



CONNECTED

11-14yrs

Session 7:

I CAN BE... SAD FOR GOD (COMPASSION)



AIMS

- To understand compassion and open our eyes to need.
- To seek God's heart.
- For our compassion to motivate action.



MEMORY VERSE

**‘AND THE KING WILL SAY,
‘I TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
WHEN YOU DID IT TO ONE
OF THE LEAST OF MY
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
YOU WERE DOING IT
TO ME!’**

MATTHEW 25:40 (NLT)



GAME 1 (5 mins)

Have your youth stand in a circle. Then ask them to strike a pose and freeze. Players take turns attacking their opponents by swiping at their hands, and must freeze in place once their attack is finished. Defending players may dodge if they think they will be hit, and must also freeze once the attack is finished. If a player is hit, the hand that is hit is out but the other hand is still in. If a player misses, they must stop moving immediately. When both hands have been hit, the player is out and must stand back until there is one player left.

The only player left is the winner.



CATCH UP (10 mins)

Refer to the teaching notes for guidance on how to run this time.



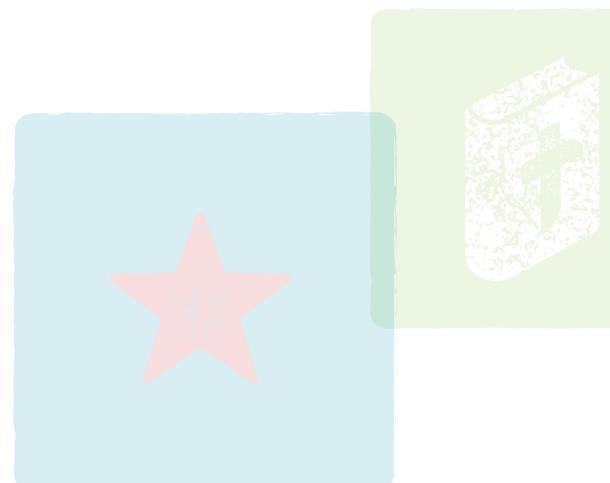
INTRODUCTION (2 mins)

Show the first 2 minutes of this video clip:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-UZ0hn_Tpc



GOD SPOT (5 mins)

Have the young people talk about what they have seen God doing in their lives or the lives of others in the last week. They can also speak about things they are grateful for that have happened in their lives that week. (This is based on teaching from Session 6, Term 1 of Connected. If you haven't done this session then please read the teaching notes.)





BIBLE STORY

(15 mins)

Resources:

- Whatever props you can find, for example, money, bandages, headdress for different characters etc.

Luke 10:25-37 - Have your young people act this story out. Supply them with whatever props you can find. Give them 5 minutes to prepare and then 5 minutes to share their version of the story. If you have a large number of youth, have them share in sets of 2 i.e. one to the other to help ensure this doesn't take up too much time.

Jesus tells stories to help people understand who God is and what He does for us. He also tells stories to help us understand how we should behave in the world. So in this story...

- *Who do you think the Samaritan represents?*
- *Who do you think the Levite and the Priest represent?*
- *The Samaritan has been attacked. How risky do you think it was to help him?*



TALK

(5 mins)

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells another story to illustrate that whatever we do for someone in need we are actually doing for Him. If this idea is applied to the story of the Good Samaritan then Jesus is the injured person: who we choose to be in the story is up to us.

If you imagine that every person in need is actually Jesus in disguise, how does that make you feel about them?

We hear a lot about people having difficulties in their lives. For example, we often hear about children not getting enough food. It's much easier to switch TV channels when that happens or zone out of a conversation rather than let our hearts feel what God feels about that situation. If we ask God to open our eyes to the things that break His heart we will feel just a tiny part of what God feels. To God, every child, every adult is priceless so when they hurt, He hurts.

Remember the definition of compassion; a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another person while wanting to make a difference to that suffering. We don't just want to understand what God feels about something so we can shrug our shoulders and say, 'That's tough'. We seek to understand God's heart so that we want to be part of changing the situation. Compassion motivates us to be part of the solution to the problem. Also when you feel deeply about something you aren't just motivated in the moment, you are motivated to keep being part of the solution to a problem until it's solved. You are ready to jump over hurdles to get to the destination which is to help stop whatever suffering you have become passionate about.

When you ask God to open your eyes to suffering you can start to see things that other people miss. For example, people can walk down a street and past someone who is homeless in a doorway and not see them. If you have asked God to open your eyes then, when you pass the same person, you will see them, feel for them and know you are supposed to help. God will even put an idea in your head how to help that person. It may be saying, 'Hello', asking how they are or it may be buying them a coffee, but it will be something that the other people walking down that street won't see or even think to do because God has given you the compassion to make a difference.



DISCUSS (10 mins)

- If you go around feeling compassion for everybody, what are your fears?
- What are things in your life that stop you feeling compassion for others?
- What would help build your compassion for others?



ACTION (3 mins)

God gave you a compassionate heart for something in our response time. Write a plan for how you are going to make a difference. As you plan, think about how it feels to do something knowing Jesus said, 'When you did this for the least of my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me' (Matthew 25:40).



RESPONSE (5 mins)

Suggested song: 'Open the Eyes of my Heart Lord', MercyMe

We are going to spend some time now asking God to open our eyes so that we can see the things that break His heart. I'm going to hand round your journals and, as He shows you something, I want you to write it down. Ask God to show you how He wants you to impact that situation.



GAME 2 (5 mins)

Resources:

- Toilet rolls

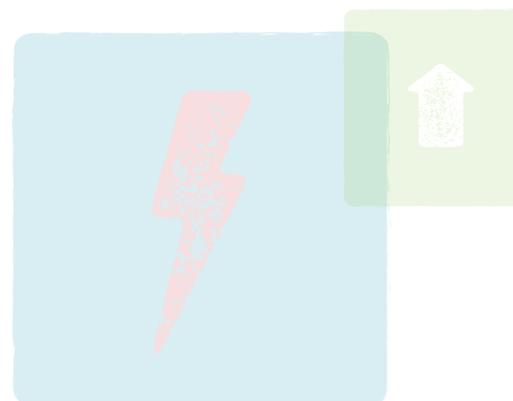
Divide your youth into teams. Each team will need a volunteer to be the mummy. The aim of this game is to create the best possible mummy by wrapping the volunteer in toilet paper.

The team with the best wrapped mummy after 5 minutes wins.



REFLECT AND SHARE (5 mins)

Ask if anyone would like to share what God showed them and what impact He would like them to make.





RESOURCES

Introduction:

- Clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-UZ0hn_Tpc

Bible story:

- Props; for example, money, bandages, headdress for different characters etc.

Response:

- Suggested song – ‘Open the Eyes of my Heart Lord’, MercyMe

Game 2:

- Toilet rolls

