



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Good Samaritan / Luke 10:25-37*

Key Question: *How can you care for 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.

Key Question: How can you care for people who are different from you? There are times when we face people who we feel don’t deserve our kindness. Most likely, preteens could list out the people who they don’t get along with or people who are different from them. They may even be able to make excuses as to why those people don’t deserve their kindness.

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: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive with a high five or first bump
- Direct the kids to get in pairs
- Instruct the pairs to talk together for a couple of minutes to discover one thing they have in common with each other and one thing that is different about them
 - For Example: their age, activities they enjoy or don't enjoy doing, camping experiences, favorite food, sport, animal or other category of favorites, etc.
- After a few minutes, direct the pairs to join with another pair and discover what they have in common with all four kids as well as something they don't have in common
- After a few minutes, bring everyone together
- Instruct all the kids to talk to learn something they all have in common and something unique about each person
- Invite the kids to share something new they learned about others in the group that they didn't know

What You Say:

“It only takes a few minutes to find something that’s different about yourself and someone else. But there were also things you had in common. [Transition] Today we’ll hear about someone who didn’t let their differences with someone else get in the way of showing kindness. Let’s head to Large Group to see what being kind and being different should look like.”

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

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:
 - Why might showing kindness to someone feel awkward or make you uncomfortable?
 - In what area of your life do you sometimes feel like you’re different from others?
 - What is one act of kindness you’d hope someone might show you? Describe how that would make you feel.
 - How might understanding what it feels like to be treated unkindly, help you show kindness? How might it hold you back from being kind?
 - Name some ways that kindness might bring people together.

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: “Compass” Activity Page; yarn

What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a set of three prepared cards from the “Compass” Activity Page containing each of the three previous week’s verses
- Give each kid a length of yarn
- Instruct the kids to loop the yarn through the holes in the cards then tie them off
- Ask kids if they know why a compass is important for hikers (tool to keep them on track to avoid going in the wrong direction)
- Read through each of the verses on the “Compass” Activity Page cards
- Invite the kids to try to recite any verses from memory if they can
- Ask:
 - In what ways are verses from the Bible like a compass?
 - What directions do you find in these verses that help keep you on track when it comes to kindness?
- Invite kids to share situations when Luke 6:31, Ephesians 4:31 or Colossians 3:12 would point them in the direction of a kind response
 - If needed, prompt ideas by asking kids to finish the following sentence: “I need to remember this verse when...”
 - To encourage more specific scenarios, interject places kids go such as school, with friends, at home, in the car, etc. to help them to think of times when showing kindness might be touch
- Remind kids to take their “Compass” cards home to keep them pointed in the direction of kindness

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray To God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Compass” cards; pen

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen
- Make sure each kid has their set of “Compass” cards from the previous activity
- Invite the kids to pray for some of the situations they shared earlier as they discussed when Colossians 3:12, Luke 6:31 and Ephesians 4:32 would give helpful direction for responding in kindness
- Using the cards as a guide, encourage kids to write a short prayer on the back of one of their “Compass” cards to help them to remember to be kind
 - For Example:
 - God, help me to remember that kindness is a choice. Remind me as I get dressed each day to “put on” kindness and go above and beyond what I think I should do (Colossians 3:12)
 - God, You are so kind to me. Help me show kindness and forgiveness to others the way You have shown it to me. (Ephesians 4:32)
 - God, help me to do and say the things I want others to do and say to me (Luke 6:31)
- Allow kids a few minutes to pray
- Encourage those who are willing to pray aloud
- Close your group time in prayer

What You Say:

“Dear God, we know that You never ask us to do something that is impossible for us to do, but sometimes being kind feels close to impossible. Help us to look beyond the differences and struggles we have with others and see each person as valuable and loved by You. Thank You for so many examples of kindness that You

have shown us in Jesus. Give us what we need to treat others the way we want to be treated. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”