

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION 15 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for your few as their families continue to navigate a difficult situation. Pray especially for kids who are still spending the majority of their time with their immediate family. Ask God to give everyone the patience and grace to continue being kind to those they see most often. Pray that kids would not take their close family and friend

relationships for granted. Ask God to give them ideas for how they can make sure those people know they are valuable.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Family Ties Ruth and Boaz Ruth

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be kind to your family and friends.

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, NIrV

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.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Mind Maps" Activity Page, paper, pencils, and hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet kids by name and with an air-five or other salute.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give each kid a "Mind Map" page and a pencil.
- Instruct them to write their name in the center box.
- Direct kids to write the names of friends and family in the other boxes. They should write the people they live within the boxes closest to their own name followed by close friends and other relatives then people considered "acquaintances."
- As the kids fill out their map, ask the following questions about the people on their maps.
 - Who on your map are you closest to?
 - What do you like/love best about these people?



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MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



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EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Greet the kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give the kids a series of challenges to rate from one to five—one as the easiest and five the hardest.
- Kids can attempt these challenges too, to see if their ratings are accurate.

Challenges:

- Say the alphabet in one breath
- Make a taco with your tongue
- Stand on one foot for 30 seconds
- Wink both of your eyes
- Pat your head and rub your tummy at the same time
- Wiggle your nose
- Spell your first and last name backwards in 20 seconds
- Say "Red leather, yellow leather" ten times fast
- Recite this month's Life App and definition from memory
- Recite this month's memory verse from memory



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SWEET KINDNESS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Skittles[®] or other colored small objects

WHAT YOU NEED: Skittles[®] or other colored small objects and bowl

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out the bowl of candy or objects.
- Invite kids to take a few candies but NOT eat them yet.
- If using a non-food item, ask kids to take a small handful.
- Go around the circle and ask kids to share based on the colors of their items.
 Red: Share one way you have been kind to your brother, sister, or cousin lately, or that you could be kind to them in the future.
 - Orange: Share one way that your brother, sister, cousin has been kind to you.
 - Yellow: Share one kind thing a friend has done for you.
 - Green: Share one kind thing you have done for a friend.
 - Purple: Share one kind thing that has happened in your school, sports team, activity club, or small group at church.
- After kids have shared, tell them they can eat their candy or put the nonfood items back in the bowl.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was some tasty sharing! I loved hearing how you've seen kindness in your lives and how you've been kind to others.

"All these people we talked about are very close to us—not strangers or people who live far across the world. Why is it sometimes harder to **be kind to your family and friends** than to people you don't know? (Allow for a couple responses.) It's harder to be kind to the people who are closest to us. That's because a lot of times, we take our family for granted. But God wants you to **be kind to your family and friends** because you live with them.

"Last year, a lot of us were quarantined at home with our family during the pandemic. It was hard to stay kind and show them they were valuable when we were stuck together. How were you kind then? How were others in your family kind to you?" (*Invite responses.*)

[Make It Personal] (Share a time from the recent past when you were especially kind to your family or they were kind to you.)

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Why is it so hard to be kind to the people we live with?
- What can you do when you've been unkind to your family?
- What is the kindest thing you can think of to do for each member of your family?



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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

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FAST ACTION VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, paper, and marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask a kid to look up Colossians 3:12 in the Bible.
- Invite a different kid to read the verse out loud to the

group.

- Divide your group into six teams.
- In large block letters, write one phrase from the verse per page.
- Verse phrases for NIrV:
 - 1. You are God's chosen people.
 - 2. You are holy and dearly loved.
 - 3. So put on tender mercy and kindness
 - 4. as if they were your clothes.
 - 5. Don't be proud.
 - 6. Be gentle and patient. Colossians 3:12
- Give each team a memory verse phrase page.
- Call out an action for the entire group to perform as each group says their phrase in verse order.
- Repeat the verse several times and choose a different action each time you repeat it.
- To keep interest high, after saying the verse two or three times, change the action in the middle of the verse.
- Some suggested actions are:
 - Clap
 - Snap
 - Jump in place
 - March
 - Jog in place
 - Jumping jacks
 - High knees
 - Squats

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Whew, let's sit down! Raise your hand if you're tired after all of that. I'm tired from just watching you. I love our memory verse this month. Ruth and Boaz wore kindness like clothes all throughout today's Bible story. They were kind to their family—even when it was very hard.

"Think about your relationships with your siblings or friends or parents. Would they describe you as kind? If not, what could you do to change that this week? How can you put on kindness like your clothes and treat the people closest to you the way you would want to be treated? Remember, you don't have to do it alone. Ask God to help you **be kind to your family and friends** even when it's hard!"



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

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KINDNESS PAPER CHAIN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY] WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper strips, pencils, and tape or stapler

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two or three paper strips and a pencil.
- Encourage the kids to write down a way they could show kindness to a friend or family member this week—one example per strip.
- Let each kid read what they wrote.
- Use the tape or stapler to connect each paper strip to create a kindness paper chain.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You came up with some great ideas! This week, I want you to go out of your way to be kind to your family and friends. Think about Ruth and Boaz and how kind they were—even when it wasn't easy. When you find yourself getting annoyed or frustrated or impatient with your mom or sister or best friend, stop and think, 'How can I choose kindness right now?' Maybe that will lead you to do exactly what you wrote on your paper strip. Maybe choosing kindness will be something completely different that you haven't thought about, yet. But you can ask God to help you show your family and friends how valuable they are and to **be kind to your family and friends**."

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Mind Map" Activity Pages from "Early Arriver" and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the mind maps that kids made in "Early Arriver."
- Ask the kids to look at the names on their maps and think about one person who they could be kind to this week.
- Give the kids a few minutes to plan what they want to do and write it out on the back of the map. Help younger kids, if necessary, or they can draw a picture.
- Go around the circle and have each kid hold up their map as you say, "[Kid's name] remember to **be kind to your family and friends** this week."
- After you've done this with each kid, close in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us our families and our friends. We are so grateful for the people in our lives who love us. Even though it is sometimes hard to do, please help us to **be kind to our family and friends.** Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure kids take home their "Mind Maps" with their plans on the back. Ask parents to help them carry out these acts of kindness during the week.

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