



Diocese of Chichester

**Living the Mystery of Faith**

THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

# **YOUTH LENT COURSE**

**THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

# WEEK 4

## MIRACLES

### AIM/ THEME

Compassion and Action – Or Social Action.  
See a need, fill a need. Joining God in  
meeting real needs.

### LEARNING OUTCOME

Jesus never teaches without fulfilling people's deep need – usually healing. Let's look for where God is working and guiding and be ready to join in with a practical response. Jesus didn't just talk about compassion, he acted on it.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Facility to play a video from YouTube
- String
- Paper
- Pens
- Charades of Needs printed and cut out.
- Print outs of takeaway and memory verse

### INFORMAL START

Where did you hide your rock from last week?  
Are you expectant that if you wrote a prayer that it will  
be answered?

ICEBREAKER

# GIANTS, WIZARDS AND DWARVES.

This is a giant team game of rock paper scissors. Individuals compete against each other with the loser becoming a “follower” of the winner.

They move around the room as a team with the leader playing other leaders of other teams. When your leader loses your entire team follows the winner from that game. Eventually everyone is on one team with that undefeated team leader being the winner.

Wizards Beat Dwarves with a spell  
Giants beat Wizards by crushing him  
Dwarf beats the Giant with a foot tickle

Agree a big obvious action and sound for each character at the beginning of the game.

# BIBLE READING & CONTEXT

## MATTHEW 8:14-17

After the sermon on the mount, Jesus heals Peter's Mother in Law

When Jesus entered Peter's house, He saw Peter's mother-in-law sick with a fever. He didn't ignore her or make a big show of it, He simply touched her hand, and she was healed.

That same evening, people brought everyone who was sick or suffering, and Jesus healed them too. He didn't just talk about love or kindness, He showed it.

**Here's what we see in Jesus:**

- **He notices needs.** Compassion starts with seeing, really seeing people, not walking past them.
- **He acts.** Jesus didn't say "I'll pray about it later" He did something right then.
- **He restores people.** His compassion made people whole, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually.
- **He joins God's work.** Matthew says Jesus fulfilled prophecy, showing that His healing was part of God's bigger plan. He conspires with God.

The same is true for us. God is already at work healing and restoring our world: in our schools, our streets, our families, and He invites us to join in. So, what would it look like this week to see a need and fill a need? How can we conspire with the Holy Spirit and join in with what God is already doing?

## VIDEO CLIP

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=VGvDCXM04Co](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGvDCXM04Co)



This is another clip from the Chosen. It is taken from a passage later in Matthew, but as we see over and over again throughout the Gospel Jesus prioritises compassion and love for people over all other things. Jesus tells the rabbis they neglect Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness.

How might we be caught up in ritual and tradition at the neglect of the needs of others.

How have our own opinion of others prevented us from seeing them how God sees them?

# DISCUSSION

**Compassion isn't just a feeling — it's action.**

**What's the difference between feeling sorry for someone and doing something to help?**

- Prompt: Can you think of a time you acted on compassion; big or small?
- Follow-up: How did it feel to be part of making something right?

**God is already working in the world — healing, restoring, lifting people up.**

**How can we join in or conspire with what He's doing this week?**

- Prompt: Think local; school, online, community, friends.
- Follow-up: What's one practical thing we could do together as a group?
- Practical: How can we pray conspiring prayers that have our action at the centre.

**When we talk about social action, what does that actually mean for us as followers of Jesus?**

- Prompt: Social action isn't just big charity projects — it's about bringing God's love and justice into real-life situations.
- Follow-up: What issues or needs in our community do you think God might care about — and how could we join in, even in small ways?
- (Optional add-on): What difference would it make if people saw the Church not just as a place that talks about love, but as a people who do love?

# RESPONSE

- Ask everyone to draw around their hand
- Inside the palm, write this phrase: "See a need, fill a need."
- On each finger, write one way they could show compassion this week:
  - Thumb – Pray for someone who's hurting
  - Index – Notice someone lonely at school
  - Middle – Do something kind without being asked
  - Ring – Commit to one ongoing act of help
  - Little – Encourage someone quietly
- When done, invite them to hold the paper hand as you pray:  
"Jesus, thank You that You see our needs and meet them with love. Help us to see people the way You do and to take action where we can. Show us where You're already working, and give us courage to join in."
- Hang the hands on a wall or string line as a "Wall of Compassion."

# MEMORY VERSE

Ask who can remember the memory very from last week!

Talk about how Jesus carries people's pain and that we can share this same love by carrying one another's burdens.

**"HE TOOK UP OUR INFIRMITIES AND BORE  
OUR DISEASES."**  
**MATTHEW 8:17**

## TAKEAWAY

**Random acts of Kindness.**

The challenge this week is to perform Random Acts of Kindness or RAOK! Think as a group about the sorts of things you could do to surprise people this week by doing something kind and unexpected. It doesn't even need to be somebody you know! Ask God to give you opportunities to serve or to bless people in your community.

Do someone's gardening or wash their car.  
(Please don't break into anyone's property or do anything illegal)

## FINAL GAME/ACTIVITY

**Charades of Needs!**

Split into teams. It's charades, but the thing that needs to be acted out is a person with a need:

Help crossing a road, reaching a high shelf, looking after a child, painting a house, feeling lonely, getting a cat out of a tree, doing homework, cooking dinner, getting to school etc etc

The rest of the team needs to guess the need.

When they get it right they must all jump up and act out helping the person out with the need.

# Charades of Needs

Help crossing a road	reaching a high shelf
looking after a child	painting a house
feeling lonely	getting a cat out of a tree
doing homework	cooking dinner
getting to school	cutting the grass
Changing a lightbulb	Building <u>ikea</u> furniture
Posting a letter	Decorate for a party
Walking the dog	Making a cup of tea
Giving directions	Praying for someone that's sick

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