



WEEK TWO – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *When is it hard 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.

Key Question: When is it hard to be kind? If kindness is something we know should be a part of our lives, why do we find it difficult to show kindness to others? Often we find it’s easier to show kindness to strangers than those who are closest to us. We hope that through this question and the discussion that will follow, preteens will start to understand how they can show kindness to the people they love.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Craft sticks; dice; “Campfire Kindle” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Ask kids what they need to build a campfire (sticks, branches, fire source)
- Divide your group into three smaller groups
- Instruct each group to sit in a circle
- Spread a pile of craft sticks (or straw pieces 10 per kid) in the center of each group
- Give each group a die + a “Campfire Kindle” Activity Page
- Challenge kids to see who can be the first kid in their group to collect 10 pieces of firewood, by rolling the die and doing the action below depending on what they roll
 - Roll a 1: Gather one stick from the pile
 - Roll a 2: Gather two sticks from the pile
 - Roll a 3: Skip your turn
 - Roll a 4: Give one of your sticks to the kid with least amount
 - Roll a 5: Take one stick from the kid on your left
 - Roll a 6: Gather one stick from the pile and give it to the kid on your right
- Kids can also reference the “Campfire Kindle” Activity Page if they help remembering the actions

What You Say:

“It’d take more than a few twigs to build a campfire large enough to roast marshmallows or cook hot dogs, but 10 craft sticks would be a good start!”

Congratulations to all our stick gatherers. [Transition] In today's Bible story, we'll meet a woman who was gathering something more important than sticks or tree branches. She was gathering grain for food. Let's go find out how someone showed her such great kindness that it completely changed her life."

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

Take a Snapshot

[Live For God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Craft sticks, markers, sandwich bags

What You Do:

- Set out the craft sticks and permanent markers
- Ask kids to think of 1-5 people they feel closest to and would choose to be with on a camping trip
- Instruct the kids to use the marker to write names of one friend or family member on each stick (one name per stick)

- One by one, invite the kids to “introduce” the people they named by going through their sticks and telling a little bit about each person
- Ask:
 - Why did you choose those five people over others?
 - What are some kind things you have done for those people?
 - How have these people shown kindness to you?
 - If you had to spend a rainy day cramped inside of a tent with those people, what would kindness look like? When might it be hard to be kind?
 - Why is it sometimes a lot harder to be kind to the people we see all the time and easier to be kind to strangers or people we don’t know very well?
- ***[Make It Personal] Join kids in this activity by naming some of the people you feel closest to. Share how you show kindness to them***
- Give each kid a sealable sandwich bag
- Instruct the kids to place their craft sticks in the bag
- Direct the kids to use the marker to write their name on the outside of the bag
- Collect the bags to redistribute later in prayer time

Discussion Questions

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Describe the kind of relationship you want to have with your family. How might the kindness you show today impact that?
 - BE KIND. If everyone in the world followed this one rule, how would it change the things that happen around us?

- What are things you can do to remember to show kindness to family and friends?
- What is it hard to be kind?
- When you're in a bad mood and everything is just annoying, what can you do to successfully be kind in that situation?

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bags of craft sticks from “Take a Snapshot”

What You Do:

- Give each kid their bag of craft sticks from the earlier activity
- Invite kids to hold their craft sticks one at a time and ask God for help with something specifically related to being kind to that close family member or friend when it's not easy for them to do so
- If your group feels comfortable, divide your kids into groups of two or three
- Invite each group to pray for one another
- Once finished, close out your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for showing us how to love our family and friends with kindness in ways that please You. Teach us how to show others they are valuable through the words we use and the way we act toward them. Help us to choose to be kind to our families and friends by treating them the way we want to be treated. We love You. Amen.”