



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *The Kindness of Jesus* | Matthew 8:1-4, 9:10-13, 19:13-15

Bottom Line: *Jesus showed us how to be kind.*

Memory Verse: “You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender, mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient – Colossians 3:12

Virtue: *Kindness – Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them*

Core Insight: *Restoration*

Series Overview: God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—even when we didn’t deserve it. Because of God’s love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be kind. As we consider how we can show kindness to others, the best place to start is with Jesus. When we read about how Jesus was kind to others, we can learn how to reflect God’s love with the way we treat others and show them they are valuable. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God was so incredibly kind to us. In response, we can choose to be kind to the people we meet each day.

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Walking Stick, Hat, Backpack

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Choose one kid to be the leader
- Give the “leader” a walking stick, a hat and a backpack
- Direct the group to line up behind the “leader”
- Instruct the kids to “Follow the Leader” on an adventure
- Direct the kids to pretend to be using a walking stick while copying all the actions and movements of the leader
 - Some action suggestions: running, skipping, galloping, hopping, jumping, balancing on one leg, clapping, turning, doing helicopter spins, climbing motion, stomping feet, clicking fingers, going around objects, etc
- When you say “switch,” instruct all of the kids to freeze
- Direct the last kid in line to run to the front of the line, grab the gear from the leader + put it on. The become the new leader
- Play as many rounds as time + interest allow

What You Say:

“Wow! You did a great job following the leader! *[Transition]* Let’s go to Large Group, to learn about whose actions we are to always try to follow.

9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start this month in the **book of Matthew** as we look at three moments of kindness from Jesus’ life. Whether Jesus was healing the sick, blessing little children, or sharing meals with people who others seemed to disregard, He was full of love and kindness. With the way He treated others, Jesus made sure that everyone knew they were valuable in God’s eyes.

9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 – SMALL GROUP

Replay

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Charades” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Divide your group into three groups
- Give each group a card from the “Charades” Activity Page
- Instruct each group to read the card quietly and decide how they will act out the story on their card and encourage them to give everyone in the group a role, if possible
 - If space allows, let groups split off away from each other so they can plan more easily
- After a few minutes to practice, invite each group to take turns acting out their story
- After the group is done acting out the entire sequence, ask the other groups to guess what the events are
- Continue until all three groups have acted out their charade

What You Say:

“Who did Jesus spend time with that made the disciples and religious leaders upset? (Pause for responses.) Jesus was the kindest person ever. Jesus spent time with all kinds of people—even if some others didn’t like it.

Jesus cared about everyone, especially those who were considered outcasts like people with skin diseases, children, tax collectors, and even those who sinned.

***Jesus showed us how to be kind** and all we need to do is follow His example. He showed kindness to everyone He met. And guess what? The biggest, kindest thing Jesus did was to give His life for us by dying on the cross for our sins. That shows how much He loves us!*

And because Jesus is God, He shows us what God is like. So, when we’re kind to others, we’re showing them the kindness of God too. Let’s find ways to share the same kindness that Jesus modeled for us so others can experience God’s love through our actions and words.”

***[Make It Personal]** (Share about a time you were kind to someone who was overlooked or about a time you felt overlooked and someone showed kindness to you.)*

Wear It

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Bibles; “Backpack” Activity Page; Tape; Markers

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible
- Together, look up Colossians 3:12 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
 - **Finding Verses w/ 2nd/3rd Graders:** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to*

the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 12.

- Read the verse together a few times
- Tape the “Backpack” Activity Page on the back of every kid so that it is visible
- Form a circle with all kids facing the inside the circle, then ask everyone to turn to their right so that they are facing the back of the kid in front of them
- Say the verse in short phrases at a time, in varying ways
- Instruct the kids to copy not only your words, but also your tone, speed, volume and even bodily actions
- Inform kids to follow along by reading the verse attached to the back of the kid in front of them
- Some ideas for reading the portions of the verse are:
 - Act like a superhero
 - Slow motion words
 - Fast words
 - Mumbled words
 - Speak normally but stand up and run in place
- After a few rounds, encourage the kids to get into pairs
- Instruct the pairs to take turns repeating the verse after each other
- Direct one kid in the pair to come up with a creative way to say the verse, and then direct the other kid in the pair to do it
- Then instruct the kids to switch roles
- If time allows, set out the markers and invite kids to color their backpacks

What You Say:

“The author of this verse was delivering a special message to us. You are important to God. You are loved by God. God wants you to remember to be kind and show love to others

“Just like you’re wearing the verse right now, God wants you to wear tender mercy and kindness. God wants you to be gentle and patient.

*“This verse is calling all of us to carry our backpack of kindness everywhere we go, wearing it like your favorite clothes. The great news is that **Jesus showed us how to be kind** and we can follow His example.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their backpacks and share this month’s verse.