



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 5: Includes

Suggested Week of Use: October 1, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 7:24-37

News Story Summary

In the heart of Kansas, a group of compassionate and innovative young minds are addressing a pressing issue that often goes unnoticed: homelessness within their own city. Fueled by their genuine concern for the well-being of those who are less fortunate, these perceptive first and second graders have taken it upon themselves to envision and design homes tailored to address the homeless population's needs. Their youthful determination is an inspiration to all, as they combine creativity, resourcefulness, and a genuine desire to make their community better. Through their efforts, these Kansas kids are building physical shelters and fostering a sense of connection, understanding, and hope for a brighter future. As they channel their boundless energy into this project, they aren't just transforming their cityscape. They're also proving that the power of empathy and action knows no age limits.

For more about this story, search “Kansas students design homes for homeless.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, ask: *What was most important to you in elementary school?* Allow adults to share. Read the story about how elementary children in Kansas are addressing the homelessness problem in their community. Ask: *Why do you think these elementary students feel such a level of empathy for people who are homeless.* Discuss responses. Point out that these children are helping adults feel like they belong in the community. Note that the kids are taking the opportunity to help a group of people who are different from them. Emphasize the courage it can take to reach outside our comfort zones. Explain that today's session focuses on two situations where Jesus broke down walls to minister to individuals who were different. Encourage adults to use this session to consider ways they can be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults of the elementary kids fighting homelessness. Ask: *What are some groups that might not feel comfortable coming to a church? (Examples: young adults, single adults, divorced adults, recovering addicts, people from other ethnic backgrounds or political convictions, and so forth)* Record responses on the board and discuss how your church accepts and ministers to people in these groups. Remind adults that Jesus set the example of showing love to everyone—even those who are different. Encourage adults to look for ways to get outside their comfort zones and to share God's love with whomever He brings into their lives this week.