**2 and 3 year old Lesson Plan**

A logo with text and trees

Description automatically generated

**Bottom Line** Do Compassion!

**B Bible Story** Feeding 5000 people | Matthew 14:13-21

**Compassion -** **Caring about others and helping people in need.**

**Leader Note**

Matthew 14:14 is a powerful verse! It tells us that Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion. The following verses then show us compassion in action. Matthew tells us that Jesus healed the sick and then fed over 5,000 people. Compassion is not a feeling; compassion is a feeling combined with action. Jesus provides an incredible example of compassion, and it is this example that we want to teach our campers today. What does it look like for us to move from a place of feeling to a place of action. Nearly the entire population can feel bad about a situation, but the real challenge is taking that feeling and doing something to make the situation better. That is what Jesus is calling us to do. Take action, make a difference, people will know we are followers of Jesus by the love we show, not the feelings we have. God bless your day with your campers as we all strive to be people of compassion!

**Friendship Circle**

**What to do:** *Gather the kids on the floor in a circle. Welcome the kids to camp and then**sing the following chant. Have each child stand up when you say their name. Then say the “Do Unto Others” chant.*

**What to say:** Hello everyone and welcome back to another day of Vacation Bible Camp. This week we are on the Jesus tour where we are learning to “Do Unto Others” and show love to everyone we meet. Let’s get started with our Friendship Song. Remember to stand up when you hear your name. Here we go!

**I know a girl/boy whose name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Stand up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Say “Hi” to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Because Jesus loves you!**

Today on the Jesus Bus Tour we will be learning that we should treat each other with love and **compassion**. I cannot wait to learn how to do this.But first lets day our “Do Unto Others” chant.

Leader says: I say Do, You say **Compassion**

Leader says: Do

Kids say: **Compassion**

Leader says: Do

Kids say: **Compassion**

*Repeat saying the word Kindness and Respect*

*End with everyone saying this together getting louder each time.*

Love everyone, love everyone, love everyone! (*Make a heart with your hands)*

**Praise & Worship Time**

**What to do***: Line the kids up at the door and move to worship space. Be sure to talk about the expectations as you walk through the hallways and participate in worship.*

**Exploring the Bible Story**

**Supplies** –The Rhyme Bible Storybook

**What to do***: Have the children sit inside their pretend “bus” with their stuffed animals. Pretend to start the bus and start driving and talk about your next stop – the wilderness. While you drive to the beach, sing the Wheels on the Bus song. Finish by reading the Bible story.*

**What to say:**Everyone take a seat, it’s time to continue our “Do Unto Others” bus tour. Today we are headed to the wilderness where Jesus is talking to thousands of people and they are starting to get hungry.

**What to sing:** The Wheels on the bus go round and round *(move your hands around in a circle)* Round and round. Round and round. The wheels on the bus go round and round. All through the town.

* The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish *(move arms back and forth)*
* The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep *(press imaginary horn)*
* The kids on the bus say, “Jesus loves you!” *(say Jesus loves you! As you wave)*

**What to say:** Everyone look out the window at all those people. This must be the place where Jesus is preaching. Let’s see what we can learn from Jesus today.

**What to read:** Feeding lots of People – pages 244-255 in The Rhyme Bible Storybook

**What to say:**Jesus saw the crowd of people and knew they were hungry, and he showed them **compassion** and cared for them. **Compassion** is caring about others and helping people in need.

Jesus saw the need and with the help of a little boy who shared his lunch was able to do an amazing thing that helped all the people. Jesus wants us to be on the lookout for people who might need some extra **compassion** too.

If you can show **compassion** let’s stand up with our pets.

If you can show **compassion**—rock your pet.

If you can show **compassion**—jump up high.

If you can show **compassion** —pet your pet.

If you can show **compassion** —give your pet a hug.

Great job showing **compassion**. Now let’s thank Jesus for teaching us all about how to love others.

***What to pray****: Ask if anyone wants to pray and if not lead them in this echo prayer,*

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for teaching me,

To love everyone.

Help me be on the lookout,

For people who need help.

I love you! Amen.

**Small Group Explorations (Bus stops)**

**#1 – Pet Food Bowl**

**Supplies —** small paper or plastic bowl, stickers

**What to say:** In today’s Bible story Jesus fed some people because they were hungry. Let’s show **compassion** to our pets and make them a food bowl to eat out of.

**What to do:** *Give each child a bowl and set the stickers out on the tables. Have the children decorate a food bowl with stickers. When they are done put their bowl in their pet home and pretend to feed their pet.*

**What to talk about:***Do you have a pet? What do you feed your pet? What are some of your favorite things to eat?*

**#2 – Feed the Animals**

**Supplies —** colored blocks (3 different colors), 3 buckets/bowls same colors as blocks

\*you could use paper or foam hearts instead of blocks

**What to do:** *Set out the 3 buckets/bowls in the room and spread the colored blocks throughout the room. Call each child one at a time by saying, \_name of child\_ Do Compassion! That is their signal to go and start picking up pieces of “food” (blocks) and put them in the bowl that is the matching color. Continue until all the “food” is in the bowls. Feel free to repeat the tactivity if kids are interested.*

**What to say:** We can do amazing things when we work together and show compassion. I think our pets are getting hungry. Let’s show **compassion** and feed them. *(explain game)*

**#3 – Taking Care of Your Pet**

**Supplies** — pets, pretend vet, food and first aid supplies for pets

**What to say:** Jesus showed compassion by helping the hungry crowd. And you know what? He wants us to help him spread compassion by caring for those in need! Today we are going to show **compassion** to our pets by taking them to places to care for their needs.

***What to do:*** *Show the kids the different stations set up around the room to take care of their pet.*

*-* ***Vet*** *where their pet can get a check up*

*-* ***Bandage station*** *where they can put a bandage on the pet’s ouchie*

*-* ***Food Station*** *where they can pretend to feed their pets*

**#4 - Roll the ball**

**Supplies** — Ball

**What to say:** Jesus loves each and every one of you. He loves name of each child. Let’s roll the ball to all our friends.

**What to do:** *Roll the ball to a child and say,* **Jesus loves name of child** *then have them roll the ball back to you. Roll the ball to a different child and say* **Jesus loves name of child.** *Continue letting each child have a turn. Then switch over to saying,* ***\_name of child\_ will show compassion****. As you roll the ball from child to child.*

**Take Home Challenge**

**Supplies —** challenge cards and daily sticker

**What to do:** *Have the children gather on the floor and bring the challenge cards and daily stickers with you. Talk about the day and then challenge the kids to complete the challenge at home.*

**What to say:** It has been such a fun day on the Jesus tour today! Today we went to the wilderness and learned that Jesus wants us to care about others and help people in need. Now it’s time to continue the fun at home. Today’s challenge is to think of someone who needs cheering up and do something kind for them. You could make a card for someone who is sick or give someone a call and sing them a song to make them smile.

Raise your hand if you accept the COMPASSION challenge. I cannot wait to hear about who you cheered up tomorrow, when we continue to learn about how to treat others on the Jesus Tour!

**What to do:** *Send the challenge card and the daily sticker home with each child.*