



Youth Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team

#18 7/22/2020

Candletime Online

Opening Game Lip Drawing. Give everyone a minute to get some blank paper and a pencil or marker for the game. Say a word or a phrase and ask them to draw it with their mouth on the paper. Give them a certain number of seconds to draw it. Call time. Example: On your paper with your pen, you have 10 seconds to draw a square. Then everyone holds up what they drew. Options: You can just share, ask everyone who had the best drawing and declare a winner, or give points. Some Ideas to draw are heart, popsicle, flower, balloon, love, lightning.

Depart to Breakout Groups

Ask? Share your name and how you are doing? How is life staying at home?

Ask? If you found a dollar in a parking lot what would you do with it?

Watch Single Mother donates lottery winnings to officer shot in line of duty
<https://youtu.be/JRgJnkwOhE8>

Share In our conversation today we are going to be talking about compassion. The biblical definition of compassion is to recognize the suffering of others and then taking action to help. Compassion moves beyond a simple desire to reduce suffering but to also get involved.

Ask? Who shows compassion in this story?

Ask? Share a time when you have received compassion from another person?

Read John 11:28-36 NRSV

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said,

"Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Ask? How does Jesus show compassion in this story?

Read Acts 9:36-42 NRSV

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Ask? What characters in the story show compassion and how do they do it?

Ask? What are other stories in the Bible where compassion is shown? Explain.

Ask? Is it easier for you to show compassion to others in the world or those you know, live with and are close to? Why do you think that is?

Ask? What are ways we can show compassion at home with our families, with our friends, and with those we encounter in our communities and school?

Challenge Learn about the mission and vision of the ELCA and how compassion is a huge part of who we are. <https://www.elca.org/About/Mission-and-Vision>

Share A quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others... not dominating but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."

One day, maybe this week, you may have an opportunity to grieve alongside someone. To show someone compassion for his or her pain. Don't rush past the moment to try to fix the problem because odds are you won't be able to. Show how much you value this person by listening to and crying with, just like Jesus.

Prayer Ask everyone to **Light** a candle or candles as a symbol that Christ's light shines around you and hears your prayers. Take a moment to **pause** in silence. Feel God's presence with you. **Ask** What prayers do you have for God. Who or what is on your heart to pray for? **Pray together** Ask everyone to share one petition.

Return to the Large Group

Closing Prayer

Dear God, in these very difficult days, as your beloved children, you continue to call us to be compassionate and reflect your love. Open our eyes that we may see you in our families. Open our ears that we may hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who are hungry, cold, frightened, and oppressed. And Dear God, open our hands that through our actions and deeds we help others through difficult circumstances and show them your love. In your son's name we pray, Amen.

Bless one another by marking the sign on the cross on your hand and raising it towards your camera.

Now receive the blessing.

May you always heal and be healed.

May you not be afraid to act when you see suffering and wrong.

May you take pride in the gifts God has given you and use them humbly with the world.

And may those who know you find deep compassion and love in your heart.

