



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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

Reflect: an activity that creates spaces for personal understanding + application

What You Need: Sticky Notes; Writing Utensil

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Invite kids to think of a time they showed kindness to someone who is different from them
- To get kids thinking, ask:
 - Have you ever invited someone who look or acted differently than you to join you on the playground or at the lunch table?
 - Have you ever listened to someone tell a story even if they looked different than you or sounded different than you?
 - Have you ever spent time with someone whose body or brain seemed to work differently than yours?
- Give each kid a sticky note and a writing utensil
- Invite them to draw a way they showed kindness to someone who was different
- Invite kids to share their drawing with the group
- After kids have shared, instruct them to add their sticky note somewhere on the tree located next to your small group space

What You Say:

“We have created quite a beautiful Kindness Tree! These colors show that you are all working hard to be kind! Keep showing other people how much Jesus loves them by sharing kindness with them! *[Transition]* **“Today, we’ll hear about a guy who really needed kindness and how someone very unexpected was the one to 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

Bible Story Adventures

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Bible Story Adventures” Activity Pages; “Bible Character Statements” Activity Page; Tape

What You Do:

- Use the tape to post the story character pictures from the “Bible Story Adventures” Activity Page around your small group space on the wall
- One by one, as you tape the character pictures, review who each person is in the story
 - The Samaritan was the man who was helpful in the story. He bandaged up the injured traveler, took the man to an inn, and saw that the injured man was taken care of. Jewish people, like the injured man, did not like the Samaritans
 - The priest was one of the Jewish men who walked right by the injured traveler. He was an important religious leader

- The Levite was another Jewish man who walked right by the injured traveler. He was also a religious leader
- The traveler was a Jewish man who was injured by robbers and needed help
- Jesus is the Savior of the world who is always kind and wants us to be kind like he is to everyone – even people who are different than us
- The robbers were the men on the road who hurt the Jewish man and took his belongings
- Instruct the kids to gather in the center of the space
- One at a time, read one of the statements from the “Bible Character Statements” Activity Page
- Instruct the kids to move to the picture of the person who could be saying or thinking that statement
 - Let kids know some statements might have more than one correct answer
- Direct the kids to return to the center of the room after each statement

What You Say:

*“Great job thinking about the different people in the story we heard today. Some of them were good at sharing kindness—some were not! One man in the story was a great reminder to us all to **be kind to people who are different from you.** Which person in Jesus’ story do you want to be like? Why? (Pause for responses.)*

“In Jesus’ story, the Samaritan helped the man in need even though there was nothing in it for him. It’s so important for us to show kindness to everyone—even when they are different from us. Kindness is an amazing way to help others see Jesus!”

***[Make It Personal]** (Share an example of a time you chose to show kindness to someone who is different from you.)*

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
- Join the circle yourself!
- Invite the kids to think of one of their neighbors
- Remind a neighbor isn't just someone who lives next door or down the street
 - A neighbor is anyone who is in need of help or being shown kindness
- Model for the students how to pray for their neighbors
 - Think of a real-life situation that is appropriate to share or refer to the one you shared earlier
 - Demonstrate first by thanking God for your neighbor, then asking God to help you show them kindness
 - Pray something like: “God, thank you for my neighbor _____. Please help me to show them kindness by _____.”
 - Invite the kids who would like to pray, to pray a prayer similar to yours
 - Be sure the kids know they can pass if preferred
- After the group has prayed, close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

*“Dear God, thank You that You are kind. Please help us show Your kindness, gentleness, patience, and tenderness to all of our neighbors today, tomorrow, and every day! Please help us 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, invite the kids to share the bottom line from today.