



Battle Squids

Book of Proverbs: Compassionate Wisdom

BIG IDEA: When we show compassion to the poor and suffering, we show compassion to Jesus.

BIBLE BASIS: Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 25:31-46

KEY VERSE: “Anyone who is kind to poor people lends to the LORD. God will reward him for what he has done.” Proverbs 19:17 (NirV)

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

BATTLE SQUIDS CONNECT QUESTIONS

Say: Today we get to have another “squid-tacular” battle to help us learn all about the Book of Proverbs. In today’s story we’ll be hearing about some sheep and goats, but first, I want to see if you know the difference between the two. I’m going to read some different statements, and you tell me if I’m talking about a sheep or a goat.

- I have a tail that sticks up in the air. (goat)
- I prefer to eat mostly short grasses. (sheep)
- I like to stick together with my flock. (sheep)
- I get into a lot of fights and like to butt heads. (goat)
- I grow a wooly coat that needs to be sheared off sometimes. (sheep)
- Even though I’m just a kid, I have a beard. (goat)

Question: If you had to choose between being a sheep or a goat, which would you pick? Why?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. What did you find interesting about this story?
2. When Jesus says, “the least important of these,” He’s talking about believers who need help. What kind of help do you think they need?

For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. What kind of people do you think Jesus is talking about when He says the “least important of these”?

COMPASSION FOR THE SICK (Application Activity)

Say: In our story today, Jesus said that when we show compassion to the poor and suffering, it's like we're showing compassion to Him. One of the ways Jesus said we could show compassion was by caring for the sick. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us do just that! We're going to make “get well” cards for sick kids in the hospital.

Directions: Give each kid in your group a piece of paper. Place a box of crayons or markers in the middle of the group. Tell the kids to fill their cards with colorful pictures and messages of hope and encouragement. Let them know that their cards will be taken to the hospital and given to sick children. When they're finished, have the kids in your group show one another what they included in their “get well” cards. Afterwards, gather their cards up and give them to your ministry leader. If time remains, ask the following questions:

Question: Caring for the sick is just one way to show compassion. What are some other ways you can show compassion to people who are poor and suffering?

Question: Does today's story change the way you think about people who are poor or suffering? If so, how?



June 18-19

Small Group Lesson | School Age



BIBLE VERSE TIC-TAC-TOE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Set up: Using tape, create a tic-tac-toe board on the floor in the middle of the group. The squares should be big enough to fit a 5x7 paper.

Directions: Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. When everyone is ready, turn the sign over so they can no longer read it. Today's Bible verse says:

“Anyone who is kind to poor people lends to the LORD. God will reward him for what he has done.” Proverbs 19:17

Divide your group into two teams. Give one team the “X” papers and the other team the “O” papers. Decide which team will go first. Choose one kid from that team to recite the verse. If she does so successfully, allow her to place her team's letter on any open square. If she is unable to recite the verse, her team may not place their letter on the board. Next, give the other team a turn. Continue playing until one team has filled three spaces in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) with their letters or until every space on the board has been filled. If there are still kids who haven't had a turn, play another round.

Question: Why do you think God cares so much about people who are poor or suffering?

SHOW ME PRAYERS (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Ask the kids in your group to think of something that they need prayer for. Choose a kid to share first, but instead of sharing their request aloud, ask them to show their prayer request as a charade. Allow the other kids to guess the prayer request. When the group has guessed successfully, allow the kid to verbally share specifics of their request. If a kid doesn't want to perform the request as a charade, has trouble performing the request, or if the group has trouble guessing, allow them to share their request verbally. As kids share, write their requests down. When finished, open the group in prayer. Allow any kid who would like to pray aloud to do so.

