

Romans 1:8-12

Two-Way Traffic (Compassion Kids Update)

Scripture: Romans 1:8-12

Memory Verse: Romans 1:12b “...*That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. (ESV)*”

Lesson Focus: Each RMC kids’ classroom sponsors a different Compassion child. We want to take an opportunity this weekend to raise awareness of each Compassion kid and show how the kids can support them. In our introduction to Romans last weekend, we saw how the apostle Paul had never met the believers in Rome before and yet how he was praying for them, thanking God for them, and knew that in visiting them God’s blessing would flow both ways. Our prayer this weekend is that as you spend some time acquainting your RMC kids with the Compassion kid sponsored in your classroom, God would work a similar 2-way blessing to both the RMC and Compassion kids!

Schedule: The basic lesson structure will be the same but the main teaching content is shortened a little so that there is more time to have some classroom discussion about your Compassion sponsor kid. See end of lesson for some ideas on how to encourage the RMC kids to support their sponsor kids.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Kids across the World, Food Across the World Crossword Puzzle
Craft for 1st/2nd grade: Valentine’s Day craft

Starter Activity: Compassion Video

We will have all of the kids (1st-5th grade) remain in the Summit Room for a quick introductory video. You can preview it [here](#). In this video, we will hear from several former Compassion kids who are now adults after having graduated out of the program. They were asked to share how the Compassion program impacted them!

Q: Wow! What are some things that you heard them say? * How encouraging it must have been for the sponsors to hear how God changed their lives thru their sponsorship! *

Did you know that each of you sponsor a different Compassion kid in your classroom? * Every time you have prayed for, written a letter to, or given to one of our sponsor kids, you are helping them and making a difference in their lives! We will talk about that some more after our lesson, but let’s first see what the Bible says about Christians encouraging one another.

At this point we will dismiss 1st and 2nd grade to their classes.

Bible Study:

Last week we started a new book of the Bible, the book of Romans. This is a letter written from the apostle Paul to the believers in the ancient city of Rome.

Q: Who are some people that you would write a letter to?

A: People you CARE about! The apostle Paul had never met these believers in Rome before, yet it is clear from this letter that he CARED about them very much. Let's revisit some of what we studied last week.

Romans 1:8: Paul first thanks God for them for their bold and well-known faith in Jesus Christ. *

Q: Who are some people that you are thankful for and why? A: Probably people that CARE about you and show they CARE by how they treat you.

Romans 1:9: Paul continues by telling them that he is praying for them, even though he has never met them.

Q: Who are some people that you often pray for? A: Again, it is often people that you CARE about, right?

Romans 1:10: Not only does Paul pray for them, but he is praying that God would make a way for him to come and visit them! So far, God has not answered that prayer. But as you read through Acts, you read that God does eventually answer that prayer! *

Maybe you have experienced God answering prayer on His timing rather than on your timing. (**Teachers:** Consider sharing a story of how God answered a prayer of yours on His time even after repeatedly bringing it to his attention) *

Romans 1:11-12: This describes what Paul expects to happen when they visit. He expects to bless them and he expects them to bless him! This is what a healthy church is supposed to look like: People coming both to give AND receive blessing.

Teachers: See the "One Way" and "Two Way" traffic signs at the end of this lesson. We will leave print-offs of these in your room. * See Qs below and consider using these signs to have some discussion on Christian fellowship with the class. Consider also taking a few volunteers and have them demonstrate one-way vs. two-way traffic in the room.

Q: What does the "One Way" sign mean? A: Traffic flows in only one direction.

Q: What does the "Two-way" sign mean? A: Traffic flows in both directions.

Q: In v. 12 that we just read, in what direction is God's blessing "flowing"?

A: Both directions! Both from Paul to the Roman Christians and from them to Paul!

Do you know that this happens here at RMC every weekend too? Every time I come here, I come to give and bless you with my time and teaching. But every time I am also blessed and receive joy by being with you guys!

Teachers: At this point we will transition into small group time in the classroom where you will lead some discussion about the Compassion children in your room and help your kids respond to the lesson. Consider continuing to talk about how God wants the church to be a place of “two-way” traffic, where we both give AND receive. Encourage the kids to see these Compassion kids as children that they can give to. Below are some ideas to better acquaint the kids with the sponsor child.

- 1) Point out the child’s picture on the wall and highlight where he/she lives on the map hung up in your room.
- 2) Read the letter from your child (we have only received letters from the 1st and 5th grade kids at this time due to COVID).
- 3) Read some of the background info that we provided about the child’s Compassion center/church and highlight a few things that are interesting.
- 4) Ask some questions to help the kids better understand what life must be like for those kids.

Q: So how can you be a part of the “two-way” traffic that God wants for you to be both giving AND receiving? (**Teachers:** Consider also referring to the memory verse which reinforces this idea)

A1: You can write a letter to the child. Remember the apostle Paul had never met these believers in Rome, but he still wrote them a letter to encourage them in their faith!

- **Teachers:** 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. Also consider writing a letter as a group and sending it!

A2: 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!

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!

