



## WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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

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### 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
- Lead the kids in a game of Stand Up, Sit Down
- One by one, read an action below
- Instruct the kids to stand if their answer is: “I think I’ve done that at least three times!”
- Direct the kids to sit down if their answer is: “I think I’ve done that fewer than three times.”
- As you call out the following examples of kindness, allow time between each one for the kids to stand up or sit down:
  - Play with someone new
  - Smile at someone
  - Pick up trash without being asked
  - Write a thank-you note
  - Share a favorite toy
  - Put your clothes in the clothes hamper without being reminded
  - Say hello to someone who looks lonely
  - Wash behind your ears without being reminded
  - Share a piece of candy or gum
  - Pay attention to someone when everyone else was ignoring them
  - Let someone borrow something
  - Wait patiently for your turn
  - Give someone a hug
  - Get a tissue for someone who sneezed
  - Share some of your money

- Feel free to add more examples

**What You Say:**

“This was great! *[Transition]* In Large Group today, we get to hear about someone who gave us many examples of how to show KINDNESS!”

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

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**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.

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

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**May I Be Kind?**

**[Live For God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle
- Explain you’re going to practice deciding whether certain actions are kind or unkind with a game called: “May I Be Kind?”
- Tell kids you will share an action with them
- If the action shows kindness + is something Jesus would do, direct the kids to say: “May I Be Kind?”

- When the kids ask, “May I be kind?”, respond with “Yes!” and instruct the kids to act out the action you described
- If the action does not sound like something that is kind, direct the kids not to say or do anything
- One at a time, share one of the actions from the list below:
  - Deliver some soup to a neighbor who is sick
  - Push someone down in line at school
  - Talk to a kid in class who you don’t know very well
  - Tell your friend that their shoes aren’t cool
  - Pray for a friend who is sad or sick
  - Ignore someone who is trying to talk to you
  - Share some fruit with a friend who is hungry at lunch
  - Tell someone who wants to play with you to go away
  - Play with a kid on the playground who speaks a different language than you
  - Run away from someone who wears different clothes than you do

**What You Say:**

*“It’s so good to be kind to others! It might be easier for us to show kindness to people we like and get along with, but Jesus was kind to everyone. **Jesus showed us how to be kind!** All people are loved by God very much—people who are overlooked or even considered unimportant like children, sick people, and people who do jobs that the rest of us don’t want to do. And since God loves all people, we should too! It’s not always easy, but it is wonderful and so rewarding when we can show people around us how very important they are!”*

***“[Make It Personal] Share about a time that you showed kindness to someone or someone showed kindness to you. Provide the kids with a real-life situation to illustrate how you or someone you know followed Jesus’ example.***

*“We can follow Jesus’ example and be kind to everyone around us!”*

## **Pray + Dismiss**

### **[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need:** N/A

### **What You Do:**

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle
- Invite kids to share ideas they have for showing kindness this week
- Remind them that we should show kindness to others because **Jesus showed us how to be kind**
- Invite kids to pray + ask God to help them show kindness this week by filling in the rest of the following prayer: “God, thank you for Jesus’ examples for us! Please help me show kindness this week by \_\_\_\_\_”
- Say: “Please help me to show kindness this week by:” and go around the circle, inviting kids to fill in their prayer request
- If a kid doesn’t wish to pray out loud, let know they can say “Pass”
- After each kid who has like to has shared their prayer request, close your group time in prayer

### **What You Say:**

*“God, thank You so much for Jesus’ amazing example to us of how to live our lives. Please help each one of us to show KINDNESS to the people around us. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share what they learned today during groups.***