



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Show Me the Way**  
The Kindness of Jesus  
Matthew 8:1-4,  
Matthew 19:13-15,  
Matthew 9:10-13

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### Scripture

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus showed us how to be kind.

### BIBLE STORY

The Kindness of Jesus  
Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 19:13-15,  
Matthew 9:10-13

### 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**

### BIBLE STORY

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Storyteller
- Volunteers:
  - Worship Leader or other helper (male)
  - Several kids
  - Small Group Leader (male)
- Bible
- Table with plastic tablecloth
- Instant camera (such as a Polaroid®), with film
- Large piece of foam board, with a square cut out of the middle using a precision craft knife so that it looks like the frame of an instant picture (Polaroid®-style)
- Two brackets attached to the back of the foam board "picture frame" so that it stands up straight; these could be simple plastic or wood L brackets (meant for shelves), or simple bookend(s).
- Lots of small bandages to put all over the first volunteer in the story
- A fancy robe for the leader playing Matthew to wear

### MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

### BASIC TRUTH

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

### Host

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host



# GEAR UP

AN ADVENTURE IN KINDNESS



WEEK  
**ONE**  
FEBRUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Jesus showed us how to be kind.

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## MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

## BASIC TRUTH

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

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

Host enters.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hi, everybody! I'm so glad you're here! If you're ready to 'gear up' for an adventure with us, then pump your fist in the air and give me a big, 'Let's goooo!' Ready? One . . . two . . . three!"

**HOST AND CHILDREN:** "Let's goooo!"

**HOST:** "Excellent! This month, we're finding out what it means to show kindness.

**SLIDE: VIRTUE**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE**

**"Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME**

"I know it feels so good when someone is kind to me! It's important that we 'gear up' and learn how to be kind, so that we're always ready to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.** We know that God is always there to help us—and we can see exactly what kindness looks like when we see how Jesus treated people.

"Now, I've got a question for you. How many of you have ever gone camping? Raise your hand. *(Pause for response.)* And how many of you have ever gone on a hike? *(Pause for response.)* That's great! If you've spent time outside, you probably know that you have to 'gear up' with some special gear—like a tent, a camp stove, and those cool sticks to roast your marshmallows. I just love spending time in the great outdoors, don't you?"



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"We've got some pictures that we'll put on the screen of some things you might see when you're out in nature. But the pictures won't show up all at once. Instead, it'll be like a puzzle with one piece added at a time. When you think you know what the picture is, shout it out!

"Okay, let's go!

**AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL BLUEGRASS MUSIC**

**SLIDES: GAME IMAGES 1A-J (PINE CONE)**

*Advance the slides, one at a time, so that the image gradually appears. Listen for the correct answer. When someone guesses the answer, celebrate and show the completed image on the screen before you move on to the next one.*

**SLIDES: GAME IMAGES 2A-J (BIRD)**

**SLIDES: GAME IMAGES 3A-J (SNAKE)**

**SLIDES: GAME IMAGES 4A-J (TENT)**

**SLIDES: GAME IMAGES 5A-J (WATERFALL)**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

"That was so fun! You did a great job of guessing those pictures. I can't believe we got them all! Give a friend a high-five and get on your feet. Let's get ready to sing, dance, and worship God together."



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## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "I can't wait to worship God with all of you today! Before we get started, let's watch this.

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE):** [LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL](#)

"We have a new song to sing today. It's called 'Your Love.' God's kindness makes us feel SO loved . . . and that makes us want to show love and kindness to others. Let's thank God for being so kind to us. Sing along as you catch on.

**AUDIO:** ["YOUR LOVE" / TRACK 7 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU](#)

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** ["YOUR LOVE" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)

"Yes—God's love is so good! As David prayed in Psalm 86:15: *'Lord, you are a God who is tender and kind. You are gracious. You are slow to get angry. You are faithful and full of love.'* (NirV) I can't help but want to worship when I think about how amazing God's love is. Let's lift our voices and praise God now. Sing this with me."

**AUDIO:** ["HOW AMAZING" / TRACK 6 FROM EVERYTHING TO ME](#)

**OPTIONAL VIDEO:** ["HOW AMAZING" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO](#)



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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, friends! This month we’re talking about kindness. Did you know that kindness is important to God? We know that kindness is important to God because we see it throughout God’s story. (*Hold up Bible.*)

“Of course, Jesus gave us the very best example of kindness. He showed us what it means to love God and love others with the way He lived His life, and the way He treated people. Today, we’ll take a look at three different times when Jesus showed kindness.

“Before we get started, though, I’m just curious—have you ever seen a picture taken with one of these instant cameras? It’s pretty cool because the picture prints out instantly, and it even has its own built-in frame. Here, let me show you!

AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND

*Take a picture of the kids with the instant camera. Give it time for the picture to appear. (Ad lib about how it always takes a little time.) Then hold up the picture so everyone can see.*

“That’s a great picture!

*Set down the picture.*

“We’ll take a look at some other pictures—kind of like this one—that will help us see how Jesus showed kindness.

*Set up the Polaroid®-style foam board “frame” on the stage floor. This foam board should have L-brackets or bookends attached to the back so that it stands up straight.*

### JESUS HEALS

**STORYTELLER:** “One day, Jesus was teaching a crowd of people on a mountainside. When Jesus came down the mountain, there was a man who came up to Jesus and fell down at His feet. This man had a skin disease.

*Worship Leader (or other helper) with bandages enters and gets in place behind the picture frame. He kneels, clasps his hands like he’s begging, and freezes in place.*

AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND

“The man said to Jesus:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:2 (NirV) and read.*

“Lord, if you are willing to make me ‘clean,’ you can do it.” (NirV)



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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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"This man was desperate to be healed. In those days, if you had a skin disease, you had to stay away from everyone—even your own family. People were afraid they would get the skin disease just by being close to you. But when the man asked Jesus to heal him, Jesus didn't send him away.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 8:3 (NirV) and read.*

*Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," he said. "Be 'clean!'" Right away the man was healed of his skin disease. (NirV)*

"Right then and there, the man was healed!

*Worship Leader/helper stands up joyfully and starts taking off the bandages as he exits the stage.*

"Because of the kindness of Jesus, this man could now go back home and be with his family and friends!"

## WELCOMING THE CHILDREN

**STORYTELLER:** "What do you say we look at another time when Jesus showed kindness?"

"Jesus often spent time with people who were overlooked or considered unimportant back then . . . like children. Quick—let me have a few of you come up here and get in the frame. Raise your hand if you want to do it.

*Choose a few kids to come up and get in place behind the frame.*

*(To the kids)* "Okay, now freeze!"

### AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND

*(To audience)* "During this time in history, sadly, people didn't really think of kids as being as important as adults. In fact, when some families brought their kids to see Jesus, His disciples stepped in to stop them. The disciples thought Jesus was way too important to spend His time with children. But listen to what Jesus had to say about that!

*Open the Bible to Matthew 19:14 (NirV) and read.*

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." (NirV)*

"Jesus loved children. He was kind to them! He took the time to bless them. Jesus showed everyone how valuable ALL people are—even those who might normally get overlooked.

*(To the kids)* "Thanks for helping, friends! You can unfreeze and go back to your seats."

*Dismiss the kid volunteers to their seats.*

## FRIEND OF SINNERS

**STORYTELLER:** "Let's look at one more event from Jesus' life that shows us how kind He was to others.

*Pick up the foam board picture frame and set it on the tabletop.*



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STORY

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GROUPS

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"There was a man named Matthew who was a tax collector. Who would like to play Matthew?"

*Choose an adult leader to come up onto the stage. Give him a fancy robe to wear, and guide him to stand behind the picture frame and cross his arms.*

*(To the leader) "Perfect. Annnnnnd freeze.*

**AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND**

*(To audience) "Back then, tax collectors worked for the Romans, who were the enemy. They took money from their own people to give to the Roman government and then took extra to pay themselves—making themselves rich by taking from their own community! As you can imagine, most people wouldn't want anything to do with a tax collector like Matthew.*

"One day, Jesus stopped at Matthew's tax collector booth and said, 'Follow Me.' Matthew must have been shocked!"

*Whisper to the leader to make the "Home Alone face" and freeze.*

**AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND**

"But he got up and followed Jesus. He was so happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend!"

*Whisper to the leader to smile, do two thumbs-up, and freeze.*

**AUDIO: CAMERA SOUND**

"Matthew even invited Jesus to dinner, along with some other tax collectors and other people who were looked down on for their wrong choices. The religious leaders were shocked by this, and they asked Jesus' disciples why Jesus would eat with tax collectors and people they saw as sinners.

"Jesus heard what the religious leaders had said. He replied:

*Open the Bible to Matthew 9:12-13 (NirV) and read.*

*"Those who are healthy don't need a doctor. Sick people do. . . . I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me." (NirV)*

*(To the leader) "Matthew, I can tell you're so happy that Jesus was kind enough to be your friend! You can head back to your seat."*

*Take the robe from the leader and dismiss him to his seat.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Jesus didn't just spend His time hanging out with people who seemed important or had it all together. Instead, He gave His time and attention and help to people who were ignored, rejected, and overlooked.



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SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

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"As we've seen today, Jesus showed us what true kindness looks like. When we see how Jesus treated people, that makes US want to treat people with kindness too.

"Remember:

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Jesus showed us how to be kind.**

"Let's pray and ask God to help us live like Jesus."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, thank You for the way You love us. Thank You for sending Jesus FOR us. Thank You for the way **Jesus showed us how to be kind.** Please help us to follow His example and to see the people around us who need love and kindness. Show us how we can share Your love with everyone around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."





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## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "I love hearing about the way Jesus treated people! When Jesus showed kindness to people who were ignored and overlooked, He showed everyone what God is like. He made everyone feel valuable and important. He showed what it looks like to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Jesus showed us how to be kind.**

"Of course, the greatest act of kindness that Jesus did for us when He was here on earth was when He died on the cross for us. He paid the price for our sins so we could be forgiven.

"Now we can follow Jesus' example by being kind to others. We should be on the lookout for people who are going through a tough time—people who might NEED some kindness. When you treat them with kindness, you're not just making their day better. You're sharing God's love with them too!

*Share a brief, age-appropriate example of a time when someone showed kindness to you when you needed it most.*

"Our Memory Verse for this month is something that Paul wrote to the Colossian church, which we can find in Colossians 3:12. Listen to this.

**SLIDE: 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. (NIV)*

"Isn't that cool? We can 'put on' kindness like we're putting on clothes! We can 'gear up' and be ready to show love to others. Now let's read the verse together.

**HOST AND KIDS:** *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. (NIV)*

**HOST:** "Awesome job! You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about how **Jesus showed us how to be kind.**"

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**