

Someone Like You

Bible: Someone Like You (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56 (Supporting: Luke 1:5-25)*

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in hi shall not perish but have eternal life." *John 3:16 (NIV)*

Life App: Compassion—Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience

Compassion Profiles

- "Compassion Profile" Activity Page; one for each kid
- Markers

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Starburst Straws

- "Starburst Story" Activity Page; one for each small group
- Colorful drinking straws; 25 for each kid
- Strong zip ties; one for each kid
- Scissors

Prayer

- Kids' "Compassion Profiles" from Social

Dismiss

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.

Compassion Profiles

What You Need: "Compassion Profile" Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the Activity Pages and explain that kids are going to create a "compassion profile" of themselves, similar to a character profile an author might create.
- Instruct kids to make the person look like they do and write down personal traits for each of the four categories listed in the box.
- Collect kids' papers to use again after Large Group.

What You Say:

"Those are some great traits you listed on your compassion profiles. I like how there's such a variety of talents, strengths, and likes within our group. I bet those things that describe you could be important in some way. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out more about that.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Someone Like You

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Starburst Straws

What You Need: “Starburst Story” Activity Page, 25 colorful drinking straws per kid, strong zip ties, scissors, and completed sample craft

What You Do:

- Give each kid a zip tie and set the pile of straws in the center.
- Read the Starburst Story, and every time they hear about God using someone unlikely in His plan to meet other’s needs, they can lay five straws across their zip tie.
- When the Bible Truth is over, instruct them to fasten their zip ties around their pile of straws and pull as tightly as they can without any straws popping out.
- *Note: You may have to help younger kids.*
- Then let kids trim some of the straws with scissors so that there are different lengths.
- Encourage kids to try bending the straws in half below and above the ties, if they don’t stick out already, to make their creation look more like a starburst.

What You Say:

“These are pretty cool decorations! Of all the things to make Christmas decorations out of, I don’t think drinking straws would be my first guess. And if I was going to send a baby to rescue the world, I don’t think I’d choose a young girl from a tiny town to be His mom! One of the things that the Christmas reminds us of is that **[Bottom Line] God can use anyone to meet others’ needs.** He used Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zechariah in our Bible Truth today. God had used others in the past like David and Gideon and Ruth and Esther. God kind of makes a habit of using unlikely people.

“That could even mean some of you! There is every possibility that God is preparing to use YOU to meet someone’s needs this season. It’s what Undercover Christmas is all about! So be ready and be on the lookout for people in need. Is there someone you already know who has a need you could meet? *(Allow for discussion.)* What are some ways you could be ready to meet others’ needs?” *(Allow for discussion.)*

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)

What You Need: Kids’ “Compassion Profiles”

What You Do:

- Hand out the profiles again
- Instruct kids to take a minute to silently pray.
- They should ask God to help them use their talents and likes to meet others’ needs.
- Encourage them to ask God to show them practical ways they can do so.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for making each of us unique. Help us all to use the talents, skills, and likes you’ve given us to meet the needs of the people in our lives. Show us ways we can do that every single day. Help us to be people who show Your love by the way we love others. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Compassion Profile

Talents:

Strengths:

Likes:

Dislikes:



What to Do:
Print one for each kid.

Mary was a girl from a small town called Nazareth. It was not known for anything much and no one of any importance had ever been born there. For someone from Nazareth to hear from an angel, well, that would be pretty UNLIKELY.

Mary was a normal young woman from a normal family. They had some great ancestors in the past, but it would be so UNLIKELY that anyone from her family would do more than live in their village and tend sheep or build furniture.

But one day while Mary was minding her own business, an angel appeared to her! She wasn't expecting a messenger from God or anyone else. The angel told her the Lord was pleased with her, a greeting that she found a bit UNLIKELY. What had she ever done that the Lord would even notice her?

But the angel announced something incredible—that she would have a baby! That was the strangest thing of all and very UNLIKELY for a young unmarried girl in her village. Why didn't the angel go to one of her cousins, with four kids running around? She knew nothing of being a mother.

To comfort her, the angel even told her about another UNLIKELY but wonderful event. Her cousin Elizabeth, the one who never had children, was expecting a baby too! Even though one woman was quite old and the other quite young, God chose them as part of His rescue plan for all people.

Mary agreed that if the Lord had planned all these wonderful, but unusual things, she would be willing to follow Him.

The angel disappeared and she ran off to visit Elizabeth and tell Joseph about the strange and wonderful, and yes, UNLIKELY things that were happening!

What to Do:

Print one for each small group.

Starburst Story

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