



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Good Samaritan / Luke 10:25-37*

Bottom Line: *Be kind to people who are different from you*

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 people who are different from you. Everyone is deserving of our kindness, whether they’re like us or not. We hope kids learn from a young age that God’s love is for everyone. We can’t hold back kindness from others just because they might look or act different from us. Jesus modeled a love and kindness that included everyone. We should follow His example.

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: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Direct the kids to sit pretzel-style on the ground
- Challenge the kids to get into a standing position without using their hands + arms or letting their knees touch the ground (this is almost impossible to do)
- After a few minutes of trying, invite kids to pair up
- Instruct the kids to sit back-to-back
- Invite the pairs to work together to get into a standing position using the same guidelines

What You Say:

“In this challenge it was difficult to stand up on your own, wasn’t it? However, once you were paired up with someone else, you were able to stand up because you had help. *[Transition]* Let’s go to Large Group to find out how different people responded to someone who really needed help.”

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

Large Group Overview: We finish the month with a familiar parable found in **Luke 10:25-37**. A religious leader asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus used this story to

completely change how people who follow Him should look at showing kindness to others. It's not just for people we know or like, but for everyone we meet.

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

Include Everyone

[Live For God | Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

What You Need: “Circles” Activity Page; Writing Utensil

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Circles” Activity Page and a writing utensil
- Invite the kids to think of a list of people they enjoy spending time with:
 - Their friends
 - Family members
 - Coaches
 - Teachers
 - Anyone they like
- Instruct the kids to list those people in the center circle of the activity page
- When they are finished, direct the kids to draw a big hear around all of those people
- Point out the middle circle labeled “The Samaritan” and the outside of the circle, labeled “The Hurt Man”
 - Say: “The Samaritan and the Hurt Man were not in each other’s groups – they weren’t friends”
 - Ask: “Without naming names, can you think of anyone who’s ‘outside your circle?’”
 - Some suggestions might include: students who sit by themselves at lunch or not included by others at recess, new students they not interacted with yet, strangers they encounter

during outings or events, neighbors they haven't met, kids whose bodies or brains work differently than theirs, etc.

- Ask: "Would anyone like to share about a time you remember treating someone differently because they were outside your circle?"

What You Say:

"In the story Jesus told, He wants us to be like the Samaritan. The Hurt Man was outside of the Samaritan's circle of people he would be expected to love and to help. The people you drew the heart around are people we are expected to love and help. They're our friends, family members, and people who know us. These are the people anyone would expect us to love.

*No one expected the Samaritan to help The Hurt Man. Jesus wants us to show kindness to people who think and act differently than we do—like the kid you dislike because he's constantly pushing others around and making kids do what he wants them to do, or the kid who you just have nothing in common with and haven't really ever played with. You don't need to be best friends with everybody, but you can show kindness to them. Why? Because every person you meet matters to God, and that is why we are supposed to **be kind to people who are different from you.**"*

It's Personal

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; "Personalized Verse" Activity Page; Markers

What You Do:

- Make sure every 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
- Give each kid a “Personalized Verse” Activity Page and pencils and markers
- Invite the kids to follow your prompts as you tell them what to draw and color in each box
 - Box #1: Draw a stick figure of yourself
 - Box #2: Draw a stick figure of yourself surrounded by people who love you
 - Box #3: Draw a stick picture of yourself wearing shirt and pants. Label one of them “Mercy” and the other “Kindness”
 - Box #4: Draw a stick figure of yourself not being proud or boastful with others
 - For example: Speech bubbles with positive + encouraging words, like “You’re awesome!” / “Great job!” / “You can do it!” – lifting others up instead of trying to make themselves look better. Or maybe drawing a scene where they are sharing something they love, like snacks or art supplies with their friends
 - Box #5: Draw a stick figure of yourself being gentle + patient with others
 - For example: Playing or doing something with a younger sibling, waiting your turn in line, opening the door for an older person before walking in yourself, etc.
- When done, encourage the group to share what they drew in box #4 and #5
- Close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Great job drawing your ideas! This is what I love about God’s Word! It’s like a special letter written just for you—it’s personalized! That’s why all your drawings are different!”

*“The author of this verse was writing to all the people who love God—that includes you! He was giving us a recipe to spread God’s love and kindness to others. When you choose to be kind, gentle, and patient, you’re choosing to be a good friend and treat others nicely even when things are hard. When things feel difficult or unfair, it’s important to remember that God is with you, God’s Spirit lives inside of you, giving you the strength to keep being kind. So, let’s make it our mission to show God’s kindness to everyone, no matter how different they may be from us. You can **be kind to people who are different from you** every day!”*

*“Now, let’s pray: Dear God, thank You for this month’s powerful reminder of Your incredible kindness. Today, we learned that we should be kind to everyone, even those who may seem different from us. Help us to be kind to those who may look different, have different interests, or come from different places. We want to follow Your example by remembering to **be kind to people who are different from us**. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the “Personalized Verse” Activity Page and explain what they drew.