



WEEK
ONE
FEBRUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



Before kids arrive, take some time to quietly talk with God about your time with your kids today in Small Group. Pray that you would be able to help them connect kindness with the way that God is calling those who love Him to live, that it should be a "normal" way of treating others for Jesus-followers.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Humble and Kind
God Was Kind to Us
Ephesians 4:32

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What does kindness look like?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be kind to others because God is kind to you.

MONTHLY 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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Kindness—Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: bottles partially filled with water

WHAT YOU DO:

- Challenge kids to flip the partially-filled water bottle so that it lands upright on a hard, flat surface. To flip the bottle:
 - Instruct kids to grab the neck of the bottle below the cap.
 - Guide kids to flick their wrist upwards and to let go of the bottle when their wrist is pointing upwards.
 - The bottle will spin in the air.
 - The goal is to get the bottle to land upright.
 - Give kids time to practice.
- To make it competitive, offer the following challenges:
 - How many times can kids get the bottle to land upright in a minute?
 - Can kids flip the bottle using their non-dominant hand?
 - How many successful flips can kids get in a row?
- Troubleshooting tips:
 - If no one can successfully get the bottle to land, try increasing/decreasing the amount of water in the bottle. Ideally, the bottle should be 1/4 - 1/3 full of water.
 - Practice letting go of the bottle sooner or later.
- It's highly likely your kids will already be well-practiced in flipping water bottles.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, dice, masking tape, a coin

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up and read Ephesians 4:31-32.
- To review, consider asking:
 - What does this verse say about kindness? What does kindness look like?
 - Is it easy or hard to be kind if you are holding on to a grudge or holding onto hard feelings? Why?
 - Why is forgiving someone a way to show kindness? How could forgiving someone show them they are valuable to you and to God?
 - What are some ways Jesus showed kindness? What did He do to show people they were valuable? (*He forgave people, didn't fight, was humble, fed people, helped people when they were sick, listened to people, encouraged people, etc.*)
- Instruct kids to get their dice from the Get Your Head in the Game activity.
- Use the masking tape to create a starting line at one end of the environment.
- Line kids up on the starting line.
- Create a finish line at the opposite end of the environment.
- Divide the group into two teams and assign one team "Heads" and one team "Tails."
- Flip a coin to determine what team gets to go first and then read a scenario from the list below.
- Guide teams to take turns (starting with the team that won the coin toss) coming up with ways someone could show kindness in the situation you just read about.
- Remind kids to think of ways Jesus showed kindness and challenge them to consider how they might reflect Jesus' kindness in the given scenario.
- Let teams keep taking turns sharing different ways to show kindness until they run out of ideas.
 - As kids run out of ideas, they'll start to get more and more "creative" with what they come up with. You are the judge of whether or not some of the later ideas count.
- For each example a team gives, instruct everyone on the team to roll their dice and to each take the number of steps shown on their dice towards the finish line.
- The first team to get all of their players to the finish line wins.
- Scenarios are:
 - Your friend had another bad day at school. Your first response is to stay away until they are in a better mood, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?

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(BIBLE STORY EXTENSION, CONTINUED)

- Your brother spilled chocolate milk all over your homework assignment. Your first response is to yell at him, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- A new kid moved into your neighborhood. You don't know what to say to them, and you feel awkward because you don't know them, so your first response is to avoid them. But what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- You are really mad at your friend. Your first response is to give them the silent treatment, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- Two of your friends are in a fight. Your first response is to pick sides, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- Your locker at school is next to a kid who annoys you. Your first response is to ignore them, but what would it look like to flip your response and show kindness first?
- Your mom was about to drive you to your friend's house when a neighbor stopped by unexpectedly. They have been talking forever, and you are ready to go. Your first response is to sigh heavily and give your mom a look that says, "LET'S GO NOW!" But what would it look like to flip your first response to show kindness first?
- Your brother is nervous about the first day of kindergarten. Your first response is to tease him about being nervous and tell him that kindergarten is no big deal, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first? *(This is an opportunity to revisit the Memory Verse from January, Ephesians 4:29 and review what it looks like to show kindness by encouraging others according to their needs)*



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Would you rather be described as being nice or kind? Why?
- What's something kind someone did for you lately?
- What's something kind you did for someone else lately?
- Often our first response isn't always to show kindness. What can you do to remind yourself to respond with kindness first?
- Why is kindness important? How do you feel when someone is kind to you versus when someone is unkind to you?
- God showed us kindness by sending Jesus. What are some ways Jesus showed others they were valuable? How was Jesus kind to others? (*forgave people, didn't fight, was humble, fed people, helped people when they were sick, listened to people, encouraged people, etc.*)

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Six pennies

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather kids in a circle and instruct them to sit an arm's length from each other.
- Line up six pennies on a smooth surface (table, clipboard or white board).
- Make sure the pennies are touching.
- Move the end penny two inches from the line and slide it towards the row of pennies, hitting the penny on one end of the row.
- Ask kids what they observed. (*The penny at the end of the row moved. A chain reaction occurred – the movement of one penny resulted in the movement of another penny*)
- Repeat the activity again; however, before you slide the penny toward the row, say, "God took the first step moving towards us and showing kindness to us."
- After the opposite penny moves, say, "So we should move toward others and show kindness."
- Ask:
 - What are some ways God has been kind to us?
 - Because God is kind to us, how can we show kindness to others?
- Close in prayer thanking God for His kindness towards us and asking for His direction to show kindness to others.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, You are so kind to us! Thank You for dearly loving us, for forgiving us, for providing for us, for being patient with us (*be sure to include the answers kids gave to ways God has been kind*). Just like we put on our clothes each day, God, help us to put on kindness. God, help us to show others by the way we treat them that they are valuable to us and more importantly they are valuable to You. Amen!

