

Mark 10:13-16

Compassion Kids Halftime Show

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Memory Verse: Mark 10:16 *“Jesus took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”*

Lesson Focus: We are halfway through the book of Colossians and will take a break this week to feature the Compassion Sponsor Kids in each classroom. That is why we are calling this our “Halftime Show”. Our goal is to raise an awareness within our RMC kids of how Jesus loves all of the children of the world. And as they better understand this, our prayer is that they will also want to show love to these kids that we sponsor as a church.

Schedule: The basic lesson structure will be the same but the large group teaching content is shortened a little so that there is more time to have some classroom discussion about each sponsor kid. We will provide you with letters from each kid to read in your classroom, information about the bio of each kid, and some ideas on how to encourage the RMC kids to support these sponsor kids.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Jesus with Kids, Compassion Crossword Puzzle, Take Home Sample Letter for 3rd-5th graders
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Origami Fish: <https://explorer.compassion.com/fold-a-fish/>

Starter Activity: Compassion Videos

We will have all of the kids (1st-5th grade) remain in the Summit Room for a couple of quick introductory videos. In the first one, we will observe how a 10-year old boy has interacted with a kid from the Dominican Republic that his family has sponsored through Compassion International.

We will then ask the kids a few questions about the video to get them thinking about the kids that they have been sponsoring in their classrooms and how they aren't all that much different from them!

The second video will then show how kids like ours are impacted by their sponsors.

We will refer back to our memory verse from last week, **Colossians 2:6**, which says that after we received Christ Jesus the Lord, we are to WALK in Him. One way that we can do this is by praying for, caring about, and giving to other children in need like the kids we sponsor through Compassion.

Then we will dismiss the 1st and 2nd graders and finish the lesson as usual.

Bible Study:

Mark 10:13: This is one of the most precious accounts in all of the Scriptures!

Q: Who did it say that they were bringing to Jesus? A: Little children just like you, maybe even younger!

It says that Jesus's disciples rebuked or told them to stop and go away (SHOO!).

Q: Why do you think the disciples did this? *

A: Probably because they didn't think Jesus had any time for "just children".

Q: How do you think Jesus is going to respond to this? Let's find out!

Mark 10:14: It says that Jesus was GREATLY displeased! He instead rebukes the disciples and says to them, "*Don't you dare prevent them from coming to me!*" *

Teachers: Consider acting out what this might have looked like. You can be Jesus and you can pretend to be doing something "important". Then have another leader be the "grumpy" disciple and have two kids approach you asking for your attention. Have the other leader rebuke the two kids and then you will swoop in and receive the two children, rebuking the disciple.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. This is a bit of a mysterious statement. To better understand it, we need to read the next verse.

Mark 10:15: No one will enter heaven except as a little child!

Q: Does that mean that I'm in trouble because I'm not a child anymore? NO!

But Jesus would have us boring adults learn something from you children: you boys and girls are faith EXPERTS! You trust and believe in the Bible with a simplicity that adults struggle with. *

It is the simple child-like faith in God that you so easily possess that Jesus wants all people to have! *

Mark 10:16: I can just imagine the disciples' jaws dropping to the ground right now as Jesus stopped whatever He was doing to receive these kids into His arms!

Remember Who Jesus is! He is the Creator of the universe. He is the all-powerful God in Whom all things hold together (**Colossians 1:17**). And yet this same all-powerful God came down to the earth as a man showing gentleness and lovingkindness. He teaches us to do the same! Why?

Because Jesus loves all children and He uses us to show that love to all those around us!

Teachers: At this point we will transition into small group time per classroom where you will lead some discussion about the children in your room. See the materials that we left in your classroom about the child.

- 1) Read the letter that the child has written us.
- 2) Read the bio that we gave you and highlight a few things that are interesting. Ask some questions to help the kids better understand what life must be like for those kids.

1 John 4:11 says that as God has loved us so we also ought to love one another. And as **Colossians 2:6** says from our lesson last week, if we have received Jesus's love, then we are to go walk IN His love. We saw how Jesus loves you and all children in **Mark 10:16**.

Q: What are some ways that you can walk in and show lovingkindness to these kids that we sponsor?

A1: You can give some of your money to them in the giving jars.

- **Teachers:** If you talk about this, be sure to emphasize that we do not give to EARN God's love, but we do it BECAUSE God first loved us and we want to respond to what God has done for us!

A2: You can write a letter to the child. (3rd-5th grade only)

- **Teachers:** For 3rd-5th graders we provided a blank letter that you can have the kids take home and mail to Compassion. The address that the parents would mail it to is written on the letter.

A3: You can pray for the kids and their families.

- **Teachers:** I would suggest closing the lesson with prayer as a group. Even encourage the kids to participate and pray out loud for the kid in their classroom!