



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

Bottom Line: *Be kind to the people closest to 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 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: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- Start doing different motions like patting your head, hopping on one foot, shaking the kids' hands, waving your hands, etc.
- See if kids can catch on + start following you
- Encourage any kids who are following you
- Invite the rest of the group to follow your lead
- If it works better for your group, direct different kids to be leaders every minute or so

What You Say:

“I love all the ways you were creative on how you moved! *[Transition]* In Large Group today, we will hear how some close family members treated each other with kindness.

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

A Verse-Atile Adventure

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; Brown Construction Paper; Permanent Marker; Flashlight; Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible (or partner up if you don't have enough)
- Together, look up Colossians 3:12 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:
 - **Finding Verses w/ Kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Colossians at the top of the page as you say "Colossians" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 12; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*
 - **Finding Verses w/ 1st 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." You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C-O. 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 12 in chapter 3*

- Write a few words from the Memory Verse on each sheet of construction paper
- Lay the pieces down on the floor in verse order and secure with tape in order to make a path, winding around your group space
- Instruct the kids to line up at the start of the path
- Give the first kid in line the flashlight
- Instruct the kid to turn on the flashlight
- Direct the kid to use the flashlight to “light their path” and step on each piece of construction paper while saying that part of the verse out loud
 - Prompt kids to repeat after you, as needed
- Once the kid has reached the end of the path, instruct the kid to return to the line, and give the flashlight to the next kid in line
- Continue until all the kids have navigated the path with the flashlight
- Offer variety by alternating different ways kids can navigate the path (walking, hopping, balancing on one foot, etc.)

What You Say:

“It’s so good to know God’s Word can always be with us. In another verse found in Psalm 119:105, it tells us that God’s Word is ‘a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me’ (NIrV).

“We used a flashlight to show us the words of the verse on our ‘path,’ but God’s Word lights our path in our lives! Colossians 3:12 gives us so many good reminders of how to live our lives so others can benefit from our kindness and most importantly, from seeing God at work through us! Let’s remember this verse so it can ‘light the way’ and remind us how to act so people can see Jesus’ love through us and so they can know that they matter!”

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 and remember to join the circle yourself
- Remind kids we can ask God to help us remember to be kind and especially to **be kind to the people closest to you**
- Invite any kids who would like to pray, to pray for the kid next to them
- Demonstrate the prayer by saying:
 - “God, please help me to be kind to the people closest to me and thank You for _____, sitting on my right. Please help _____ to be kind to the people they are closest to.”
- Instruct the kids to continue the prayer around the circle
- If anyone doesn’t want to pray out loud, be sure to jump in and pray for the kid they would have been praying for
- When the prayer comes back to you, close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for our wonderful friends in group. Please help us be kind to the people we are closest to like the friends, siblings, parents, teachers, coaches, and caregivers in our lives. Please help the adults in our lives to be great examples of how to show kindness to the people they are close to as well. Please show us ways to be kind this week, like Jesus. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share what today’s Bottom Line was..