

Philippians 1:1-6

Compassion Kids Update

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-6

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6b “...*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*”

Lesson Focus: We will take a break from Luke today and highlight the Compassion kids that each classroom sponsors. This lesson dovetails nicely with our lesson from last week about practicing good stewardship. We hope that by raising awareness of the needs of these Compassion kids, our RMC kids will be inspired to consider them as they explore ways to be good stewards of what God has given them.

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: Compassion Coloring Picture, Winding Words Puzzle
Craft for 1st/2nd grade: John 3:16 For the Whole World

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 see how certain kids that live in the Philippines get to their Compassion center. Start off with some discussion:

Q: How do you all get to school? A: School bus, car, walk, etc. Or maybe you're homeschooled and you just walk down the stairs in the morning! *

We have a video that we want to share with you about some kids that live in the Philippines. I expect you will be surprised by their “school” journey!

----> WATCH VIDEO!

Q: Wow! What are some things you noticed? *

Q: Did you notice where they were going? A: To a Compassion center!

In each of your classes, there is a Compassion child on the wall that your classroom sponsors. Every time you have prayed for them or given them money, you are helping them and making a difference in their lives! AND, as Jesus taught us last week, you are **practicing good stewardship!** You will learn some more about your kids in your class, but first let's open up our Bibles and learn some ways that we can encourage them!

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

Bible Study:

Phillipians 1:1a: This “book” of the Bible is one of the many letters written from one Christian to another. *

Q: Who wrote this letter? A: Paul and Timothy. You read about these two guys in many other places in the Bible. They were **missionaries**.

Q: What is a missionary? A: Someone sent out to tell “lost” people the good news about the love of Jesus Christ so they can be “found”! * (remember the “lost” prodigal son from our lessons earlier in the month?) And they call themselves “bondservants” which means they love and follow Jesus with every fiber that is in them!

Phillipians 1:1b: Like any letter you would write today, you add your name and then you would address the people that you are writing to.

Q: Who did Paul and Timothy write this letter to? A: The church in the ancient city of Philippi. * (**Teachers:** Consider pointing out how today we typically address a letter with “Dear _____” and write this out on the whiteboard to help kids understand Paul’s greeting is very similar) *

Phillipians 1:2: What a nice greeting! As believers in Jesus, they experienced the grace and peace of God through faith in Jesus. But what do “grace” and “peace” mean?

Grace: Freely getting what you do NOT deserve! They deserved punishment because of their sin against God, but God offered forgiveness/blessing (grace) to them. They freely received this when they believed and trusted in the finished work of Jesus on the cross!

Peace: After receiving God’s grace, this is what they experience as God’s children. For all of their sins, past, present, future, are forgiven! * They are HIS now!

But this greeting doesn’t just apply to them. It applies to ALL believers in Jesus Christ throughout the world, both then and now, including you and me! We also experience this grace and peace in the same way that they did! When we read these letters we should be encouraged as we are reminded of God’s grace and peace for us!

Phillipians 1:3: Paul begins the body of his letter with something many of you have written letters for!

Q: What is the first thing Paul writes after his greeting? A: THANK YOU!

Q: How many of you have written “thank you” letters to family for gifts that they have sent you? Why do you think this might be good and important to do?

Paul writes this letter while he was imprisoned in Rome for his preaching of the gospel. The believers in Philippi sent people with money and gifts to help him while he was imprisoned and he is now writing them back to thank them for it! *

Philippians 1:4: Remember, Paul is in prison in Rome.

Q: Yet, what does he say he is doing for them? A: Praying and making requests for them, with all joy even!

Teachers: At this point (if you haven't already) bring the Compassion kids into the lesson. Just as Paul and these Philippian believers are hundreds of miles away from each other so we are hundreds of miles away from the Compassion kids that we sponsor. Yet, that distance doesn't stop us from helping one another through prayer!

Philippians 1:5: Paul planted this church about 10 years before he wrote this letter and it was the first church planted on the continent of Europe! He is so excited that 10 years have gone by and they are still in gospel fellowship.

Q: What is the gospel? A: The "good news" of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for sinners. As **John 3:16** states, God offers eternal life to all who repent and believe in Jesus's death and resurrection. It is this same gospel that is still true today and connects and unites Christians in fellowship all over the world!

Philippians 1:6: We close our Bible study with one of the most reassuring promises in the whole Bible! If you are a Christian, God has begun a good work in you and He will finish what He has started. You are His forever and nothing can change that!

This is true of all believers in Jesus Christ. If you have never repented and believed in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for your sins, let God start His work in you today!

Teachers: At this point we will transition into small group time per classroom where you will lead some discussion about the Compassion children in your room. See the materials that we left in your classroom about your child. Below are some ideas to better acquaint your kids with your class's sponsor child. *

- 1) Show the kids the picture and introduce the child by reading their letter(s).
- 2) Highlight where the child lives on the map hung up in your room. *
- 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.

Afterwards consider these follow-up activities to help the kids respond:

- 1) Write a letter back to the child! We will provide 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 on the letter. Or consider writing and sending a letter as a class!
- 2) Pray for the kids and their families together as a class and consider asking kids if they would like to pray out loud. Refer back to the prayer requests they may have included in their letter to you.
- 3) Remind the kids about our lesson from last week on practicing good stewardship and point out the giving jar. Encourage them to get into the habit of giving. Be sure to emphasize that we do not give to EARN God's love, but we do it BECAUSE God loves us and we want to respond to what God has done for us!