### **Supplies Needed:**

Index cards, bandaids of different sizes, Memory verse color sheet

### **Suggested Schedule:**

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break 20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up 30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer 10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

**Today's Focus: FAIRNESS** 

### Weekly Verse:

Micah 6:8

"He has shown you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God."

# **Rock Bridge Mission:**

We can LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS and LIVE SENT when we treat people with FAIRNESS; we need to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

## Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you love us so much, you don't treat us how we deserve to be treated, but you show us mercy. Help us to treat people the way we want to be treated, and not the way they deserve. Help us to fight injustice and care for people who are left out or don't have what they need. Help us in Jesus' name, AMEN.

*Teacher Tip:* Offer Memory Verse color sheet and markers/pencils prior to lesson to help them concentrate and listen.

Leader: Make enough index cards for everyone in the group. Write an injury or affliction on each card--think about your kids as you choose them. Make some minor and some severe. (Examples: broken arm, scraped knee, bee sting, not good at sports, homeless, orphan, no running water in home, sore throat, paper cut, no legs, blind, hangnail, etc.) Have kids come up and take a card one at a time and each person read their issue out loud. As they read their injury, give them a band aid and tell them to feel better and then have the next person do it. If anyone complains, tell them it wouldn't be "fair" if everyone didn't get the same thing.

Say this: Have you ever said, "That's not fair!"? You know, sometimes when people say that, they really mean, "Hey! They got something better than me!" Fair doesn't always mean everyone gets the same thing. Let me show you what I mean. Let's pretend I'm a doctor or some kind of social worker helper and I am here to help you with your problem. One at a time I want you to come up and take a card and read what it says (I'll help you if you need help reading) and I will help you with it. \*\*Give each child a bandaid after they read the card--bigger problem, bigger bandaid?\*\*

When you are done, talk about it: (1) Was it equal that everyone got the same thing? (2) Was it fair? Why or Why not? (3) Some people had fixable injuries, and some people didn't. What other areas of life might be like the "injuries"? (People who need extra help in school? People who have been discriminated against? People with disabilities?)

**Watch this**: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxLnb2REwA8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxLnb2REwA8</a>
Or use discussion below; read Matthew verses regardless.

Read this: Parable of the workers in the vineyard <u>Matthew 20:1-16</u>

\*\*Consider having kids act it out as you read it if your group has older kids.

Jesus told this story to show people that everything belongs to Him and HE is in charge of giving. If we trust that He knows best, we won't compare what we have to others--we will just be glad for what we have. We are not all the same and we have different things, but it is

### still fair--because God gives us what we need.

### Fairness Discussion: (Very similar to video)

Did you know that you don't always have to be FAIR? Let me explain....God wants us to be fair. Being fair means you do what you are supposed to do and you follow the rules; you give other people what they deserve and only take what you deserve. If there is a line for the drinking fountain, it's not fair to cut in line. Other people were standing there, you shouldn't just walk past everyone who's been waiting--you should go to the back of the line. If you are playing a board game, it's not fair to cheat! You need to play by the rules. It is very important for us to be fair...except when it isn't.

Right now you might be thinking, "Oh awesome! I don't always have to be fair..." well let me explain what I mean. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is **Micah 6:8**. It says, "**He has shown you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humble with your God.**"

That first part says, "act justly" which means, do what you are supposed to do. Justice is a good thing, it protects and helps people get what they need. The next part says, "love mercy." Now mercy is interesting because it can sometimes feel like the opposite of justice. You know how I said you are supposed to give people what they deserve and only take what you deserve? Well, what if somebody pushes you? What do they deserve? Should we push them back? Is that what God wants? No! God wants you to be MERCIFUL; God doesn't always want you to give people what they deserve.

Now, if it is something good, God ABSOLUTELY wants you to give people what they deserve, but if it isn't good, he wants you to show mercy. It's NOT do to others what they have done to you, it is "treat others the way you want to be treated."He wants us to LOVE mercy; and I am SO GLAD that God loves mercy. The truth is, if you got what you deserved, you could never go to heaven. That is scary and sad, right?

The Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He didn't say, if you will change and do better, I will help you and save you--He loves us so much, He

decided to be UNFAIR and send Jesus to pay the penalty of our sins. We don't DESERVE this. The Bible says, "the penalty of sin is death." That is what you deserve if you sin even once! But Jesus NEVER sinned, not once his whole life--he took our punishment. God showed us mercy, so we should show mercy to others and do what is right.

So we should **ACT JUSTLY**, **LOVE MERCY** and the third part is to **WALK HUMBLY**. What does it mean to be humble? A humble person has the feelings and attitude of I am not better than others; not ME FIRST, but AFTER YOU. A humble person recognizes that they aren't perfect and you don't know everything, but God does.

