



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Family Ties | Ruth 1-2*

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: **Be kind to the people closest to you.** When it comes to our family and friends, we can often find ourselves taking them for granted. We hope that through the story of Ruth, kids will learn to show kindness to the people who care about them the most.

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: Paper; Markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Give each kid several pieces of paper and a marker
- Instruct the kids to draw their answers as you share each prompt
- One by one, share the following prompts:
 - Draw a picture of the kindest thing someone did for you this past week
 - Draw a picture of the kindest thing you did for someone in your family this past week
 - Draw an emoji showing how you felt when you were kind to someone
 - Draw an emoji showing how you think the person you were kind to felt
 - Draw an emoji showing how you felt when someone was kind to you
- Pause between each prompt and ask kids to show and explain what they drew to the group

What You Say:

“These are all great examples! *[Transition]* Let’s go to Large Group to find out about a moment of people who stuck together and showed kindness even when it was not always easy.”

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

Large Group Overview: In Week 2, we head to **Ruth 1** and **2**, where we find Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. Both of their husbands had died, and Ruth had the opportunity to return home to her family. Instead, she chose to show kindness to Naomi and stay with her. Ruth’s kindness didn’t go unnoticed. Boaz saw how Ruth had treated Naomi and offered kindness to Ruth, changing her life in a huge way.

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

Kind-Hoot

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Multiple Choice” Activity Page; Index Cards; Markers; Timers

What You Do:

- Direct the kids to pair up
- Give each pair three index cards and a marker
- Instruct each team to write “A” on one card, “B” on the next + “C” on the last one
- One at a time, read a question from the “Multiple Choice” Activity Page, providing kids with three choices for answers
- Set the timer on your phone for as long as you think is appropriate
- With the help of their partner, instruct the team to decide on the correct answer (either A, B or C)
- Direct each team to hold up the index card with the correct answer before the timer goes off, making sure their answer is hidden from other teams

- Encourage each team to keep track of their own points and share how many questions they got correct at the end of the game

What You Say:

“Wow! You must have been paying attention to today’s story. We can really learn from the kindness Ruth and Boaz showed. Ruth was kind to Naomi, and Boaz was kind to Ruth.

Was it always easy for them to show kindness? (No.) What made it hard for Ruth in the beginning? (Invite responses, like: She had to go to a new town.) By choosing to stay with Naomi, Ruth showed Naomi that she still mattered. Ruth worked hard, gathered grain, and took care of Naomi. Because Ruth showed kindness to Naomi, Ruth also ended up getting to be part of the family line of Jesus.

*Just like them, you too can **be kind to the people closest to you** so they can experience God’s love and kindness through you.”*

[Make It Personal] (Describe a time when you showed kindness to a family member or a close friend even though they got on your nerves. What did you do? How did they react?)

Kindness in Action

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Thank You Cards” Activity Page; Pens; Markers

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to think about people in their lives who have been kind to them who they may struggle showing kindness to or forget to acknowledge their kindness
 - Some suggestions might include Mom, Dad, sibling, grandparent

- Ask:
 - “What are some ways these people have shown kindness toward you?”
- Instruct each kid to pick four people they would like to thank for being kind to them
- Hand each kid four cards from the “Thank You Cards” Activity Page
- Set out the pens + markers
- At the top of each card, ask the kids to write the name of the family member or friend they want to thank
- Instruct the kids to complete the sentence on each card by expressing why they are thankful or how that person has been kind to them
 - *For example: “Dear Mom, thank you for always being there for me and helping me with my homework.”*
- If time permits, encourage the kids to color and decorate their cards however they choose to

What You Say:

“Just like Ruth in our story today, we have people close to us who we can show kindness to. We have parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and cousins who love and care for us. And we have lots of friends who need our kindness too!”

*“But sometimes, it’s easier to be kind to people we don’t know well, like strangers. We see our family and friends at their best . . . and their worst . . . just like Ruth and Naomi. Even though our family and close friends might make us feel upset sometimes, you can still choose to **be kind to the people closest** to you.”*

“Just like Ruth showed kindness to Naomi by being patient, you too can show kindness to the people closest to you by being patient. You can also show them kindness by thanking them. The thank you cards you made are amazing! Make sure you hand them out this week.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their thank you cards and explain why they created them.