

# HEART OF COMPASSION



SMALL GROUP UNIT



# Letter to the Mentor

We are so excited to have you on this journey with us—discipling girls into the women God has called them to be. These four lessons will allow girls to learn about Jesus' love and kindness and, from that understanding, begin to model His compassion in everything they do.

One important thing to remember is that these lessons are intended to be a *starting* place. We encourage you to view this resource as more of a “talking points guide,” allowing you to connect with girls in a way where the **relationship** drives the **discipleship**, as opposed to the **curriculum** driving the **discipleship**. Effective discipleship isn't the result of a quality curriculum as much as it is about the intentionality of relationship. To help foster intentional relationship, there are three ways you can adapt the curriculum:

1. **Adapt it to you.** Be yourself as you teach. Adapt what is said in the lessons to fit your style and personality. This will help you and the lessons come across genuinely to the girls in your group.
2. **Adapt it to your girls.** Your girls may be more energetic and connect more with activities that get them up and moving. Or they may be more academic and enjoy reading Scripture and diving into deep discussion. Pay attention to the personalities and interests of the girls in your group and tailor the lessons to engage them where they're at.
3. **Adapt it to your community.** Depending on your setting and culture, elements in the lessons may need to be worded differently to make sense. Make these adjustments to allow girls to connect.

You are the mentor, and God has appointed you for this purpose. We want to empower you to take the lead as you facilitate this unit with your small group. You may choose to rearrange activities or skip some activities to make more room for others. You may decide to reword something in order to express it in a way that will make sense to your girls. Our hope is that this resource will equip you with the foundational elements you need while also empowering you to use it in a way that results in meaningful relational discipleship.

With love,

The NGM Team





# HEART OF COMPASSION

## SMALL GROUP UNIT



### LESSON ONE: I am loved by God and He provides for me.

#### KEY TRUTH



I am loved by God  
and He provides  
for me.

#### BIBLE STORY



Luke 10:25–37  
The Good Samaritan

#### MEMORY VERSE Psalm 145:8



The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow  
to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

### Lesson Prep

#### YOU WILL NEED

- **Mentoring Guide**
- Prepped center activities, choose 2 or 3
- Crayons
- Worship music for musical chairs
- Chairs, 1 per girl
- **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl (p. 11)
- **Sorting Cards**, 1 set per group (p. 12)
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Small bags or envelopes, 1 per group
- **Bible Story**, 1 per girl (p. 13)
- Highlighters / pens / colored pencils
- TV/projector to show video
- **Guatemala Lesson 1 Video**
- **Journaling Page**, 1 per girl (p. 14)
- Pens/pencils
- **Coloring Activity Sheet**, 1 per girl (p. 15)

#### GETTING READY

- Familiarize yourself with the lesson.
- Choose a couple of upbeat worship songs and slower worship songs and have them ready to play.
- Print the **Poster**, **Bible Story**, **Journaling Page**, and **Coloring Sheet**, for each girl.
- Print, cut, and place **Sorting Cards** into bags or envelopes.
- Have video ready to play.

#### TIME

About 55–80  
minutes +  
prelesson/  
postlesson time

### Symbol Guide



Materials needed



Things to prepare



The mentor will SAY . . .



The mentor/group will DO . . .



The mentor will prompt a discussion question and the group will discuss.

# BEFORE AND AFTER THE LESSON

## BEFORE THE LESSON

### INTENTIONAL WELCOME TIME (5 minutes)

**Welcome** each girl by name (show friendship and warmth). Greet families as they drop their girls off and thank them for coming to church. Share your excitement by saying something such as, “You could be anywhere, and you came here to church. Choosing to be in God’s house is always a great choice.” Ask the girl a relationship-building question. Some examples include:

- What was your high/low this week?
- Tell me about the best thing that happened this week!
- What was a challenge you’ve overcome?
- Was there anything cool you saw God do this week?

**Take notes** discreetly (or at the end of the small group time) about each girl and follow up in subsequent weeks to show them you care about what they care about.

### ACTIVITY CENTERS (20–30 minutes)

As girls arrive, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Intentionally make this a relational time.** The goal is to build relationships with girls as they are engaged in an activity and with families as they drop their girls off.

## AFTER THE LESSON

### CENTERS + CHECK OUT TIME (20–30 minutes)

As girls are being picked up, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Continue to intentionally make this a relational time.** Be intentional with continuing conversations about the lesson and even working on Scripture memorization.

Notice each girl as she is leaving and use her name as you say goodbye. Invite her back next time. Be sure each girl knows you are looking forward to seeing her again soon!



## ENGAGE (5–10 minutes)

### Play Musical Chairs



One chair less than the number of girls playing the game, music everyone can hear, **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl



*Print the **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**. Place chairs in an outward-facing circle. Have upbeat worship music ready and be able to start/stop it easily.*

*Girls will stand outside the circle of chairs. When the music starts, girls will begin walking clockwise around the circle of chairs. When the music stops, each girl will sit down in the closest chair. The girl left without a chair is out. One chair is removed, and the circle is now smaller. The music starts again and girls, once again, begin walking clockwise around the circle of chairs. Repeat this process until only one chair remains and the girl to be the first to sit when the music stops is the winner!*

discuss

How did it feel when there weren't enough chairs for everyone?

What was going on in your mind when you were the one left without a chair?

say

To understand compassion, we first must know we are loved by God and He provides for us. This is our Key Truth! Let's say that together, "I am loved by God and He provides for me."

do

*Hold up a sample and hand out a **Key Truth/Scripture Poster** to each girl.*

say

In God's plan, there's always a seat for everyone. There will never be a time when God takes away our "seat." Instead, He always makes room for us and provides a place for us in His kingdom. When God loves us and provides for us, He is showing us compassion. With God, there's never a shortage. He will always take care of us because we are loved by God and He provides for us. The verse we will be memorizing is **Psalms 145:8**, and it says:

**The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.**



### Ideas!

- Print posters full size on a 8.5" x 11" sheet and girls can hang them in their rooms.
- Print all four lesson posters on one 8.5" x 11" sheet and cut them out. For each lesson, hand out the small poster and girls can glue them into a notebook or tuck them into their Bible.

## EXPLORE (10–15 minutes)

### Needs/Wants Sorting Activity



**Sorting Cards** (mixed up and put into bag/envelope) for each group, a flat surface such as a table or floor



*Print and cut apart the cards. Mix them up. Place them in a bag or envelope.*

NEEDS	WANTS
A safe place to live	A puppy to play with
Healthy food to eat	Cake for breakfast
Medicine when I am sick	A new gaming system
Clothes that keep me warm in the winter and cool in the summer	All my favorite candy
Clean water to drink	Going to see a movie

*Split into groups of 2 or 3 girls each. Give each group a bag with sorting cards. Have girls take the cards out and place them face up on a flat surface. Invite the girls to read and sort the cards by placing all the cards with a need together and all the cards with a want together. Encourage the girls to read the card aloud and talk about the needs and wants as they sort them thinking about why each is a need or a want. When the girls are satisfied with how they sorted the cards, reveal the answers and ask the girls to compare their sort to the answer key.*

discuss

*After the sort, take turns reading each need/want and discussing why it's a need/want. This should be conversational, with the mentor sharing stories that connect where applicable and providing the girls a chance to share.*

*Example: "I wanted the style of shoes that all the other girls were getting because I wanted to fit in. My mom said I didn't need any new shoes right now, so I was disappointed and had a bad attitude. Now I realize that was a want, not a need."*

**Ask:** When in your life did you really want something that maybe you didn't need? What did your parents tell you? How did that make you feel?

## EXPLAIN (25–30 minutes)

### Read the Bible Story (Luke 10:25–37)



**Bible Story**, 1 per girl, highlighters / pens / colored pencils



**Print the Bible Story.**

#### Teaching Tip

If someone forgot their Bible, have handouts of the Scripture passage ready. But encourage girls to remember to bring their Bibles every time. For girls who brought their Bibles, challenge them to find the verses on their own because this develops familiarity with the Bible and biblical literacy.



#### Bible Literacy Strategy

Read through the text with your group at least two times. On the first time through, read it like normal. Then, on the second read-through, model using highlighters / pens / colored pencils to mark things that stand out. Explain to girls that they could mark things they want to remember or put a question mark next to things that don't make sense. Show them how they can even write notes in the margins if the Lord puts something on their heart as they read. Let them know there's no right or wrong way to do this. What one girl chooses to highlight will probably be different from what another girl highlights. That's okay, and it's actually a good thing! As we mark the things that are meaningful to us and discuss them with others, someone may share something that maybe another person didn't even notice. This is one reason it's so great to read and discuss the Word in a group.



#### TRICKY WORD Alert

Preview these words with the group before reading the passage. Then, as you come across the word, ask if anyone knows or wants to guess the meaning. After that, give the definition using the guide provided or explain in your own words.

**inherit**: to receive something from a parent or ancestor

**justify**: to explain or prove that something is right

**despised**: to feel a strong dislike for someone

**inn**: a place to stay and rest

**mercy**: forgiveness; showing kindness to someone even if they don't deserve it

### The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25–37

**25** One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to **inherit** eternal life?”

**26** Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”

**27** The man answered, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**28** “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

**29** The man wanted to **justify** his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**30** Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

**31** “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. **32** A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.



**33** “Then a **despised** Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him.

**34** Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them.

Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an **inn**, where he took care of him. **35** The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

**36** “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

**37** The man replied, “The one who showed him **mercy**.”

Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

A small orange speech bubble icon with the word "discuss" in white lowercase letters.

How did the priest and temple assistant treat the Jewish man?

How did the Samaritan act toward the Jewish man?

A small blue speech bubble icon with the word "say" in white lowercase letters.

The priest and the temple assistant were both important people. People respected them and they were thought highly of. On the other hand, the Samaritans were hated people. Jews did not treat Samaritans very well. This story is so surprising because the people who had it all, the priest and temple assistant, refused to take a moment out of their day to stop and care for someone who was hurting. But the Samaritan, even though the injured Jew may have strongly disliked him, still chose to stop and care for him. The Samaritan had compassion! He noticed the needs of someone else and showed kindness by taking action to help.

A small green circle icon with the word "do" in white lowercase letters.

*Write on the board, “Compassion: caring about others and treating them with kindness.” Keep this definition up or rewrite it each lesson throughout the unit.*

A small orange speech bubble icon with the word "discuss" in white lowercase letters.

At the end of this story, Jesus said, “Now go and do the same,” referring to how the Samaritan showed compassion on the suffering Jewish man. How can you “go and do the same” by showing compassion to people in your life?

A small blue speech bubble icon with the word "say" in white lowercase letters.

Something else that stands out in this story is the kindness of the Lord. The fact that someone completely unexpected stopped to care for a hurting man shows that God really loves His people and will provide for their needs.



*Share an age-appropriate story about a time when God provided for you and you were reminded of how much He loves you. Invite girls to share their own stories too.*

## Introduce and Watch Video



TV or projector screen, **Guatemala Lesson 1 [Video](#)**



*Have the video ready to play.*



We are going to watch a video with Shonna from Convoy of Hope and Nicole from National Girls Ministries. They will be talking about their experience with the Convoy of Hope team in Guatemala. Shonna and Nicole will tell us about a woman named Alicia who has learned how much God loves her and how He will provide for her needs. Let's watch and see how Convoy of Hope is being used to show compassion in Guatemala through the Women's Empowerment Program.

### Helpful Info



The goal of the videos throughout this series is to help young girls gain a broader worldview. Many of them may have no idea what life looks like for people who live in different areas of the world. As they are exposed to the work God is doing through Convoy of Hope in Guatemala, we hope they will grow in their awareness and join in praying for people around the world.



*Watch the video. (2 minutes)*

discuss

Our Key Truth this week is, "I am loved by God and He provides for me." What are some ways God provided for Alicia in the video from Guatemala?

What did you see or hear in the video that you most want to remember?

What are some ways God provides for you?

How has God shown you He loves you?

## ELABORATE (10–15 minutes)

### Journal Reflection + Discussion + Prayer



**Journaling Page**, 1 per girl; **Coloring Sheet**, 1 per girl; pens/pencils, crayons



Print the **Journaling Page** and **Coloring Sheet** (front/back or as separate single sided pages), have soft music ready to play.



I am loved by God and He provides for me.

On your journal page, write about or draw something that will help you remember how much God loves you and how He has provided for you. For example, you may choose to write about having a safe home and comfortable bed to sleep in because this shows you that He cares for your safety and comfort. Then write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for how much He loves you and asking Him for something you need. If you finish before the time ends, you may work on the coloring sheet.



Play some soft worship music. Give the girls 5–10 minutes to reflect on their journal page. **Tip:** The mentor should also be journaling alongside the girls . . . not as an enforcer, but modeling how to journal with a Bible, notebook, and pen.



After the time has passed, come back together as a group. Ask if anyone would like to share any thoughts that surfaced during the reflection time.

Ask if any girls have a prayer need they would like to share. Write down requests as they are shared.

Pray together as a group. The goal is for the mentor to model prayer and begin to empower each girl to take the lead with this prayer time.



## EVALUATE (5 minutes)

### Final Thoughts & Wrap Up



Let's say our Memory Verse, Psalm 145:8, together: "The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."



What is something you learned or were reminded of about God through our time together?



Let's close by saying our Key Truth together: "I am loved by God and He provides for me."

# LESSON RESOURCES

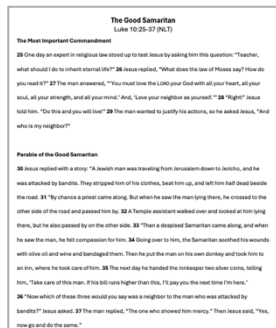
## Key Truth/Scripture Poster page 11



## Sorting Cards page 12

NEEDS	WANTS
A safe place to live	A puppy to play with
Healthy food to eat	Cake for breakfast
Medicine when I am sick	A new gaming system
Clothes that keep me warm in the winter and cool in the summer	All my favorite candy
Clean water to drink	Going to see a movie

## Bible Story page 13



## Journaling Page page 14

**Heart of Compassion**  
Lesson One

**KEY TRUTH:** I am loved by God and He provides for me.

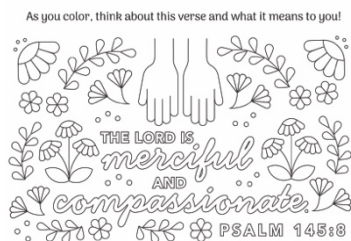
**BIBLE STORY:** Luke 10:25-37, The Good Samaritan

**PSALM 145:8: THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE, SLOW TO GET ANGRY AND FILLED WITH UNFAILING LOVE.**

Write about or draw something that will help you remember how much God loves you and how He has provided for you.

Write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for how much He loves you. Ask Him for something you need.

## Coloring Page page 15



## *Heart of Compassion*

# *Key Truth*

I am loved by God  
and He provides for me.

# *Psalms 145:8*

The LORD is merciful and  
compassionate, slow to get  
angry and filled with  
unfailing love.





# NEEDS

A safe place to live

Healthy food to eat

Medicine when I am  
sick

Clothes that keep me warm  
in the winter and cool in the  
summer

Clean water to drink

# WANTS

A puppy to play with

Cake for breakfast

A new gaming system

All my favorite candy

Going to see a movie

## The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25–37

**25** One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?” **26** Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?” **27** The man answered, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” **28** “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!” **29** The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**30** Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. **31** By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. **32** A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. **33** Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. **34** Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. **35** The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’”

**36** Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked. **37** The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”



# Heart of Compassion

*lesson one*

KEY TRUTH: I am loved by God  
and He provides for me.

BIBLE STORY: Luke 10:25-37, The Good Samaritan

PSALM 145:8 THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE,  
SLOW TO GET ANGRY AND FILLED WITH UNFAILING LOVE.

Write about or  
draw something  
that will help  
you remember  
how much God  
loves you and  
how He has  
provided for  
you.

Write a prayer to the  
Lord, thanking Him for  
how much He loves  
you. Ask Him for  
something you need.

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As you color, think about this verse and what it means to you!





# HEART OF COMPASSION

## SMALL GROUP UNIT



### LESSON TWO: I will seek to discover the needs of those around me.

#### KEY TRUTH



I will seek to discover the needs of those around me

#### BIBLE STORY



Ruth 1:8–16  
Ruth Stays with Naomi

#### MEMORY VERSE Psalm 145:8



The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

### Lesson Prep

#### YOU WILL NEED

- **Mentoring Guide**
- Prepped center activities, choose 2 or 3
- Crayons
- **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl (p. 11)
- **Spot the Difference Activity Sheets**, 1 of each per girl (pp. 12–14)
- **Bible Story**, 1 per girl (p. 15)
- Highlighters / pens / colored pencils
- TV/projector to show video
- **Guatemala Lesson 2 Video**
- **Journaling Page**, 1 per girl (p. 16)
- **Word Search Activity Sheet**, 1 per girl (p. 17)
- Pens/pencils

#### GETTING READY

- Familiarize yourself with the lesson.
- Choose a couple of upbeat worship songs and slower worship songs and have them ready to play.
- Print the **Poster**, **Spot the Difference Activity Sheets**, **Bible Story**, **Journaling Page**, and **Word Search Activity Sheet** for each girl.
- Have video ready to play.

#### TIME

About 55–80 minutes + prelesson/postlesson time

### Symbol Guide



Materials needed



Things to prepare



The mentor will SAY . . .



The mentor/group will DO . . .



The mentor will prompt a discussion question and the group will discuss.

# BEFORE AND AFTER THE LESSON

## BEFORE THE LESSON

### INTENTIONAL WELCOME TIME (5 minutes)

**Welcome** each girl by name (show friendship and warmth). Greet families as they drop their girls off and thank them for coming to church. Share your excitement by saying something such as, “You could be anywhere, and you came here to church. Choosing to be in God’s house is always a great choice.” Ask the girl a relationship-building question. Some examples include:

- What was your high/low this week?
- Tell me about the best thing that happened this week!
- What was a challenge you’ve overcome?
- Was there anything cool you saw God do this week?

**Take notes** discreetly (or at the end of the small group time) about each girl and follow up in subsequent weeks to show them you care about what they care about.

### ACTIVITY CENTERS (20–30 minutes)

As girls arrive, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Intentionally make this a relational time.** The goal is to build relationships with girls as they are engaged in an activity and with families as they drop their girls off.

## AFTER THE LESSON

### CENTERS + CHECK OUT TIME (20–30 minutes)

As girls are being picked up, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Continue to intentionally make this a relational time.** Be intentional with continuing conversations about the lesson and even working on Scripture memorization.

Notice each girl as she is leaving and use her name as you say goodbye. Invite her back next time. Be sure each girl knows you are looking forward to seeing her again soon!

## ENGAGE (10–15 minutes)

### Play **I Spy** (better for younger girls) or **Signs** (better for older girls)



**Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl



Print the **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**.

#### **I Spy**

*Choose someone to be “it” (the spy). That person stands in front of the group and looks around the room to choose an object. Once they choose something, they say, “I spy with my little eye, something \_\_\_\_.” Any identifier can be used such as: naming the color, texture, beginning with the letter \_\_, etc. The spy then calls on girls one at a time to guess what the mystery object is. The girl who guesses correctly is the next spy.*

#### **Signs**

**The Goal:** Pass the “sign” around the circle without being caught by the person in the middle. Think of the “sign” as an invisible ball. The way the sign is passed is by showing your sign to accept (once that has been done it’s in that person’s possession), then that person “passes it” by showing another person’s sign. When the person with that sign accepts, now it’s in their possession.

**How to Play:** Girls will sit in a circle, and each will choose a “sign.” This is any little gesture they can make, such as thumbs up, brushing hair behind the ear, adjusting glasses, touching their knee, etc. After each girl has chosen a sign, go around and each girl will show their sign to the group. It’s easier at the beginning to encourage girls to just remember two or three girls’ signs. Once all signs have been shown, one girl will go into the middle of the circle. She will spin around with her eyes closed, counting to ten. While she’s counting, the sign will start being “passed.” After counting to ten, the girl in the middle opens her eyes and starts to look around the circle, with the goal of catching someone in the act of “holding the sign.” The girl in the middle gets three guesses before she must close her eyes, count to ten, and spin around again. When the guesser catches the person with the sign, they switch spots and now that girl is in the middle.

discuss

How did using your eyes and paying close attention help you in this game?

say

Our Key Truth today is for you to seek to discover the needs of those around you. Let’s say that together, “I will seek to discover the needs of those around me.” We will continue practicing our Memory Verse, which is Psalm 145:8, “The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.” Today we will also spend some time in **Matthew 22:37–39 (NIV)**, which says:



Jesus replied, “‘Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

do

Hold up a sample and hand out a **Key Truth/Scripture Poster** to each girl.

say

Just like in the game we played, to show love and compassion toward others, we must pay close attention to those around us. We need to use our eyes and ears to notice if they are in need. This is what it means to seek to discover the needs of those around us. Just like how the Lord listens closely to us and understands our needs, it's important that we listen to others and ask questions to help us understand what they need. This is how we love our neighbor as ourselves.



## EXPLORE (5–15 minutes)

### Spot the Difference Activity



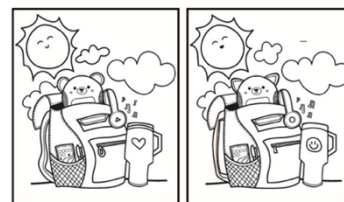
**Spot the Difference Sheets**, 1 per girl; pencils/markers/crayons



**Print the *Spot the Difference Sheets*.**

#### Spot the Difference

Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?



Girls will choose an activity sheet and something to write with. They may work with a partner or independently. The goal is to find and circle all the differences they see. If they find all of them, they can move to the other version of the activity sheet.

do

Come back together and discuss if girls were able to find all the differences. If someone still can't find them all, work together as a group to help everyone find the differences.

say

Sometimes other people can see things we may not notice. This is one reason why good friendships are important!

## EXPLAIN (25–30 minutes)

### Read the Bible Story (Ruth 1:8–16)



**Bible Story**, 1 per girl; highlighters / pens / colored pencils



Print the **Bible Story**.

#### Bible Literacy Strategy



Read through the text with your group at least two times. On the first time through, read it like normal. Then, on the second read-through, model using highlighters / pens / colored pencils to mark things that stand out. Explain to girls that they could mark things they want to remember or put a question mark next to things that don't make sense. Show them how they can even write notes in the margins if the Lord puts something on their heart as they read. Let them know there's no right or wrong way to do this. What one girl chooses to highlight will probably be different from what another girl highlights. That's okay, and it's actually a good thing! As we mark the things that are meaningful to us and discuss them with others, someone may share something that maybe another person didn't even notice. This is one reason it's so great to read and discuss the Word in a group.



Let me give you a little bit of background information about the story we will be reading today. Naomi was married to a man named Elimelech and she had two sons, Mahlon and Kilion. After the family moved to a new place to escape a **famine**, her husband died. Her sons each got married, one to a woman named Orpah, and the other to a woman named Ruth. But ten years later, Naomi's sons died. In Ruth 1:5, it says that Naomi was left alone, without her two sons or her husband.



How do you think Naomi felt in this moment—being in an unfamiliar place without her family?



In verse 6 it says that Naomi got word that the Lord had blessed her homeland with good crops again. She and her daughters-in-law decided to travel back home. This is where we will begin our reading.

#### TRICKY WORD Alert

Preview these words with the group before reading the passage. Then, as you come across the word, ask if anyone knows or wants to guess the meaning. After that, give the definition using the guide provided or explain in your own words.

**famine:** when there is not enough food to eat

**security:** being safe; having a feeling of comfort

**wept:** crying from deep sadness

**bear sons:** to give birth to boys

**bitter:** unpleasant; undesirable

**clung tightly:** to hold onto something or someone tightly

**widows:** women whose husbands have died

## Ruth Stays with Naomi Ruth 1:8–16

**8** But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. **9** May the LORD bless you with the **security** of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and **wept**.

**10** “No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.”

**11** But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? **12** No, my daughters, return to your parents’ homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and **bear sons**, then what? **13** Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more **bitter** for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me.”

**14** And again they **wept** together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth **clung tightly** to Naomi. **15** “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.”

**16** But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

**say**

At that time, **widows** faced many challenges. They were often not respected and were given few opportunities for work. Widows often lived poor and difficult lives. Naomi knew that if Orpah and Ruth stayed with her, they would remain as widows, living a difficult life. Naomi insisted that they go back to their homeland and remarry so they would have a chance at rebuilding their lives and experiencing happiness.

**discuss**

What did Ruth choose to do? Why do you think she did that?

If Ruth would’ve been focused on herself, do you think she would have acted that way?

### Teaching Tip



Silence is okay! It’s important to give girls adequate “think time” so they can be thoughtful in their contributions to the discussion.

**say**

Ruth noticed her mother-in-law was in need and even though Naomi told her to leave, Ruth chose to stay. She used her eyes, ears, and heart to discover the needs of someone else and that allowed her to show kindness and compassion.


 discuss

Have you ever noticed someone else was in need? How did you know they were in need?

Has there been a time when someone didn't *tell* you they were struggling, but you could just tell? What did you notice in the way they were acting that made you think that? Without saying the person's name, can anyone tell us about that moment?

*(You may start by sharing a personal story of a time you noticed someone around you was in need.)*

Why is it important to seek to discover the needs of those around us?

## Introduce and Watch Video



TV or projector screen, **Guatemala Lesson 2 [Video](#)**



*Have the video ready to play.*


 say

Today we will hear from Shonna and Nicole again as they talk about how the Convoy of Hope Girls Empowerment Program in Guatemala is seeking to discover the needs of young girls and striving to meet those needs. Let's see how these girls are being encouraged to be all God has created them to be.


 do

*Watch the video. (3 minutes)*


 discuss

Our Key Truth today is, "I will seek to discover the needs of those around me." How are these girls being impacted as Convoy of Hope seeks to discover their needs?

What was something that stood out to you from the video?


 say

One reason we want to make sure we are paying attention to the needs of those around us is because that's exactly what Jesus does for us! It says in Matthew 6:8 that our Father knows exactly what we need even before we ask Him! The Bible also says that God will take care of us (Psalm 55:22). By noticing the needs of others, we are representing God and showing compassion.

### Helpful Info



The goal of the videos throughout this series is to help young girls gain a broader worldview. Many of them may have no idea what life looks like for people who live in different areas of the world. As they are exposed to the work God is doing through Convoy of Hope in Guatemala, we hope they will grow in their awareness and join in praying for people around the world.

discuss

When has someone used their eyes/ears/heart to discover *your* needs? How did it make you feel that they were paying close attention to you and wanting to care for you?

How can you do that for other people?

*(Ideas might include: asking people how they are doing and really listening to their answers, thinking about other people and what they are going through instead of just focusing on ourselves, paying attention to whether someone is acting differently and checking in on them, etc.)*

## ELABORATE (10–15 minutes)

### Journal Reflection + Discussion + Prayer



**Journaling Page**, 1 per girl; **Word Search**, 1 per girl; pens/pencils



Print the **Journaling Page** and **Word Search** (front/back or as separate single-sided pages), have soft music ready to play.



say

Let's say our Key Truth together. "I will seek to discover the needs of those around me."

On your Journaling Page, write or draw about some things we can do to discover the needs of people around us.

Also write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for always seeing you and knowing what you need. Ask Him to help you put others before yourself and notice their needs. If you finish before the time ends, you may work on the Word Search.

do

Play some soft worship music. Give the girls 5–10 minutes to reflect on their Journaling Page. **Tip:** The mentor should also be journaling alongside the girls . . . not as an enforcer, but modeling how to journal with a Bible, notebook, and pen.

discuss

After the time has passed, come back together as a group. Ask if anyone would like to share any thoughts that surfaced during their reflection time.

Ask if any girls have a prayer need they would like the group to pray over. Write down requests as they are shared.

Pray together as a group. The goal here is for the mentor to model prayer and begin to empower each girl to take the lead with this prayer time.



## EVALUATE (5 minutes)

### Final Thoughts & Wrap Up



Let's say the Lesson Verse, Matthew 22:37–39 (NIV), together: “Jesus replied: ‘ “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ’ ”



What did we talk about today that will help us “love our neighbor as ourselves”?

What is something you learned or were reminded of about God through our time together?



Now let's say our unit Memory Verse together, Psalm 145:8: “The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.”

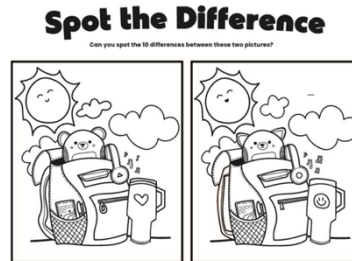
We'll close by saying our Key Truth together: “I will seek to discover the needs of those around me.”

# LESSON RESOURCES

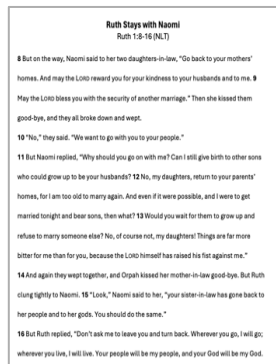
## Key Truth/Scripture Poster page 11



## Spot the Difference Activity Sheets and Keys pages 12-14



## Bible Story page 15



## Journaling Page page 16



## Word Search Activity Sheet and Key pages 17-18



*Heart of Compassion**Key Truth*

I will seek to discover the  
needs of those around me.

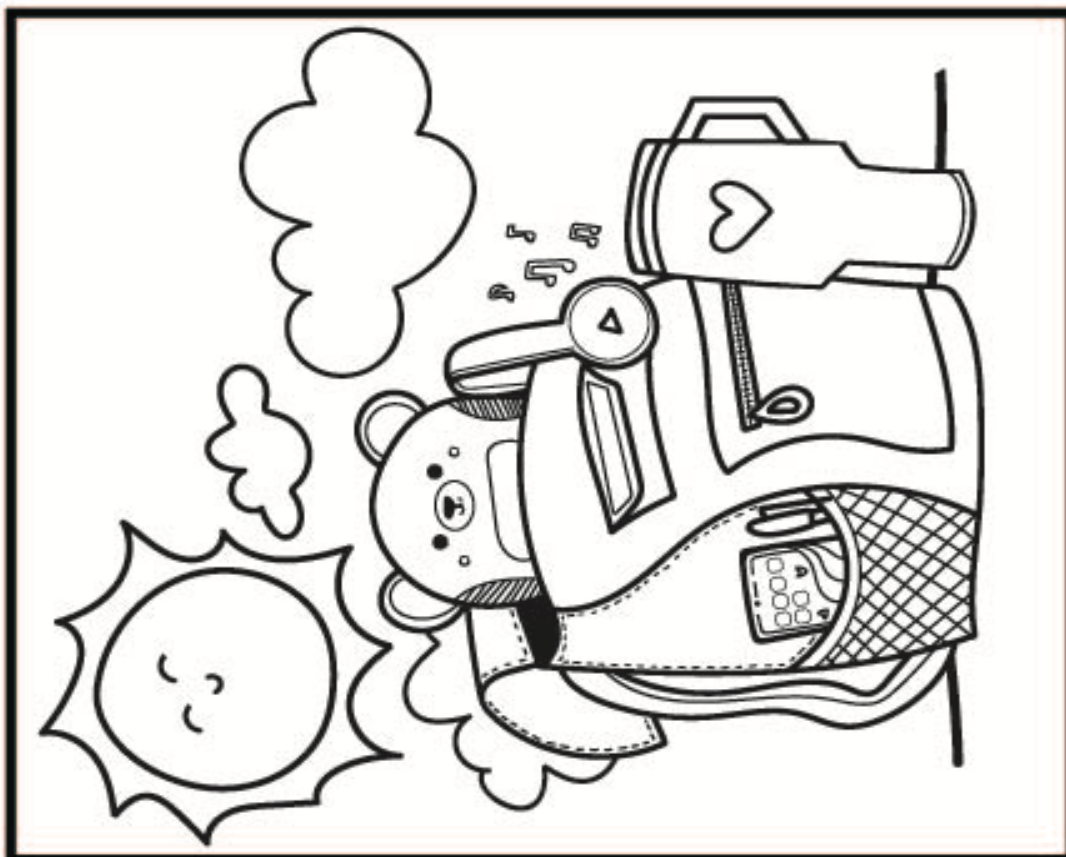
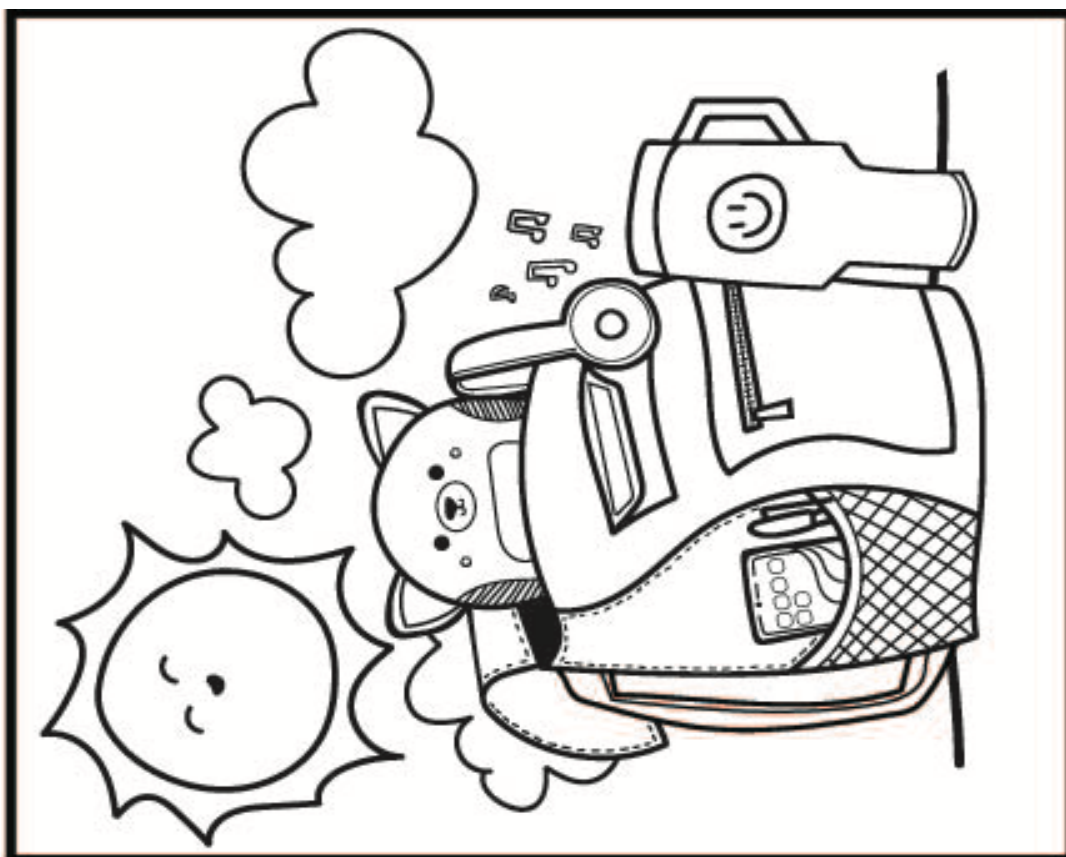
*Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)*

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all  
your heart and with all your soul and with  
your mind.’ This is the first and greatest  
commandment. And the second is like it:  
‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”



# Spot the Difference

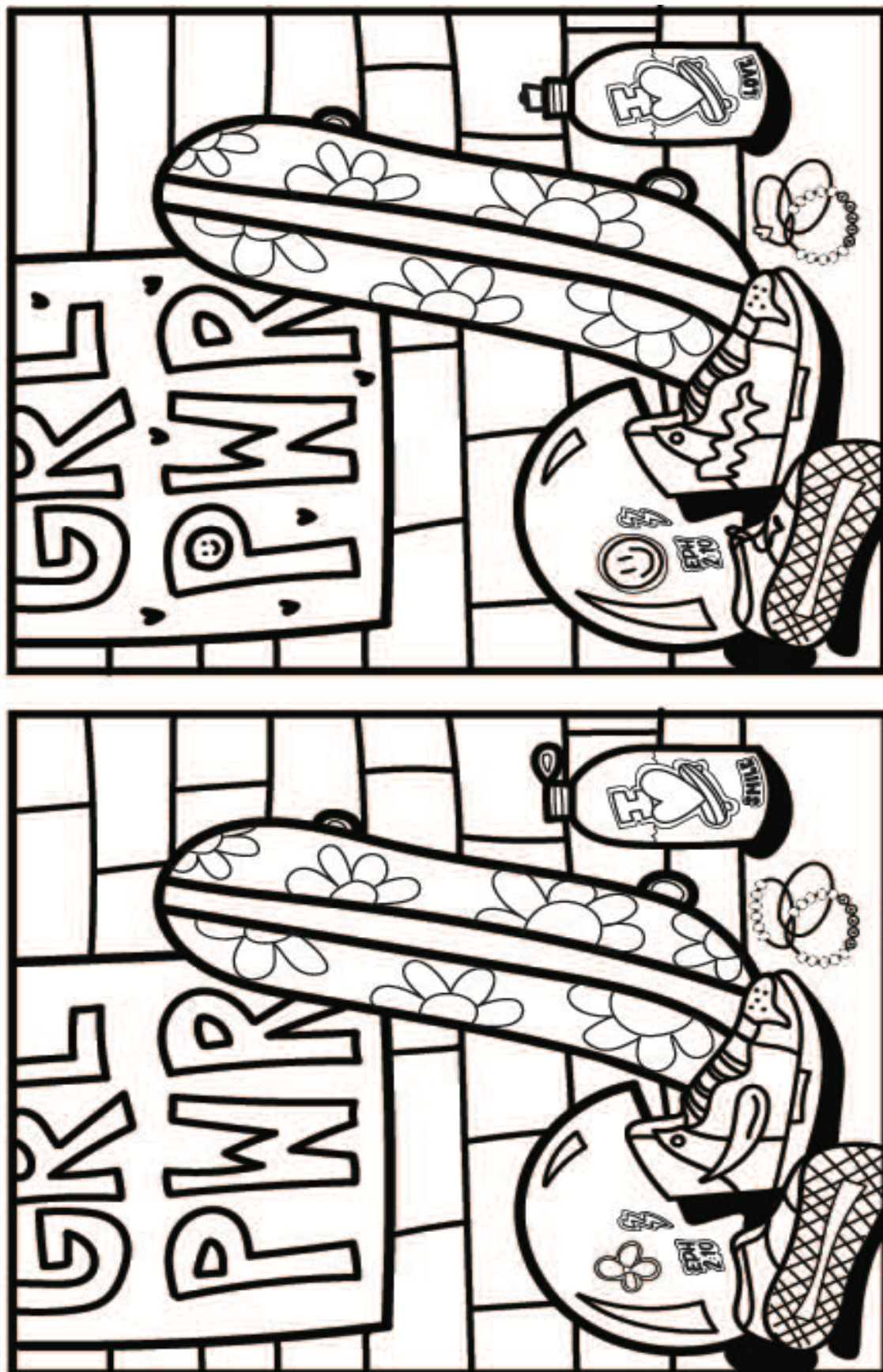
Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?





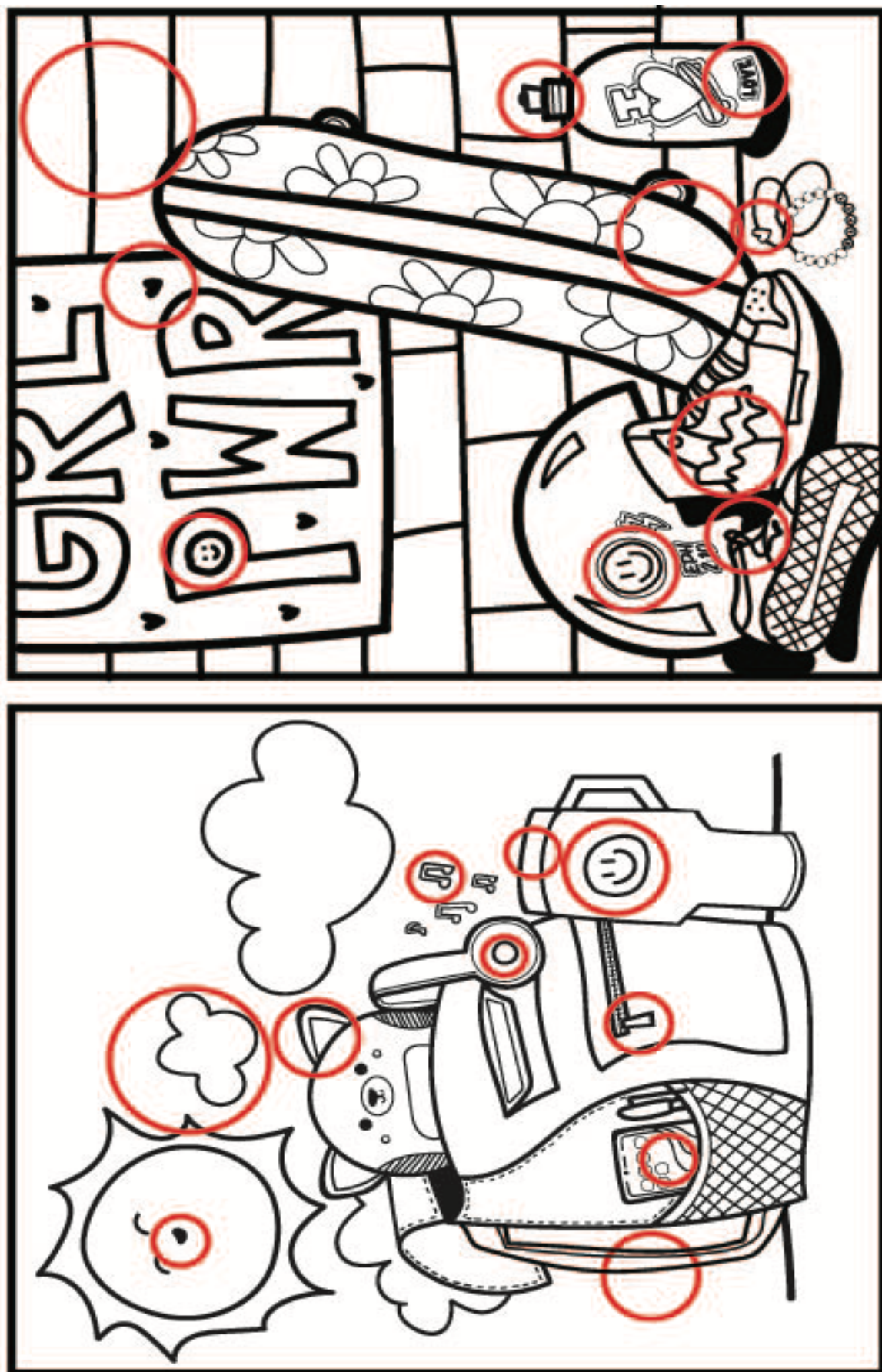
# Spot the Difference

Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?





# Spot the Difference



## **Ruth Stays with Naomi**

Ruth 1:8–16

**8** But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.

**9** May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

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**11** But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? **12** No, my daughters, return to your parents’ homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? **13** Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me.”

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**16** But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”



## Heart of Compassion

*lesson two*

**KEY TRUTH:** I will seek to discover the needs of those around me.

**BIBLE STORY:** Ruth 1:8-16, Ruth Stays with Naomi

PSALM 145:8 THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE,  
SLOW TO GET ANGRY AND FILLED WITH UNFAILING LOVE.

Write about or draw something you can do to discover the needs of people around you.

Write a prayer to the Lord, thanking Him for always seeing you and knowing what you need. Ask Him to help you put others before yourself and notice their needs.

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# Word Search

Try to find these words from our lesson today!

K	Y	S	E	L	L	S	H	U	J	C	U	L	L	N	X	G	U	N	N
G	N	B	G	D	N	P	T	R	E	O	M	Q	G	A	C	Y	X	O	V
F	N	Q	D	W	K	M	N	X	R	T	F	K	L	R	W	K	B	D	L
G	A	Y	Z	U	O	A	F	W	S	J	G	S	I	O	U	F	C	Z	J
C	O	Q	B	W	X	T	J	W	F	Q	N	D	B	N	V	T	Q	X	E
X	M	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	R	L	D	D	I	D	E	H	X	K
E	I	U	N	V	K	Q	G	X	S	O	A	I	D	X	D	N	M	O	Y
E	X	Y	M	P	A	D	B	T	M	D	N	R	S	G	C	E	E	R	T
C	M	C	G	W	L	W	D	U	G	U	V	L	C	T	L	G	P	S	A
F	K	P	Z	G	O	T	Z	Z	P	T	I	M	P	B	E	U	X	M	S
C	F	J	A	R	A	F	D	Z	N	D	L	Y	M	U	T	N	H	K	P
W	C	W	C	T	K	T	K	N	J	W	U	R	F	I	I	F	I	A	H
M	C	Z	U	W	H	U	Y	O	H	V	H	R	A	X	G	Z	V	N	X
B	T	A	S	J	C	Y	T	L	Y	C	S	J	D	Y	T	O	S	U	G
S	N	H	R	I	Z	O	D	I	U	S	Y	E	Q	Q	S	L	H	P	D
B	G	S	G	N	C	W	X	G	D	Y	Z	H	U	P	X	J	D	T	D
A	T	J	T	Y	C	K	L	R	R	Q	Q	S	L	M	D	K	J	I	J
H	K	V	L	U	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	H	E	W	B	C
F	Z	W	I	W	D	W	L	V	T	I	C	W	W	E	J	Z	G	X	N
R	H	B	Q	E	R	E	U	Y	C	D	F	A	L	M	I	D	F	Q	U

**NAOMI**  
**KINDNESS**

**RUTH**  
**EMPATHY**

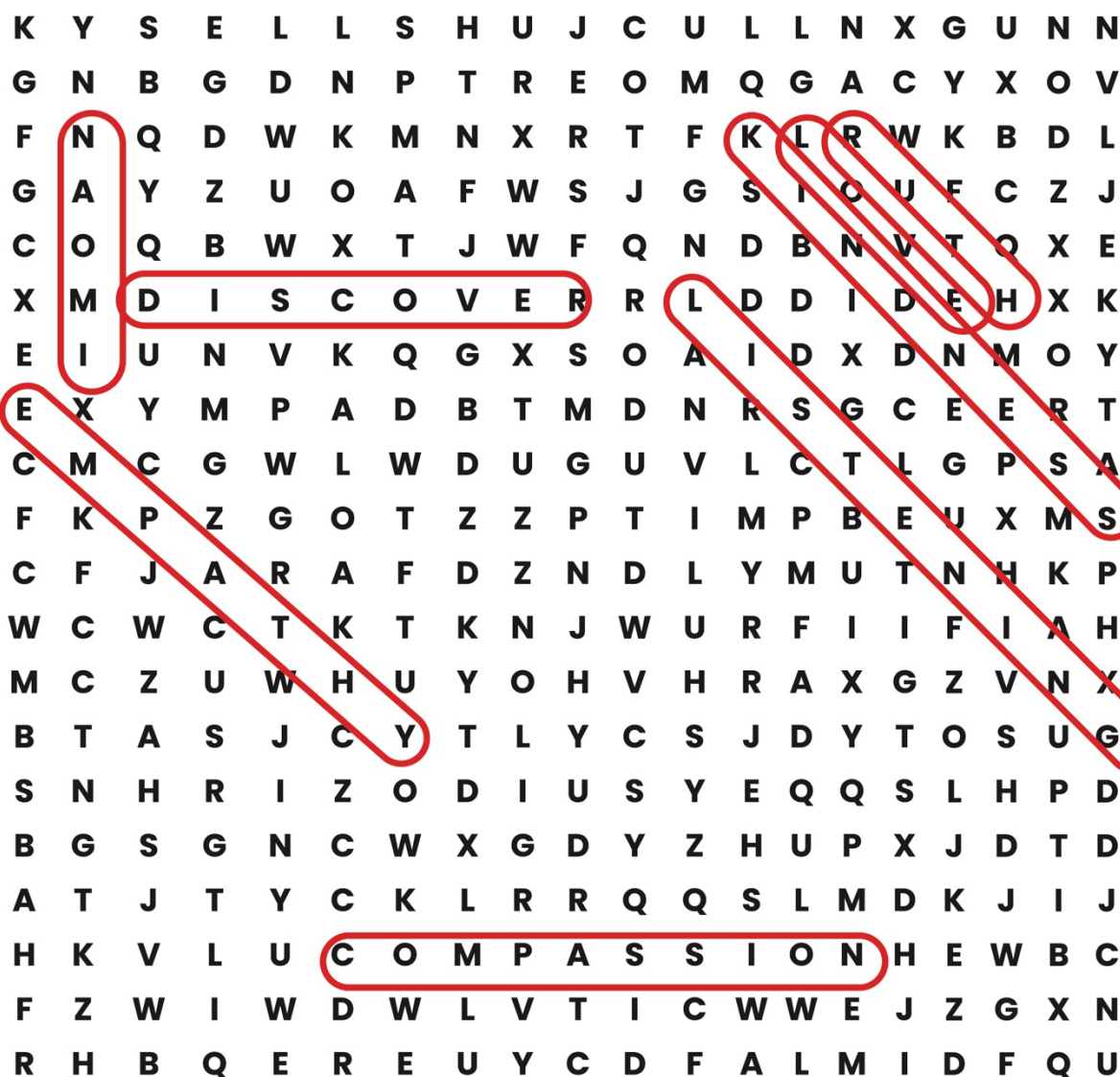
**LISTENING**  
**DISCOVER**

**COMPASSION**  
**LOVE**



# Word Search

Try to find these words from our lesson today!



**NAOMI  
KINDNESS**

**RUTH  
EMPATHY**

**LISTENING  
DISCOVER**

**COMPASSION  
LOVE**



# HEART OF COMPASSION

## SMALL GROUP UNIT



### LESSON THREE: I will show compassion by serving people around me.

#### KEY TRUTH



I will show compassion by serving people around me.

#### BIBLE STORY



2 Corinthians 9:6–15  
The Cheerful Giver

#### MEMORY VERSE Psalm 145:8



The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

### Lesson Prep

#### YOU WILL NEED

- **Mentoring Guide**
- Prepped center activities, choose 2 or 3
- Crayons
- **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl (p. 11)
- Index cards, 10 per girl
- Hole punch
- Key ring / string, 1 per girl
- Craft materials to decorate
- **Bible Story**, 1 per girl (p. 12)
- Highlighters / pens / colored pencils
- TV/projector to show video
- **Guatemala Lesson 3 Video**
- **Journaling Page**, 1 per girl (p. 13)
- Pens/pencils
- **Maze Challenge Activity Sheet**, 1 per girl (p. 14)

#### GETTING READY

- Familiarize yourself with the lesson.
- Choose a couple of upbeat worship songs and slower worship songs and have them ready to play.
- Print the **Poster, Bible Story, Journaling Page, and Maze Challenge Activity Sheet**.
- Have video ready to play.
- Hole punch top left corner of index cards.

#### TIME

About 60–80 minutes + prelesson/postlesson time

### Symbol Guide



Materials needed



Things to prepare



The mentor will SAY . . .



The mentor/group will DO . . .



The mentor will prompt a discussion question and the group will discuss.



# BEFORE AND AFTER THE LESSON

## BEFORE THE LESSON

### INTENTIONAL WELCOME TIME (5 minutes)

**Welcome** each girl by name (show friendship and warmth). Greet families as they drop their girls off and thank them for coming to church. Share your excitement by saying something such as, “You could be anywhere, and you came here to church. Choosing to be in God’s house is always a great choice.” Ask the girl a relationship-building question. Some examples include:

- What was your high/low this week?
- Tell me about the best thing that happened this week!
- What was a challenge you’ve overcome?
- Was there anything cool you saw God do this week?

**Take notes** discreetly (or at the end of the small group time) about each girl and follow up in subsequent weeks to show them you care about what they care about.

### ACTIVITY CENTERS (20–30 minutes)

As girls arrive, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Intentionally make this a relational time.** The goal is to build relationships with girls as they are engaged in an activity and with families as they drop their girls off.

## AFTER THE LESSON

### CENTERS + CHECK OUT TIME (20–30 minutes)

As girls are being picked up, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Continue to intentionally make this a relational time.** Be intentional with continuing conversations about the lesson and even working on Scripture memorization.

Notice each girl as she is leaving and use her name as you say goodbye. Invite her back next time. Be sure each girl knows you are looking forward to seeing her again soon!

## ENGAGE (5–10 minutes)

### Play Kind Katrina Says . . .



**Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl



Print the **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**.

*This game is like Simon Says but focuses on identifying acts of kindness.*

#### **How to play:**

*“Kind Katrina” (should be the mentor the first round) will go to the front of the room. Kind Katrina will say, “Kind Katrina says \_\_,” then name an action. If the action is kind, the girls will do the action. If it’s not kind, they must stay perfectly still. Anybody who accidentally moves (even a little flinch) on an unkind action is out and will sit down. The last girl standing is the winner and gets to be “Kind Katrina” the next round.*

Ideas of Kind Actions	Ideas of Unkind Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air high-five another girl</li> <li>• Give a compliment</li> <li>• Smile</li> <li>• Wave</li> <li>• Cheer for a friend</li> <li>• Shake someone’s hand</li> <li>• Stand by someone new you haven’t played with in a while</li> <li>• Pick up something from the ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stick out your tongue</li> <li>• Roll your eyes</li> <li>• Tell a secret</li> <li>• Say something mean</li> <li>• Point and laugh at someone</li> <li>• Tell someone they can’t play with you</li> <li>• Throw something on the ground</li> <li>• Ignore when someone is in need</li> </ul>

**discuss**

Let’s think about some of the unkind actions in our game. How would someone feel if you rolled your eyes at them or ignored them when they asked for help?

Do you think acting that way honors God?

On the other hand, how would someone feel if you gave them a compliment or cheered them on?

**say**

To be compassionate means we show kindness to others.

Our Key Truth today is, “I will show compassion by serving people around me.” Let’s say that together: “I will show compassion by serving people around me.” Let’s also say our Memory Verse, Psalm 145:8 together: “The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.” Today’s Key Truth ties in with 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV), which says,

**As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.**



Hold up a sample and hand out **Key Truth/Scripture Poster** to each girl.



What do you think it means to be a “good steward”?

A good steward is someone who does a good job of taking care of something that’s been given to them. In *The Message* paraphrase, 1 Peter 4:10 (MSG) says, “Be generous with the different things God gave you.” When we are good stewards that means we use the gifts and talents God has given us to serve those around us. We should remember that everything we have is a blessing from God. Because the Lord has been so kind and generous to us, we are encouraged to live that way toward the people in our lives as well.



## EXPLORE (15–20 minutes)

### Make Compassion Coupon Books



Ten index cards per girl (8 cards will be for coupons, the other 2 will be the front and back cover of the booklet), hole punch, key rings / string / craft materials to decorate



Hole punch the top left corners of the cards, distribute writing supplies and any other craft materials that may be used to decorate.

*Girls will create a coupon book with coupons focused on different ways they can serve others. When they see someone in need, they can hand them the coupon and serve the person in that way.*



Today we will be making coupon books! Inside these books will be coupons with activities you could do to serve someone. Anytime you notice an opportunity to bless another person, you can choose a coupon, give it to the person, and do whatever the card says. For example, if you notice your mom and dad are having a hard day, you could give them a “I will wash the dishes” coupon and take care of the dishes so they don’t have to worry about it.

### Project Idea!

This activity could be turned into a unit-long “project.” Consider sectioning it, so each time the group meets, girls can add a few more cards to their books. This would also be a good pre- or postlesson activity.

As a group, we will come up with a list of things you could do to serve others, but feel free to come up with your own ideas as well!



### Instructions

1. Come up with a list of things you could do to serve others. Write the ideas on the board or a piece of chart paper.
2. Distribute index cards so girls can begin creating their coupons. Encourage them to color and design each coupon as well. On the back of each card, they can write:  
To: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: *(their name)*
3. Girls can also design the front and back covers of their books. Maybe the front cover will say, "A Compassion Coupon Book to remind me to look for ways to serve people around me!" Remind the girls to be creative and have fun with this!
4. Once coupons and covers have been completed, use the key ring or string to thread the cards together through the hole-punched hole in the corner.
5. Encourage the girls to carry their books with them and always be looking for ways they can serve others. When they see someone in need, they choose a coupon and serve the person in that way.

**\*\*\*Remind girls to always have parental supervision when doing something for someone else, especially someone they may not know well.\*\*\***

### Coupon Book Ideas

I will wash the dishes.	Here's a treat from me to you!	I will tidy my room.
I will help make dinner.	Here's some encouragement to make you smile!	Let me help you with _____.
I will clean the kitchen.	I will fold my laundry.	I made you _____.
I will wash the car.	I will carry out the trash.	I will water the yard.



Serving people doesn't have to be a huge activity that takes a lot of time and energy. We can serve people in small-but-meaningful ways every day. By carrying around these coupon books, I hope you notice ways you can serve others and choose to make time to do that.

## EXPLAIN (25–30 minutes)

### Read the Bible Story (2 Corinthians 9:6–15)



**Bible Story**, 1 per girl; highlighters / pens / colored pencils



*Print the Bible Story.*

### Bible Literacy Strategy



Read through the text with your group at least two times. On the first time through, read it like normal. Then, on the second read-through, model using highlighters / pens / colored pencils to mark things that stand out. Explain to girls that they could mark things they want to remember or put a question mark next to things that don't make sense. Show them how they can even write notes in the margins if the Lord puts something on their heart as they read. Let them know there's no right or wrong way to do this. What one girl chooses to highlight will probably be different from what another girl highlights. That's okay, and it's actually a good thing! As we mark the things that are meaningful to us and discuss it with others, someone may share something that maybe another person didn't even notice. This is one reason it's so great to read and discuss the Word in a group.



The passage from the Bible we will read today is 2 Corinthians 9:6–15. It teaches us about generosity, which is when we share what we have with others, even if we don't have to.

### The Cheerful Giver 2 Corinthians 9:6–15

**6** Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small **crop**. But the one who plants **generously** will get a **generous** crop.

**7** You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give **reluctantly** or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who

gives cheerfully.” **8** And God will **generously** provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. **9** As the

Scriptures say,

“They share freely and give **generously** to the poor. Their **good deeds** will be remembered forever.”

**10** For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and **increase your resources** and then **produce a great harvest** of generosity in you.

**11** Yes, you will be **enriched** in every way so that you can always be **generous**. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. **12** So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

### TRICKY WORD Alert

Preview these words with the group before reading the passage. Then, as you come across the word, ask if anyone knows or wants to guess the meaning. After that, give the definition using the guide provided or explain in your own words.

**crop:** plants grown by farmers

**generously:** willing to give

**generous:** a large amount

**reluctantly:** to do something without really wanting to

**good deeds:** doing something nice or helpful for others

**increase your resources:** give you more

**produce a great harvest of generosity:** make someone even more generous

**enriched:** when something is made better

**affection:** a feeling of love and care

**13** As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. **14** And they will pray for you with deep **affection** because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. **15** Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

A small orange speech bubble icon with the word "discuss" in white lowercase letters.

What happened to the farmer who planted only a few seeds?

What happened to the farmer who planted generously?

What lesson do you think this Bible story is trying to teach us?

A small blue speech bubble icon with the word "say" in white lowercase letters.

In this story we are taught a couple of things about having a heart for giving.

The first is that when we give with all our heart, God loves to return the blessing back on us. In Luke 6:38 Jesus said, “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” We can give our money, time, and energy, trusting that God will provide everything we need. But He doesn’t stop there! He goes above and beyond to bless us. He is a good Father!

The second truth from this passage is that when we give and serve with a generous heart, other people’s needs will be met, and God will be glorified. This is what our whole life should be about—giving glory to God and making His name known! In 1 Corinthians 10:31 it says, “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” Cheerfully giving our time, energy, and even money to serve others brings glory to God. This is what it looks like to live with a heart of compassion!

A small orange speech bubble icon with the word "discuss" in white lowercase letters.

What keeps you from being a cheerful giver?

What will you remind yourself of in moments when you don’t feel like serving someone else?

How can we show compassion by serving people around us?



## Introduce and Watch Video



TV or projector screen, **Guatemala Lesson 3 Video**



*Have the video ready to play.*

### Helpful Info



The goal of the videos throughout this series is to help young girls gain a broader worldview. Many of them may have no idea what life looks like for people who live in different areas of the world. As they are exposed to the work God is doing through Convoy of Hope in Guatemala, we hope they will grow in their awareness and join in praying for people around the world.

**say**

We will be watching another video on the field in Guatemala as Shonna and Nicole tell us a story of a woman who is honoring God by using her giftings to serve Him and bless others.

**do**

*Watch the video. (3 minutes)*

**discuss**

How was Marlany a good steward of the many gifts or talents God had given her?

What is a gift or talent that the Lord has given you? How can you be a good steward of that gift by using it to bless others?

## ELABORATE (10–15 minutes)

### Journal Reflection + Discussion + Prayer



**Journaling Page**, 1 per girl; **Maze Challenge**, 1 per girl; pens/pencils



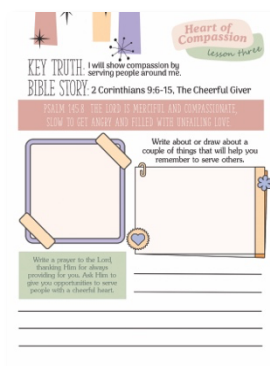
*Print the **Journaling Page** and **Maze Challenge Activity Sheet** (front/back or as separate single-sided pages), have soft music ready to play.*

**say**

Let's say our Key Truth together: "I will show compassion by serving people around me."

On your Journaling Page, write or draw about some things you could do to serve others.

You'll also write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for always providing for us. Let's also ask Him to give us opportunities to show compassion with a cheerful heart to people around us. If you finish before the time ends, you may work on the Maze Challenge Activity Sheet.





*Start soft worship music and give the girls 5–10 minutes to reflect on their journaling pages.*



*After the time has passed, come back together as a group. Ask if anyone would like to share any thoughts that surfaced during their reflection time.*



This time for prayer we will be breaking into small groups. Take turns asking what the other girls need prayer for. Then you can go around praying for each other. Remember, prayer is just talking to God about the things in our heart. When each girl has shared and prayed, your group can give a thumbs up and keep working on your Journaling Pages or Maze Challenge Activity Sheets until everyone is finished. **Tip:** *As the mentor, move around the room and provide encouragement or support to groups who may need it.*

## EVALUATE (5 minutes)

### Final Thoughts & Wrap Up



Let's say our Lesson Verse together, 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV): "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."



What did we talk about today that will help us "serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"?

What is something you learned or were reminded of about God through our time together?

How will you show compassion by serving people around you this week?

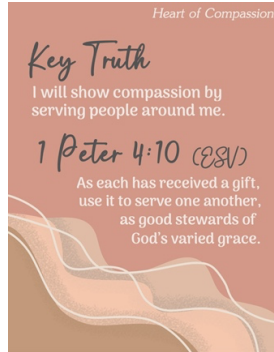


Let's say our unit Memory Verse together, Psalm 145:8: "The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love."

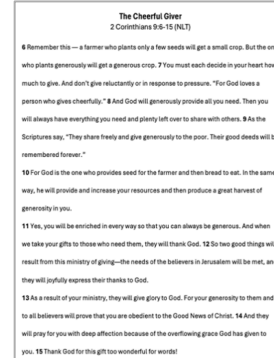
We'll close by saying our Key Truth together: "I will show compassion by serving people around me."

## LESSON RESOURCES

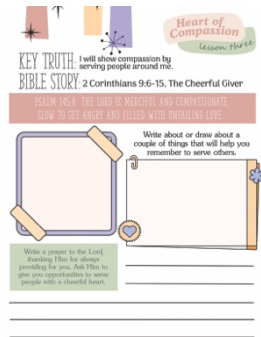
### Key Truth/Scripture Poster page 11



### Bible Story page 12



### Journaling Page page 13



### Maze Challenge Activity Sheet and Key pages 14–15



## *Heart of Compassion*

# Key Truth

I will show compassion by  
serving people around me.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

As each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one another,  
as good stewards of  
God's varied grace.

## The Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 9:6–15

**6** Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. **7** You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." **8** And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. **9** As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever."

**10** For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

**11** Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. **12** So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

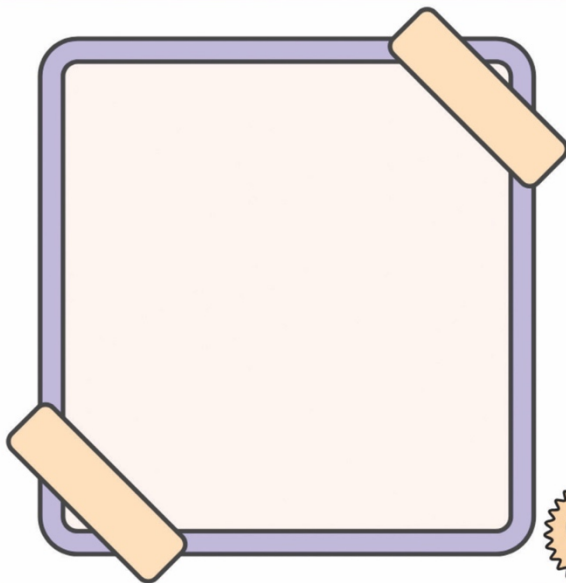
**13** As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. **14** And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. **15** Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!



KEY TRUTH: I will show compassion by serving people around me.

BIBLE STORY: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, The Cheerful Giver

PSALM 145:8 THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE,  
SLOW TO GET ANGRY AND FILLED WITH UNFAILING LOVE.



Write about or draw about a couple of things that will help you remember to serve others.



Write a prayer to the Lord, thanking Him for always providing for you. Ask Him to give you opportunities to serve people with a cheerful heart.

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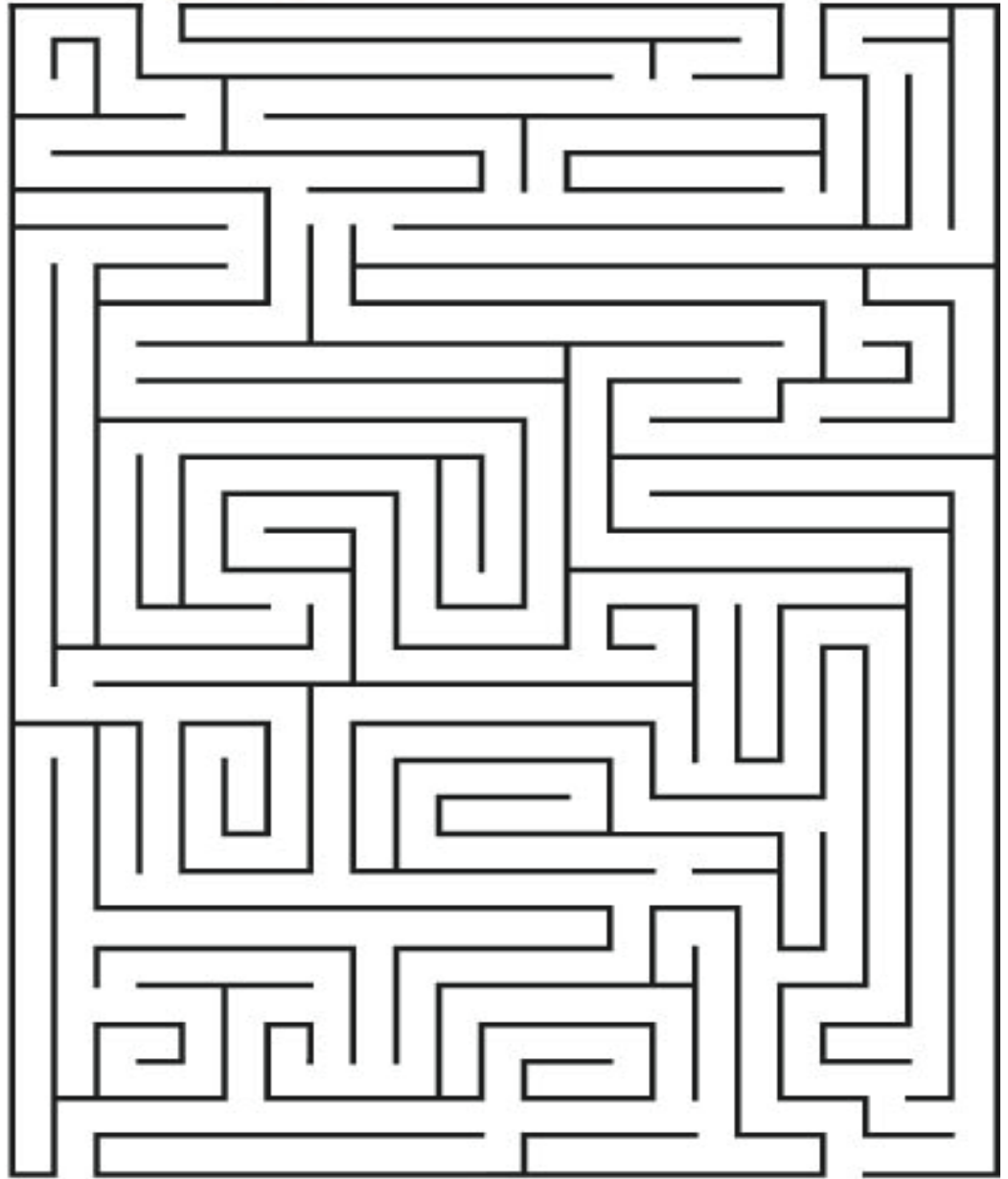
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# Maze Challenge

"A farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop.  
But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop." 2 Corinthians 9:6

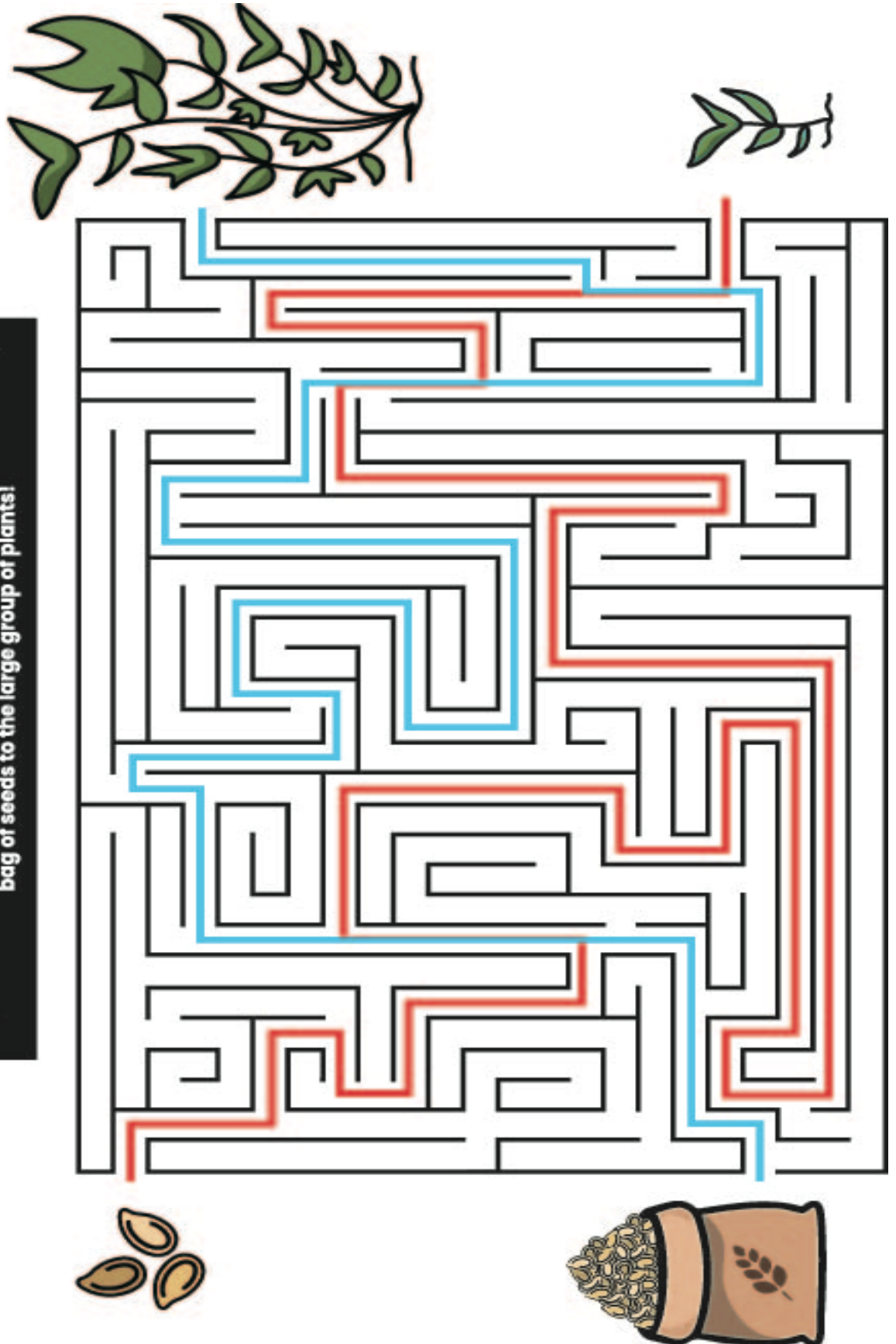
**Try to connect the small group of seeds to the small plant and the large  
bag of seeds to the large group of plants!**



# Maze Challenge

**"A farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop.  
But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop." 2 Corinthians 9:6**

**Try to connect the small group of seeds to the small plant and the large bag of seeds to the large group of plants!**





# HEART OF COMPASSION

## SMALL GROUP UNIT



### LESSON FOUR: I celebrate how God used me to show compassion.

#### KEY TRUTH



I celebrate how God used me to show compassion.

#### BIBLE STORY



Matthew 14:13–21  
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

#### MEMORY VERSE Psalm 145:8



The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

### Lesson Prep

#### YOU WILL NEED

- **Mentoring Guide**
- Prepped center activities, choose 2 or 3
- Crayons
- **Reflection Page**, 1 per girl (p. 10)
- Pens/pencils
- **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl (p. 11)
- Paper strips, 2x12 inches, 2 or 3 per girl
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Tape/stapler
- **Bible Story**, 1 per girl (p. 12)
- Highlighters / pens / colored pencils
- **Journaling Page**, 1 per girl (p. 13)
- **Coloring Activity Sheet**, 1 per girl (p. 14)
- TV/projector to show video
- **Guatemala Lesson 4 Video**
- Decorations/snacks for celebration

#### GETTING READY

- Familiarize yourself with the lesson.
- Choose a couple of upbeat worship songs and slower worship songs and have them ready to play.
- Print the **Reflection Page**, **Poster**, **Bible Story**, **Journaling Page**, and **Coloring Activity Sheet**.
- Have video ready to play.
- Decorate the room and have snacks prepared.
- Cut the paper strips.

#### TIME

About 60–80 minutes + prelesson/postlesson time

### Symbol Guide



Materials needed



Things to prepare



The mentor will SAY . . .



The mentor/group will DO . . .



The mentor will prompt a discussion question and the group will discuss.

# BEFORE AND AFTER THE LESSON

## BEFORE THE LESSON

### INTENTIONAL WELCOME TIME (5 minutes)

**Welcome** each girl by name (show friendship and warmth). Greet families as they drop their girls off and thank them for coming to church. Share your excitement by saying something such as, “You could be anywhere, and you came here to church. Choosing to be in God’s house is always a great choice.” Ask the girl a relationship-building question. Some examples include:

- What was your high/low this week?
- Tell me about the best thing that happened this week!
- What was a challenge you’ve overcome?
- Was there anything cool you saw God do this week?

**Take notes** discreetly (or at the end of the small group time) about each girl and follow up in subsequent weeks to show them you care about what they care about.

### ACTIVITY CENTERS (20–30 minutes)

As girls arrive, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Intentionally make this a relational time.** The goal is to build relationships with girls as they are engaged in an activity and with families as they drop their girls off.

## AFTER THE LESSON

### CENTERS + CHECK OUT TIME (20–30 minutes)

As girls are being picked up, provide one center activity for every 4 or 5 girls: play dough, LEGO® bricks, Wikki Stix®, connecting beads, a craft, board games, coloring, etc.

**Continue to intentionally make this a relational time.** Be intentional with continuing conversations about the lesson and even working on Scripture memorization.

Notice each girl as she is leaving and use her name as you say goodbye. Invite her back next time. Be sure each girl knows you are looking forward to seeing her again soon!

## ENGAGE (15–20 minutes)

### Have a Compassion Celebration!



Decorations for the room: posters from all four Compassion lessons, streamers, tablecloths, etc., snacks (chips and dip, cookies and milk, popcorn bar, etc.); **Reflection Page, Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, 1 per girl; pens/pencils



*Decorate the room and have snacks prepared, print the **Reflection Page** and **Key Truth/Scripture Poster**, and have fun worship music ready to play.*

*As a culminating activity, start by having a celebration to acknowledge all the ways the girls have grown and things they have learned through this unit! While the girls are eating, play some fun worship music and have them think about ways the Lord has used them to show compassion using the Reflection Page. They can journal or doodle, however they are best able to reflect. After about 10 minutes, girls can share what they reflected on. Sharing as a group or partner sharing are both great ways to do this! After each girl shares, verbally give praise to the Lord (“Thank You, Jesus, for using us to show compassion to the people who You love so much!”).*



discuss

How did the person feel when you showed compassion in that way?

How did it make you feel to be used by God to show compassion?

say

Our Key Truth today is: “I celebrate how God used me to show compassion.” Let’s say that together, “I celebrate how God used me to show compassion.” Let’s also say our Memory Verse from Psalm 145:8 together: “The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.” Today’s Key Truth leads us to Psalm 145:9 (NIV), which says,

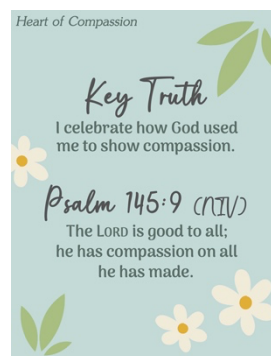
The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

do

*Hold up a sample and hand out a **Key Truth/Scripture Poster** to each girl.*

say

Psalm 66:1–2 says, “Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth! Sing about the glory of his name! Tell the world how glorious he is.” It’s important that we take time to give thanks to God. He is so good to us all the time and loves us so much.





The fact that we get to be a part of *His* plan to show compassion to others is such an honor. For this reason, we will celebrate!

## EXPLORE (10–15 minutes)

### Make a Compassion Chain



Paper strips, 2x12 inches, 2 or 3 per girl; tape/stapler; scissors or paper cutter



*Cut the paper strips.*

*This activity will encourage girls to think of all the ways they could show compassion to others. When the chain is completed, it can be used as a classroom decoration and reminder to celebrate how God has used them to show compassion.*



#### Instructions

*Brainstorm ways to show compassion to others. It might help if you put these questions on the board:*

- *What is something you could do for someone who has had a bad day?*
- *How could you care for someone who is struggling?*
- *How could you show compassion without giving someone something?*

*Girls will write their ideas on a paper strip, one idea per strip. Feel free to have the girls share their ideas with the group. After each girl has filled two or three paper strips with their ideas of how they can show compassion, they will bring their strips to the mentor. The mentor will staple or tape the strips into rings to form a paper chain. This process will continue until all strips have been connected. You can use the paper chain as a visual display in the classroom, reminding the girls to celebrate how God can use them to show compassion.*



When you see this chain, my hope is that you girls would be reminded that there are so many ways we can show compassion every day. And when we live our lives with this kind of love, we are bringing glory to the Lord!

## EXPLAIN (20–25 minutes)

### Read the Bible Story (Matthew 14:13–21)



**Bible Story**, 1 per girl, highlighters / pens / colored pencils



Print the **Bible Story**.

#### Bible Literacy Strategy



Read through the text with your group at least two times. On the first time through, read it like normal. Then, on the second read-through, model using highlighters / pens / colored pencils to mark things that stand out. Explain to girls that they could mark things they want to remember or put a question mark next to things that don't make sense. Show them how they can even write notes in the margins if the Lord puts something on their heart as they read. Let them know there's no right or wrong way to do this. What one girl chooses to highlight will probably be different from what another girl highlights. That's okay, and it's actually a good thing! As we mark the things that are meaningful to us and discuss it with others, someone may share something that maybe another person didn't even notice! This is one reason it's so great to read and discuss the Word in a group.

#### TRICKY WORD Alert

Preview these words with the group before reading the passage. Then, as you come across the word, ask if anyone knows or wants to guess the meaning. After that, give the definition using the guide provided or explain in your own words.

**remote area:** a place that is far away and difficult to get to

**disciples:** people who followed and learned from Jesus

**necessary:** when something is very important and needed

**distributed:** to pass something out; to divide it into groups

say

Right before this story, Jesus received word that His relative and close friend, John the Baptist, had been killed. This news would have been heartbreaking for Jesus. Let's read to see what happened next.

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand Matthew 14:13–21

**13** As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a **remote area** to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. **14** Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

**15** That evening the **disciples** came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.”

**16** But Jesus said, “That isn't **necessary**—you feed them.”

**17** “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!” they answered.

**18** “Bring them here,” he said. **19** Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the **disciples**, who **distributed** it to the people. **20** They all ate as

#### Teaching Tip



Try “popcorn reading” to increase engagement! This is when girls voluntarily take turns reading a few verses at a time. You could ask one girl to start with a few verses. She quickly stands up, reads her verses, and then calls on another girl whose hand is raised to continue reading the next few verses, and so on. This process is continued until the passage has been read.

much as they wanted, and afterward, the **disciples** picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

**21** About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!



Let's reread verses 13–14 (read as a group). Imagine how Jesus must have felt. He had just found out that someone incredibly special to Him had been killed. He needed some time alone to deal with His deep sadness. But the crowds of people followed Him. If I were in that situation, helping other people would be the last thing I would feel up to doing. But not Jesus. Like it says in Psalm 145:9 (NIV), "The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made." Despite His own personal sorrows and exhaustion, Jesus saw the needs of those around Him and healed their sick.



How do you think this act of compassion made the people feel?

Think about a time when someone was compassionate and generous toward you. How did that make you feel?



Jesus is the ultimate example of compassion. If we look at the rest of the story, His heart of compassion continued to shine through. It was getting dark and there was no food for the people. Jesus could have very well encouraged the people to go back home and get some food. Instead, He insisted the disciples feed the people! He recognized the people had a need and wanted to bless them. He didn't make excuses. He showed His great love when He gave thanks to God for what they had and believed in faith that it would be enough to bless each person. And it was. Not only that, but there were more leftovers than what they started with!



What does all of this tell you about the heart of Jesus?

How can we live with a heart of compassion like this?

## Introduce and Watch Video



TV or projector screen, **Guatemala Lesson 4 Video**



*Have the video ready to play.*



We will be watching one more video of Shonna and Nicole in Guatemala. Let's listen as they recap the many reasons we have to celebrate the work God is doing through Convoy of Hope and the amazing people in Guatemala.



*Watch the video. (4 minutes)*



What stood out to you from this video?

What have you learned from these videos showing the work of Convoy of Hope in Guatemala?

### Helpful Info



The goal of the videos throughout this series is to help young girls gain a broader worldview. Many of them may have no idea what life looks like for people who live in different areas of the world. As they are exposed to the work God is doing through Convoy of Hope in Guatemala, we hope they will grow in their awareness and join in praying for people around the world.

## ELABORATE (10–15 minutes)

### Journal Reflection + Discussion + Prayer



**Journaling Page**, 1 per girl; **Coloring Sheet**, 1 per girl; pens/pencils; crayons



*Print the **Journaling Page** and **Coloring Sheet**, have soft music ready to play.*



Let's say our Key Truth together: "I celebrate how God used me to show compassion."

On our Journaling Page, we are going to write or draw about a time the Lord used us to show compassion.

We will also write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for being good to us all. Thank Him for allowing you to be His feet on earth by showing compassion. Ask for continued opportunities and a heart that is ready to love people. If you finish before the time ends, you may work on the Coloring Sheet.





*Start some soft worship music and give the girls 5–10 minutes to reflect on their journal page.*



*After the time as passed, come back together as a group. Ask if anyone would like to share any thoughts that surfaced during their reflection time.*

*Pray together as a group or in partners/small groups.*

## EVALUATE (5 minutes)

### Final Thoughts & Wrap Up



Let's say our Lesson Verse together, Psalm 145:9 (NIV): "The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."



What did we talk about today that will help you remember the Lord's goodness and compassion toward us?

What is something you learned or were reminded of about God through our time together?

How will you celebrate how God has used you to show compassion this week?



Let's say our unit Memory Verse together, Psalm 145:8: "The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love."

We'll close by saying our Key Truth together: "I celebrate how God used me to show compassion."



## LESSON RESOURCES

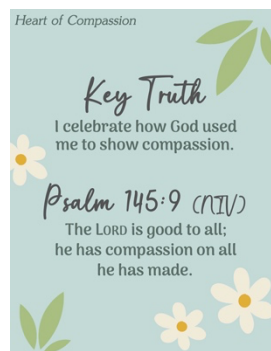
### Reflection Page

page 10



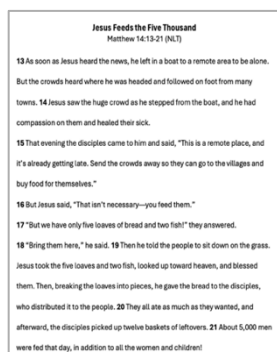
### Key Truth/Scripture Poster

page 11



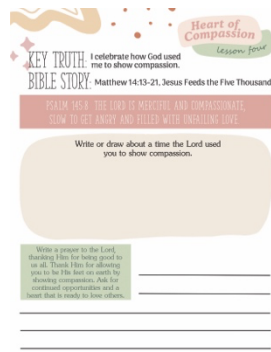
### Bible Story

page 12



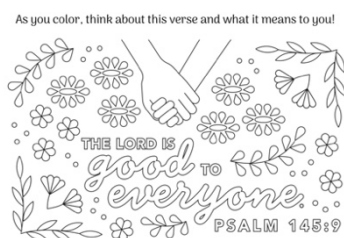
### Journaling Page

page 13



### Coloring Sheet

page 14



# A Time for Reflection...

Use this space to journal or doodle about ways  
the Lord has used you to show compassion.

A large grid area for journaling or doodling, framed by decorative corner pieces in shades of red, orange, and pink. The grid is composed of 20 columns and 20 rows of squares. The corner pieces are located at the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right of the grid area.

*Heart of Compassion*

# Key Truth

I celebrate how God used  
me to show compassion.

*Psalm 145:9 (NIV)*

The LORD is good to all;  
he has compassion on all  
he has made.

## Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

### Matthew 14:13–21 (NLT)

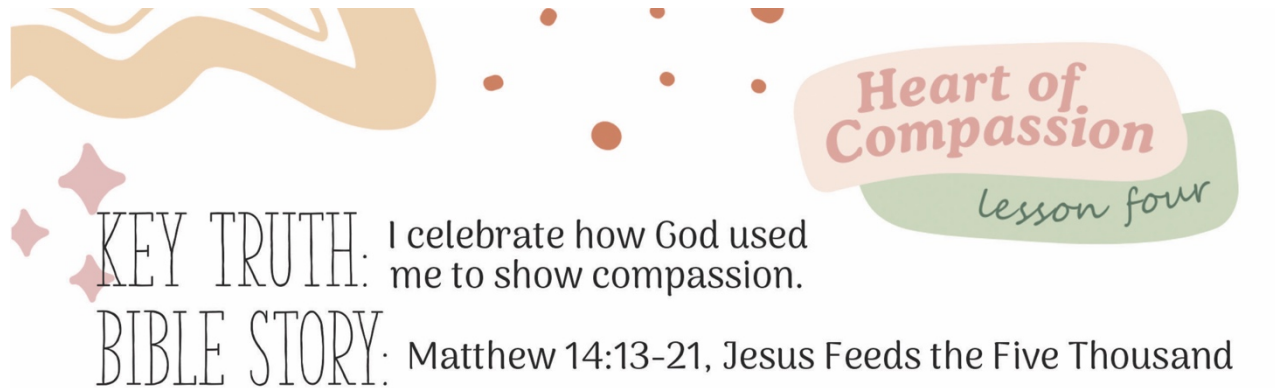
**13** As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. **14** Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

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PSALM 145:8 THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE,  
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Write a prayer to the Lord,  
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heart that is ready to love others.

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As you color, think about this verse and what it means to you!

