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Lesson 1

Compassionate

Luke 6: 27-36

love your enemies
the golden rule

Setup:

Open with a story/ video story of someone loving their enemy.

Do you have anyone you would describe as your enemy?

We might think of an enemy as someone who acts or speaks unkindly toward you.

What is you are the one who has made the enemy? Could it be that you are unkind toward someone in how you act or speak?

Let's face it, as long as we live in this sinful world there will be people who are hard to get along with or like to be around. Most of the time though it's what we chose to do with our heart that makes them an enemy. There can be a person who isn't your favorite person to be around, but you speak kindly toward and about them. You pray for them. You want good for them. If not, you have a heart issue. It could be so deep within you that only God knows your feelings, but even if you aren't acting on those feelings or sharing them it's a heart issue that needs attention.

Tonight, you will spend time in your groups learning about why Jesus said we need to treat others the way we would like to be treated. I'm sure we can all grow in this area.

Let me pray with you.

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Compassionate

Luke 6: 27-36

Love your enemies

The Golden Rule

Parent Que:

The Golden Rule! Parents, I'm sure this is a principle you have desperately sought to instill in your student. Kindness to the world around them is a definite parental goal, but what about those situations when your student is targeted by the world around them? Is your first response to pray for the one targeting your student? In situations such as these, parents can often times regress to an "eye for an eye" mentality of the Old Testament, rather than looking to the example of Jesus which was, "when they hurled insults at Him... He did not retaliate". (1 Peter 2:23) We know that the real enemy of this world is Satan, and that is the battle we face within the hearts and minds of men. With that said, our greatest weapon of defense can be prayer. Teaching your students to pray, teaches them to tap into a power source outside of their own ability, focusing where the real battle takes place. The Spirit can then guide you both in truth, grace and love to handle situations such as bullying in a way that is honoring to God.

Key Scriptures:

Luke 6:27-36

1 Peter 2:21-23

Ephesians 4:32

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Compassionate

Luke 6: 27-36
Love Your Enemies
The Golden Rule

Some situations in life can be difficult to extend compassion. For example, when targeted by an enemy, compassion does not naturally rise up in the heart unless we chose that response. Jesus was a living example of responding with compassion. His responses were truthful yet non-combative. Jesus always desires peace and resolution. That was exactly what He delivered to this world. Help your students grab hold of His example. Remind them that this response will not come naturally and will take lots of practice.

Would anyone be willing to share a time they experienced unkindness?

What about a time that you were unkind to someone else?

We can all think of "mean" people. Do you have a hard time feeling compassionate toward someone who is "mean" or "bullies" others?

➤ [Read](#) Luke 6:27-30

What does Jesus tell you to do in response to your enemies?

To those who... hate you? Curse you?

Asks anything of you? Take something from you?



➤ [Discuss](#)

I think we would all agree these aren't natural responses for any of us. It's likely that response would be the exact opposite of what Jesus says it should be. What is the first thing Jesus says we need to be willing to do in verse 27?

It can be hard sometimes to listen to God and what He wants because we live in a really loud world that tells us to live for ourselves.

➤ [Read](#) Luke 6:31

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

So how would you like to be treated?

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For quiet self-reflection:

How do you think you are doing with this whole idea of treating others the way you want to be treated? Can you think of someone you haven't treated this way?

- [Read](#) [Luke 6:32-34](#)

Summarize what Jesus is saying in these 3 verses.

- [Read](#) [Luke 6:35-36](#)

Who's the example of how compassionate we should be?

- [Read](#) [1 Peter 2:21-23](#)

What are we called to do even if we are suffering?

Who is our example in suffering?

- [Discuss](#)

If the whole idea of kindness, grace and compassion wasn't important, or if God didn't think we could do it, He wouldn't mention it. Yet, God mentions it over and over in the Word that we need to extend grace, kindness, compassion and love to others, even when they don't deserve it. This is exactly how God treats us. In fact, we deserve the exact opposite of this treatment from God. Living according to the Golden Rule requires a choice.



The Point

Living according to The Golden Rule and loving our enemies takes effort. This is how God loves us. When we love in this way, others will experience Him through us.

APPLICATION [Read](#) [Ephesians 4:32](#)

In light of this verse and our lesson tonight, what do you need to do differently this week to live by the Golden Rule!

- [Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)

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Lesson 2

Prince of Peace

Matt. 6:25-34 Philippians 4:6-7
Jesus teaches on worry

Setup: How many of you struggle with worrying or feeling anxious? Whatever causes you the greatest stress and anxiety may not bother the next person, but it is a very real thing for you. Do you know there is

an enemy, Satan, that is at war for the peace in your soul? Anxiety and worry are a very real thing, and we will all experience it at one time or another. There are some great strategies that God gave us to fight against the battle with stress and anxiety. He is the best authority for many reasons but look at this verse with me.

Isaiah 9:6

This verse was speaking of Jesus, it was a prophecy of who Jesus would be spoken by the prophet Isaiah. What is He called in the last part of the verse?

What does it mean to be a "Prince"? What does that title give to someone?

There is another prince we learn of in the Word. The Bible teaches us about Satan being a Prince of the air, one who disguises himself to be "light", in essence good, but he is truly dark. Satan is a robber, and destroyer of all good.

Let's read: 2 Timothy 1:7

What I want you to see here is that God did not give this spirit of fear. Fear has one power source, and that is the enemy of this world, the Prince of darkness. But we have the ruler of peace available to us. He is our Prince! How do we live under His reign of peace in our hearts and minds? Let's look at that together tonight.

Let me pray with you.

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Lesson 2

Prince of Peace

Matt. 6:25-34 Philippians 4:6-7
Jesus teaches on worry

Parent Que: The reality and level of stress and anxiety in our world is great. The statistics are staggering of how many of our youth are struggling in this very area of emotional bondage. It seems to be an epidemic. Honestly, as a parent, this very well could be your own battle. At the root of worry and anxiety are lies; a belief of something untrue about us or our circumstance. This week we will encourage students to fight for a spirit of truth that can help them live free from fear. This offers a great opportunity for you as a parent to dive into your student's world and press in about what may be creating fear or anxiety within them. Many times, anxiety grows when it is bottled up and not expressed. Your student doesn't need solutions, they need a safe place to voice their feelings. Offer that outlet in yourself, or even some time with their small group leader to "talk out" some of the hard in their world.

Key Scripture:

Matthew 6:25-34 Philippians 4:6-7

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Lesson 2

Prince of Peace

Matt. 6:25-34 Philippians 4:6-7
Jesus teaches on worry

Anxiety and worry can grip our hearts and minds unlike any other emotion. Many in our world today are currently paralyzed by fear and anxiety. There are many contributors, but also a Prince of Peace that can bring calm to the heart and mind when given opportunity to do so. Health care professionals can be a needed resource that God provides for us, with that said, be sensitive to your students and where they are at. Feel free to reach out to us if you need us!

What tends to cause you the most stress and anxiety?
What do you do to cope with stress, worry, fear and anxiety when you're experiencing it?

➤ [Read](#) Matthew 6: 25-32

➤ [Discuss](#)

Simplify what Jesus is saying in these verses.



➤ [Read](#) Matthew 6: 33-34

What does Jesus tell us to seek and what happens when we do?

What do you think it looks like to seek God's kingdom first?

➤ [Read](#) John 14:27

According to this verse, where can we find peace?

So how can we actively live this out? Let's look at Philippians 4 together. This passage gives us a step by step approach to anxiety.

➤ [Read](#) Philippians 4: 6-7 ANXIETY BUSTER!

According to verse 6, what are the "do's and don'ts"?

DON'T WORRY!

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING...**TELL** GOD WHAT YOU NEED...**THANK** HIM FOR ALL HE'S DONE

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What does this peace guard or protect?

Is there a difference between the heart and mind? If so, what do you think that is?

➤ [Read](#) [Philippians 4: 8 - 9](#)

What should we think about?



When we look to live **for** and **with** Jesus it allows His Spirit to rest deep within us, bringing peace to our minds and souls.

APPLICATION What do you think you could do differently this week to help you with fears, anxiety, worry and stress?

[Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)

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Lesson 3

Judge

Mt. 7:1-5, Lk. 6:37-42

Speck vs. Plank

Setup:

Did you see what she did?

Look at those shoes!

She's not a nice person.

I can't believe they said that!

Maybe you've thought things like that or said them out loud. WE can all make judgements about people and circumstances, but the truth is, we don't know everything. Things can appear differently than the really are. I'm sure we have all felt judged at one time or another. It definitely does not feel good. What about when we are the one who picked up the gavel? What about when we are making a judgement about someone else?

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Lesson 3

Judge

Mt. 7:1-5, Lk. 6:37-38

Speck vs. Plank

Parent Que:

This week we learned about how Jesus encouraged us to be mindful of our own issues before we think about someone else's. The critical or judgmental spirit can quickly settle into our words before we've even realized it. Your example of grace and humility to your student will be a powerful model to them as they interact as an imperfect person in an imperfect world.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 7:1-5 Luke 6: 37- 38

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Lesson 3

Judge

Mt. 7:1-5, Lk. 6:37-38

Speck vs. Plank

Thinking of others more highly than we think of ourselves. This can be a hard thing to do when we live in a sinful world. The point this week is that we are all sinners that fall incredibly short when it comes to our holy God. We all have enough of our own sin issues to work on, that when we look at the issues of others it becomes a distraction from getting ourselves straight.

What does it mean to make a judgement?
Have you ever felt judged?
Is it hard for you not be judgmental of others?

➤ [Read](#) Matthew 7:1-5

What does Jesus teach in these verses?

Why do you think it's easier to see something wrong in someone else than in ourselves?

Is it pride or humility that leads us to be critical or judgmental of someone else?



➤ [Read](#) Luke 6:37-38

What are some things that can be done instead of judging someone?

We know that Jesus often told parables to drive home a deeper truth or lesson to His listeners. Read the following parable and discuss what can be learned about how we live out the truth within this parable.

➤ [Read](#) Matthew 18:21-35

What do you think Jesus means when He says to forgive 70 x7?

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How can we sometimes look like the forgiven man who becomes unforgiving in this parable?

- [Read James 2:13](#)

What does James say replaces judgement?

What does it mean to be merciful?

- **Further thought & discussion**

Mercy is when you don't get what you deserve.

Grace is when you get what you don't deserve.



Jesus taught us to extend to others the same mercy He has given to us.

APPLICATION Is there a situation in your life where you have cast judgement on someone or something that took place? What do you can you do to let mercy win over your judgmental heart in that circumstance?

[Catch-Up/Journal/Pray](#)