



## Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

WEEK TWO  
K-5<sup>TH</sup>

### READ MATTHEW 9:36

DAY 1

Sheep. They're not very smart. Since sheep spend most of their time grazing, their heads are down most of the day so they don't pay attention to where they're going. And because they'll blindly follow other sheep, if one of their buddies falls off a cliff, the others will soon follow right behind. Sheep don't have a built in sense of direction like most animals. They lack that "homing instinct" that helps them get back to where they started from so it's easy for them to get lost. So for a sheep, being without a shepherd is BAA-BAA-BAAD!

Jesus looked out at the crowds that day, they seemed to Him like a sheep without a shepherd. They looked lost and confused. They needed help. And time after time, Jesus cared for people who were hurting. He healed them. He felt compassion and love for them. Did He ever get tired? Sure. Were there times when He needed or wanted to do something else? Probably. But Jesus still stopped to help and offer comfort. And He's asking us to love and comfort others too.

**THANK** God for sending Jesus to show us how to comfort others.

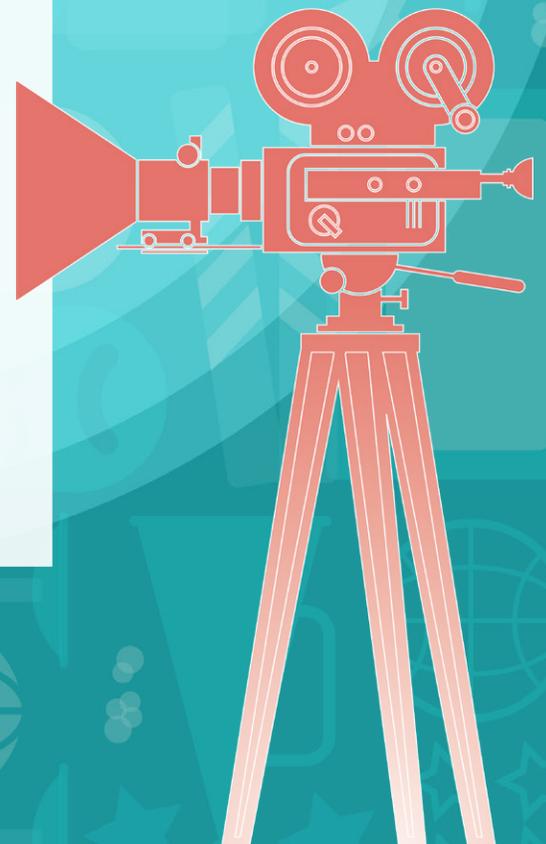
### READ PROVERBS 17:17

DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper. Draw a vertical line down the left side of the page, about an inch from the edge. To the left of the line, write down some times in your day (you may write specific times like 7:45 a.m. or titles like "breakfast," "math," "recess," etc.) Next to each title or time, write down some names of the people you are with during that time of day.

When does this verse say we are to love? At ALL times. That means at specific times like when we're eating our lunch or playing on the playground at recess. But it also means that you love someone when it's hard or when the other person is sad. Because a real friend loves when things are happy and awesome and when things are super sad or hard. There are lots and lots of opportunities in your day to SEE someone who needs some love and encouragement from you and to offer it. Part of loving the way God loves us is choosing to comfort others who are hurting.

**ASK** God to help you see the people around you that are hurting and choose to love at all times.





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### READ HEBREWS 13:1

DAY 3

When a friend is sad, what do you do? Sometimes, it's hard to know how to help someone when they're upset. But love means choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated. So think about it this way: how would you want someone to treat you if you were sad about something?

Circle the ways you would want someone to treat you if you were sad and put an "X" through the ways you would NOT want someone to treat you:

Give you hug

To say, "Just get over it!"

Completely ignore that you are hurting

To offer to play your favorite game

To say, "I'm so sorry you're sad."

To sit and listen to you

Hebrews 13:1 reminds us that we are to *keep on loving one another*. That means that we "keep on loving" when our friend is happy and life is great. That means we "keep on loving" when our friend is sad or lonely. It means we "keep on loving" even when we don't know exactly what to say and all we can offer is a hug. It means that we choose to care and comfort others because that's how we would want to be treated. That's love.

**LOOK** for ways to comfort others who are hurting.

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

DAY 4

Has anyone ever sent you an encouraging note or told you that you're awesome? Think about how those words made you feel. Those kind words "built you up." They reminded you that you are loved.

You could do that for someone else. When your buddy misses the goal, you can pat him on the back and tell him there'll be plenty of chances to try again. When your little sister just can't seem to get her shoes tied, you can tell her that it was once hard for you too. When your mom is tired after a long day and seems stressed out, you can give her a BIG hug and thank her for being your mom.

Find some LEGO® bricks or blocks and a roll of masking tape. Tear off twenty pieces of tape and place one on each block or LEGO®. Carefully write the words of this verse on each of the tape pieces. Then mix up the blocks/bricks and "build them up" in verse order.

**KNOW** that you can comfort others by building them up.



## COMFORT OTHERS WHO ARE HURTING