



WEEK THREE – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *One More Time | Matthew 5:41*

Key Question: *When have you been surprised by kindness?*

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 have you been surprised by kindness? We hear a lot about random acts of kindness, and it’s true; often the best kindness is the kind that feels completely random. We pray that this question will help preteens discover how they feel when someone surprises them with kindness. And when that happens, we hope to guide them to figure out the unexpected, surprising ways they can show kindness to the people in their life.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: “Campergory” Activity Pages; pens; timer

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Divide your group into two teams
- Give each team three of the lists from the “Campergory” Activity Page and a pen
- Instruct each team to neatly fill in the blanks with words related to the “campergory” (category) listed at the top
- Direct the teams to be quiet so the other team won’t hear the words they are choosing
- Help as needed if the kids can’t come up with enough words
- Collect the “Campergory” lists but keep each team’s lists separate
- Explain that teams will take turns guessing items on one of the lists prepared by the other team
- Set the timer for two minutes (adjust the time if needed)
- Choose one of the lists from one of the teams
- Read the topic title out loud to the team that will be guessing
- Instruct the team that will be guessing to choose one kid to be the clue giver
- Hand the list and a pen to the clue giver
- Instruct the clue giver to give clues to the rest of their team about one of the items on the list
- Share that the kid can only use four words to describe one of the things on the list – without gesturing or making sound effects
- Instruct the clue giver to put a check in the box next to each correctly guessed word

- After time is up, count and see how many words the team guessed
- Repeat with the second team, using one of the lists from the “Campergory” Activity Page prepared by the other team
- After both teams have played one round, challenge them to play again with new lists; but, this time instruct them to only give ONE-word clues with no gestures or related sounds
- Play a final round using the third list from the “Campergory” Activity Page
- In this round, instruct the teams not to use ANY words as clues – only gestures or sounds
- After both teams have played, tally up the total of words correctly guess in each round to declare the “Campergory Champion”

What You Say:

“This game was designed to get harder with each round. It stretched and challenged you a little more each time. You guys did well! Great job! [Transition] Sometimes kindness can feel like a challenge too. Situations and the people we’re around can stretch us to be kinder than we feel we need to be. When showing kindness feels like a long hike up a steep mountain, God wants to help us make it to the top. Let’s go to Large Group and find out more.”

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

Large Group Overview: For Week Three, we turn to **Matthew 5:41**. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught, “Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with them.” To us, that might sound strange, but to those listening—not so much. Jesus’ listeners knew that a Roman soldier could force them to carry their pack for a full mile. Jesus said to go two! And in doing so, Jesus reminded His followers about the importance of going above and beyond in the way they chose to respond to others.

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

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:
 - When you choose to be kinder than what is expected, what does that communicate to someone?
 - Would you say that having basic manners such as saying “please” or letting someone go ahead of you in line is going the extra mile? Why or why not?
 - If you go out of your way to be kind but expect something in return, is it still going above and beyond? Why or why not?
 - How could you surprise someone this week by going out of your way to be kind? What if it was someone who was hard to get along with or someone you don’t normally hang out with? In what ways might your act of kindness change things for the better?

Verses To Take With You

[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; paper; “Poison Ivy” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible

- Instruct the kids to look up and read Ephesians 4:32, using the Bible Navigation Tips below
 - **Finding Verses w/ 4th + 5th Graders:** *Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. (New) If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book of Ephesians. Once they find Ephesians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find chapter 4. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse, 32, within the chapter they've already found.*
- Lead the kids to say the verse together out loud a few times
- Ask:
 - What examples of going the extra mile do you find in this verse?
 - In what ways is forgiving an act of going the extra mile?
 - When we go out of our way to be kind to someone but they don't seem to notice or return the kindness, how can this verse encourage us to continue being kinder than we need to be?
- Explain why forgiveness is an act of kindness
- Give each kid a sheet of paper
- Show kids the “Poison Ivy” Activity Page
 - If needed, explain what poison ivy is and why hikers would want to know what it looks like to avoid touching it
- Teach kids the “leaves of three, let it be” saying for identifying and avoiding poison ivy
- Ask: “Have you ever had rash or reaction from poison ivy? If so, what was it like?”
- After kids have a good look at the picture, set the drawing from the “Poison Ivy” activity page aside
- Challenge each kid to tear their paper to the exact size and shape of poison ivy leaves
- When finished, compare them with the original and choose a winner
- Ask:
 - What are some ways Jesus went above and beyond for us?
 - How can we imitate Jesus' example?

- Direct the kids to tear off the smallest piece they can from the edge of their “poison ivy” (paper)
- Place the scraps together, compare the pieces, and choose a winner with the smallest piece
- Ask:
 - What are some small, everyday acts of kindness that a Jesus follower would do?
 - What are some ways a kid can go above and beyond in kindness?
- Close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for choosing to be kinder than You had to be by sending Your only Son, Jesus. This week, when we’re tempted to ignore a chance to be kind, help us remember how much You love us, then help us go the extra mile and choose to do more than we need to. Help us show our love for You by showing love to those around us even when they don’t treat us the way we think they should. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”