion, for example—at the top of the plate. Ask them to press their palms into the paint and then press their painted palms onto the paper plate. Allow the children to dip their hands in the buckets of water, wipe them with wet wipes, and dry them with the paper towels.

You are God’s masterpiece. You are created to be like God. God is compassionate, loving, merciful, and kind. Let’s sing “The Work of His Hands.”

Sing “The Work of His Hands” (Psalm 19:1).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Turn to your neighbor, and tell one thing you know about God. For example, you might say, “God is loving.” Pause while kids share.

God is love. Love is patient, and God is patient. Love is kind, and God is kind. Let’s worship God because of his love as we sing “Love Is.”

Sing “Love Is” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

God is so compassionate that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. Jesus is the Lord of all nations. Let’s sing praise to Jesus with our next song, “Fairest Lord Jesus.” When we say “Fairest Lord Jesus,” it’s like saying, “Beautiful Lord Jesus.” Let’s tell Jesus how much we love him with this song.

Sing “Fairest Lord Jesus.”

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

Let’s pray. Thank you, God, for being a compassionate God. Thank you for showing your compassion and mercy to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.
Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 65-66

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* “The Good Samaritan”

Show the KidsOwn Worship DVD clip titled “The Good Samaritan” (4).

Ask

- Who was the good neighbor? (The good Samaritan.)
- Why do you think the others didn’t want to help the hurt man? (Maybe they were afraid of getting robbed, too; maybe they didn’t want to get involved; they thought someone else would do it.)
- Why do you think the good Samaritan did help him? (He was a good guy; he didn’t expect someone else to help; he had compassion.)
- Why do you think God thought it was important to put this story in the Bible? (The story shows us how we should act; it tells us to do all we can for others.)

Say

Our God is a compassionate God. He cares about people who are hurt or lonely or sad. God loves people deeply. And God wants us to be compassionate, too. Let’s learn more.

Modern Parable

Say

By telling this story, Jesus showed us that he values compassion. Jesus values the compassion that the good Samaritan showed the wounded man. Jesus is really showing us his compassion through the story.

Jesus often taught through stories because people love stories. Let’s make up modern stories or parables that teach us about God’s compassion.

Have kids form groups of four or five. Ask them to work together to make up a parable or story showing God’s compassion. Walk among the groups to help kids think of a modern situation that teaches the same truths. Then have kids perform their stories for the rest of the group.

Ask

- How is Jesus like the good Samaritan? (Jesus helps everyone; Jesus rescues us from sin; Jesus helps us not feel hurt.)
How does God show compassion to us? (God sent Jesus to us; God answers our prayers; God helps us.)

Why is compassion important to God? (Because God loves everyone; God want us to be kind to each other.)

Compassion is important to God because God is compassionate. God wants us to be like him. Showing love to our neighbors is important to God because God shows love to all of us.

Letters of Compassion

Have the children form groups of five or six and sit at tables. Make sure younger children are in groups with older children who can help them. Distribute a Bible to each table.

Ask each group to choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 4:32 aloud to the group.

Think of someone you haven’t shown compassion or kindness to. It might be someone you secretly dislike or someone you’ve ignored. When you have someone in mind, raise your hand, but don’t tell us who it is.

Why do you think Jesus put loving your neighbor next to loving God with all your heart? (Because love is important to God; because God uses us to help each other, so we need to be ready to do it.)

What does compassion mean to you? (Caring when someone is hurt; paying attention to what people are feeling.)

God is love. We demonstrate our love for him by being like him. Remember the person you were thinking about a few minutes ago? Ask yourself if God would love that person. (Pause.)

Distribute a pen and an envelope to each child. Ask the children to address the envelopes to themselves. Be prepared with a list of addresses of the regular attendees in case they need help. Demonstrate on a chalkboard or large piece of paper how to address an envelope. Distribute paper to each child.

Sometimes it’s easy to forget to be kind and compassionate to people. Write a letter to yourself that says, “God loves...” and put the name of the person you were thinking of. Draw or write something that will remind you of a way you can show God’s love and compassion to that person.

Ask: Have you ever really messed up or done something you really shouldn’t have done?

Does God still love us even when we mess up? (Yes, God loves us all the time; God forgives us when we’re sorry we mess up.)

(continued on page 67)
Preschool Activities

Jesus Tells About the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Worship Theme:

God values compassion.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Love Your Neighbor—Arrange with the elementary leader to have the preschoolers serve punch made from powdered drink mix to the elementary group.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

• Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
• Have Theo appear as the king during the “God Is Love” activity.
• See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.

Good Sam

Say Today you’ll use marshmallow men to help me tell the Bible story.

Have children wash their hands. Demonstrate how to make a marshmallow man as shown, using a short length of dry spaghetti to attach the marshmallows together. Then help the children make marshmallow men.

Say Jesus told a man that he should love his neighbor as much as he loved himself.

The man asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

So Jesus told him this story. Hold up your marshmallow man.

This man was walking down the road when some bandits came along and beat him up. He lay hurt in the road.

Lay your marshmallow man on the table. Ask the children to give the “wounded man” a name.

Ask • How did Good Sam show God’s love?

Say God loves us. God wants to take care of us the way Good Sam took care of his neighbor, the man who was hurt.

A priest walked by and saw the man who was hurt. Ask a child to “walk” his or her marshmallow man by the “wounded man.”

He saw the man who was hurt, but he kept on going.

Another man came by. Ask a child to “walk” his or her marshmallow man by the “wounded man.”

He saw the man who was hurt, but he kept on walking.

Then a good man came by. The Bible calls him the good Samaritan. Let’s call him Good Sam.

Ask all the children to pretend their marshmallow men are Good Sam.

He saw the wounded man, and he gasped! Have all the children gasp loudly. He helped the man. Have each child say, “Let me help you!”

Good Sam carried the hurt man to safety. He took him to an innkeeper. He gave the innkeeper money to feed the hurt man and care for him.

Ask the children to say, “Take care of him for me!”

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

• How does God show his love and compassion to us?

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Preschool Activities

* God Is Love

**Say**
We’ve been talking about compassion today. Compassion is what Good Sam showed to his neighbor who was hurt. We’re going to make up a story that shows what compassion means.

Compassion means a lot of things. Compassion means being loving. When I tell the story and I say the word *loving*, I’m going to ask two people to stand up and hug each other. Choose two children. Compassion means “kindness.” When I say “kind,” I’m going to ask two people to share this ball by tossing it back and forth. Choose two children. Compassion means being nice to each other. When I say “nice,” I’m going to ask two people to stand, bow to each other, and say, “May I help you?” Choose two children. To let everyone participate, you may need to adjust the number of children who perform each action.

Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Compassion, there were many princes and princesses. The king showed compassion to everyone. He wanted the princes and princesses to show compassion, too.

One day some of the princes and princesses were arguing about who would get to be first in line. The king said, “Be *loving*!” Ask the “loving” volunteers to stand and hug.

So they were *loving* to each other, and everyone was happy for a while. The next day, the princes and princesses were arguing over who would play with the royal ball. The king said, “Be *kind*!” Have the “kind” volunteers stand and throw the ball back and forth to each other.

So they were *kind* to each other and shared the ball. Everyone was happy for a while. The next day, a neighbor came to the palace. The neighbor needed help. His carriage was stuck in a ditch. The princes and princesses were busy playing at the time, but they had learned to be compassionate. So they were *nice* to the neighbor. Have the “nice” volunteers bow to each other and say, “May I help you?” They helped the neighbor out, and they learned to be compassionate just like the king.

**Ask**
- Who is the most compassionate of all?
- Who is like the king in the story?

**Say**
God is like the king. God is full of compassion, and he wants his children to be full of compassion, too. God loves us and cares for us. God helps us. You can be compassionate, too.

**Ask**
- How can you be compassionate to your friends and neighbors?

**Say**
Let’s be like God who is very compassionate.

**Love Your Neighbor**

**Say**
God is love. God is compassionate. That’s why God wants us to be compassionate and love our neighbors. In fact our Bible story says, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” God calls everybody your neighbor, not just the people who live next door to you. Let’s find ways to be compassionate and love your neighbors as yourselves. Raise your hand if you want to go first. Choose two volunteers. Hold up two toys, and give them to one of the volunteers.

You have two toys. [Name of other child] has no toys. Show me how to *love* [name of other child] as yourself. (Pause.) Good. Sharing toys is a way to love your neighbors. Raise your hand if you want to go next. Hold up a short broom.

Pretend I am your mom [or dad]. We are having people come to our house for dinner. I am very busy making the dinner. Pretend to make dinner. I don’t have time to sweep the floor. I sure wish I had a helper to sweep the floor for me. Show me how to *love* your mom as yourself. (Pause.) Good. Helping your mom is a way to love your neighbor as yourself.

Help the children make a drink from powdered drink mix. Make enough for the elementary-age kids, too. Pour some for each child. Ask the children how they can love the other children in children’s church with the extra drink. Have the children help you serve the elementary-age kids. Then bring the preschool children back to their room, and have them sit on the floor in a circle.

**Ask**
- Who does God want us to love?
- Why should we love everybody like God does?

**Say**
God loves everybody, and he wants us to be like him. God wants us to treat everybody with love and respect. Let’s go around the circle and pray. When it’s your turn, you can say, “Help me love my neighbor.” I’ll start. When I say “amen,” you can start.

**Pray**
God, we love you with all our hearts today. We want to be like you. Help us love our neighbors. In Jesus’ name, amen. Allow the children to pray.

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**ALLERGY ALERT**

Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.
When I think about how God shows compassion to me—even when I mess up—it makes me smile. It makes me want to worship God because he’s so compassionate. On the bottom of your letter to yourself, draw a smiling face to remind you to worship your compassionate God.

When you’re all finished, place the letters in this box. As you do, say, “God values compassion.” When you get your letters this week, they will remind you to love God by showing compassion to the person you named in your letter.

God, we thank you for being a compassionate God. We know you value compassion. Please help us to be compassionate the way you are. In Jesus’ name, amen.

After the session, put stamps on the letters and mail them.

Let’s Pray!

The Offering

As the children pass the offering bowl, play “The Work of His Hands” (Psalm 19:1). Have the children say, “Thank you for your compassion,” as they place their offerings in the bowl.

God of Compassion

Close your eyes and think of a time God showed you compassion. Maybe you really messed up, and he loved you anyway. Maybe it was when you needed a friend, and he was that friend. Maybe it was when he helped your family. Raise your hand when you have something in your mind. Keep your eyes closed. (Pause.) Now, thank God in your heart for showing you compassion. (Pause.) Raise your hand if you would like to share with us how God showed you compassion. Allow volunteers to share.

Scripture Prayer

Let’s use some Bible verses as a guide for our closing prayer.

Listen while I read a Scripture passage. Each time I pause, take a moment to talk to God about the Scripture passage.

Read the following passage aloud, pausing after each line.

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
“Lord, everything you have made will praise you; those who belong to you will bless you.
“They will tell about the glory of your kingdom and will speak about your power.

“Then everyone will know the mighty things you do and the glory and majesty of your kingdom.

“Your kingdom will go on and on, and you will rule forever”

(Psalm 145:8-13a, verses 10-13a from New Century Version).

Invite one of the children to close the worship session in prayer.
Encouragement for Leaders

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

God’s Word is powerful. Even when you feel like you’re struggling as a teacher, God’s Word is powerfully impacting the lives of the children in your class.