

Children's Ministry Starter Kit



Thank you for connecting Christian Care Sunday with the children in your community. We hope these ideas bless you all – the teacher, parent or care giver – and the children you disciple.

Share a Godly Play Story:

We recommend the story of The Good Shepherd; Mother Teresa (from the Stories of the Saints); or the parable of The Good Samaritan. These stories demonstrate a God of love and compassionate care, embodied by a metaphorical Shepherd, a real modern-day Saint and a parable – which is a gift.

Scripts for these stories can be found by searching online, on YouTube, or in the Godly Play books.

The Good Shepherd:

Godly Play Volume 3, Lesson 7.

On YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I9GiHqIshU>

Or Instant download: <https://test.churchpublishing.org/godlyplayparableofthegoodshepherd>

Mother Teresa:

Godly Play Volume 7, Lesson 11.

Or Instant download:

<https://test.churchpublishing.org/products/41thestoryofmotherteresaofcalcutta>

The Good Samaritan:

Godly Play Volume 3, Lesson 8.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuBNEQq8zOk&t=29s>

Or Instant download: <https://test.churchpublishing.org/godlyplayparableofthegoodsamaritan>

Additional wondering questions to follow the story could include:

“I wonder... what did you hear in the story about how to care... how to be a neighbour... how to show compassion and love?”

“I wonder... who shows you love... care... compassion?”

“I wonder... who do you know who needs love, care and compassion?”

“I wonder... how could you show love, care or compassion today?”

Practice Dwelling in the Word:

Choose a passage to dwell in – perhaps the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44); or the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Any story of compassionate action is appropriate.

Use the Grow Ministries [Dwelling in the Word](#) sheet for the children to write or draw their reflections.

Teach the young people in your community to share their reflections with each other, and with the group. Have them first tell another person what they heard in the Word, then have them tell the group about what their partner shared with them. This helps our communities become places of deep listening, which is a compassionate action in and of itself. Reflect on and share with each other what you heard individually, in pairs and as a group.

After the listening time you might like to ask the question:

“I wonder... what would God like us to do as a response to this reading?”. Be ready to help the children move toward the action of their discernment.

Act out the story of the Good Samaritan:

Use a simple script (google it!) or write your own – alternately, have a narrator read the bible passage and have the children mime the parts as you read. Provide simple costumes and props – bandages, oil, a hobby horse, a pillow or bed, a money bag for stealing and another for giving money to the inn keeper. If everyone wants to have a go at different parts, role play the story multiple times!

Share a story of a modern-day Saint or inspirational person of care:

You can find illustrated stories of inspirational people in children’s bookstores and Christian bookstores. You could tell about Florence Nightingale on International Nurses Day (May 12); Mother Teresa on her Saint Day (September 5); Malala Yousafzai on International Women’s Day (March 8).

Alternately, you could share stories of inspirational people closer to home by inviting a church member to come and talk about their care work– a doctor, nurse, social worker, fire fighter, chaplain or pastor. They could bring in some of the tools of their trade and explain what they use in their work, and how they help people.

Collect donations for a care organisation:

Encourage your young people to collect **or specially buy** non-perishable items for a food pantry, clothes for foster care support, or toys for Christmas hampers. *Remember to ask the local care organisation what they currently need to support people in your community.*

Prayers for people in need:

Prayers don't just need to be spoken – we can use our bodies or our creativity in prayer too. After all, prayer is a conversation with God, listening and speaking from our hearts. Here are some ideas that children enjoy:

Playdough prayers: give each child a lump of playdough. Ask them to shape a prayer: it could be for a person or place in need, something they are thankful for, or a helper they have seen doing care work. They can re-shape their prayer dough over and over; as many prayers as they have, they can shape and re-shape. They don't necessarily need to tell you (or the group) what their prayer is. God knows. If they want to share their prayer, welcome their openness, but don't shame or discourage others who would rather keep their prayer dough unexplained or unrepresented to you or the group.

Building block prayers: we can build our prayers up together as a physical representation using blocks – wooden or plastic. Invite children to write their prayer on a piece of masking tape on a block. Build the prayers up in a tower to God. For those who cannot yet write, they can be assisted by someone older, or they can speak the word of their prayer as they add their block – perhaps they will pray for doctors, missionaries, vets, politicians, breakfast club volunteers – anyone they know in a helping role, or someone they know who needs help.

Hearts or hands: have children trace their hands, or draw hearts (or have templates of these pre-printed). Allow the children to draw or write a prayer on each heart or hand, for a person or place in need, or for people who do care work in your community.

Then, make a large display of their prayers, perhaps on the word CARE, or the letters CCS (for Christian Care Sunday). Alternately, they may like to take their prayers home and hang them up in their room on a piece of ribbon as a banner or garland.

Band-Aid prayers: buy several boxes of Band-Aids and using sharpies or pens, write a prayer on every Band-Aid for someone or somewhere that needs God's healing love and compassionate care. Stick the Band-Aid prayers on a cross or a poster. Trust that God will bring the healing and care that is needed for each person and place.

Thankyou cards to people in care roles:

Provide craft materials and cardboard, envelopes and stamps so that children can make a thankyou card for a health or care provider – and post it! This way you know for sure it will get passed on, and the worker will receive it! Younger children might like to colour or draw a picture, or tell you what to write on the card for them.

Colouring prayers for compassion:

You can use these colouring resources for children in your Christian Care Sunday worship service or children's ministry time.

[Volume 1](#) or [Volume 2](#) and [Illustrated Compassion](#) from Illustrated Ministry.