

WEEK
FOUR

FEBRUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

Communicator Guide

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Don't Let Me Down
Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you care for people who are different from you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be kind to people who are different from 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 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.

WEEK 4

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. But Jesus tells us to love our enemies and show kindness to everyone. Through this question, we hope kids start to discover how they can show kindness to all sorts of people they meet.

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.

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who are different from you. Everyone is deserving of our kindness, whether they're like us or not. We hope kids learn from a young age that God's love is for everyone. We can't hold back kindness from others just because they might look or act different from us. Jesus modeled a love and kindness that included everyone. We should follow His example.

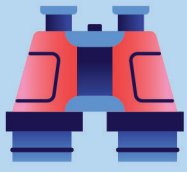
LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Think about all the people in your life who are different than you. Maybe they dance or play sports or participate in theater or have curly hair or ride the bus or eat the hot lunch at school or have different skin than you. It could be people you know or people you've only seen. I want you to think about all those people as I ask the next question.

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you care for people who are different from you?"

"What words can you say or actions can you take to extend the same kindness Jesus was talking about? Going out of your way to show kindness to someone different? If you're having trouble answering this question, don't stress. You will have the chance to talk it over with your Small Groups in just a moment. But before we leave, let's pray and ask God for help extending kindness to everyone we encounter.



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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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, Black History Month, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

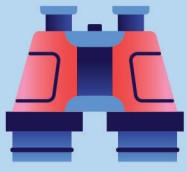
OPENER

HOST: Welcome back! Just by a show of hands, how many of you love being outside? Playing, hiking, swimming, camping? (Pause for responses) Me too. Although, it's not the best time of year to be, you know, hanging out in the woods in a tent.

"Let's take a quick poll. Stand up if you've ever been caught in the rain without raingear. (Pause for response) Yeah, nobody likes to be cold and wet when we weren't expecting it! (Direct kids to sit) Stand up if you've walked outside in the cold or snow without warm clothing. (Pause for response) Being underdressed in the cold is a quick way to make me miserable! (Direct kids to sit) Stand up if you have walked outside when it was hot while wearing warm clothing. (Pause for response) This could be the worst! I've been to outdoor weddings in the summer. Those are the worst.

"I mean, not for the married couple. I'm sure they're happy. But me? Dripping sweat and smelling like a herd of goats? Not a great scene.

"As is customary here at [Name of environment], we like to turn all kinds of things into games. Today's no different—we're turning getting dressed for the outdoors into a ridiculous relay. I call it 'The Outfit Relay!' Let's get some teams!



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SLIDE: "THE OUTFIT RELAY"

Select four guys and four girls to come to the stage. Have the teams line up on opposite sides of the stage.

Two buckets filled with four outfits (hat, jacket, scarf, and gloves) should be placed on the side edges of the stage.

"It's a race to get ready. A clothing competition. A mad dash for a coat and sash! (pause) Okay, I'll stop. The relay is simple. Line up at the bucket of clothes. Whoever is closest to the bucket takes things out, one at a time, and starts handing them overhead down the line.

"At any point, anyone in the line can take the piece of clothing and put it on!

"There are four outfits in there, all mixed up. Each of you, at the end of the relay, should have hat, gloves, scarf, and coat. Keep passing and putting things on until all team members are fully outfitted for the extreme elements!

"Only two rules: each person can only have one item of clothing in their hands at one time, and the gloves have to match.

"Make sense? Any questions? (Pause for response) Great! Let's play 'The Outfit Relay'!

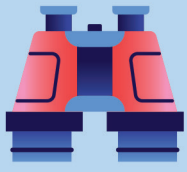
AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Crank the music and play the game. Remind kids to only have one item of clothing at a time, keep the energy up, and cheer on the teams. Once there is a clear winner, celebrate both groups and dismiss them back to their seats.

"Amazing job! Now if only you could get dressed that fast in the mornings before school! Boy that'd be something.

"As we move into one of my favorite times of the day, let's all stand up and get ready to worship God with our voices as we sing out loud!"

Host exits as Worship Leader enters.



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Yes! It’s time to raise our voices and give God our very best praise. This month has been calling us to action—to live out God’s kindness in the way we treat people every day. And that’s what this song is about. It reminds us to MOVE and show God’s love to the people God has put in our lives. Let’s sing it together.

AUDIO: “READY, SET, MOVE!” / TRACK 1 FROM READY, SET, MOVE!

OPTIONAL VIDEO: “READY SET MOVE” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

“God’s ways are not like the ways of this world. God’s ways are higher, deeper, and wider. God is calling us to live differently by living a life of love and kindness. Sing this with me.

AUDIO: “LIVE DIFFERENTLY” / TRACK 2 FROM KIDMIN WORSHIP VOL. 5

OPTIONAL VIDEO: “LIVE DIFFERENTLY” LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

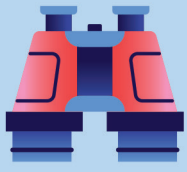
“That’s so good! We can live our lives by choosing to love, give, and serve. Before we continue in worship, check this out.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

“In Psalm 116:5, we read what our God is like: ‘The LORD is holy and kind. Our God is full of tender love.’ (NirV) Holy, kind, and full of love; that is Who God is. This next song is a way for us to thank God for giving us so much love and kindness. Let’s give everything we’ve got. Let’s sing and worship God now.”

AUDIO: “YOUR LOVE” / TRACK 7 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: “YOUR LOVE” LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Welcome, everybody! It's a great day to be in [Name of Environment]! I'm so excited everybody was able to be here today. I'm not always the most observant person, but I'm noticing lots of great things as I look around the room. Bunch of good-looking kids, for sure. In fact, turn to the person next to you and tell them, 'Wow, you look great today!'"

"I wonder if you are as observant. Let's play a quick game to find out! It's called 'Stand Up If!' It's pretty simple to play. I'll ask you if you've seen something before, and you stand up if you have. Easy, right? Let's try the first one.

Below is a list of suggestions—but feel free to customize them to your area, your environment, and your geographical location.

After each question, have the group sit back down before asking the next one.

"STAND UP IF you've ever seen a stray dog or kitten before. *(Pause for response)*

"STAND UP IF you've seen a friend get hurt, maybe at school or on the playground, and they needed help. *(Pause for response)* Never a fun sight. Ugh.

"STAND UP IF you have seen garbage on the ground, maybe in your neighborhood or at a park. *(Pause for response)* It's gotten better, but sometimes after the snow melts, it's totally trashed!

"STAND UP IF you have seen someone on the side of the road, at an intersection maybe, holding a cardboard sign asking for help. *(Pause for response)* I have too. I've seen a number of people around town in need.

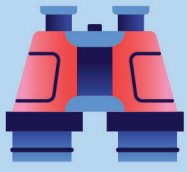
"STAND UP IF you have seen an elderly person, maybe a neighbor, who needs help shoveling snow in their driveway. *(Pause for response)*"

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Impressive! Each of us have noticed places and people and even animals who have needs. We see needs all the time at school, at home, around town, and in the neighborhood. But how often do we stop to help and address the needs?"

"Do you pick up the trash? Help those who are hurt? Grab a shovel and help a neighbor?"

"For some reason, it's much easier to ignore the needs and go on with our lives instead of pausing to help. This is especially true when the person is different than us or it's someone we don't know so well. They may dress differently, live somewhere differently, talk differently, or even look different. Why do we often pass up opportunities to help? Why is it easier for us to care about our own things instead of looking to help others?"



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“Great questions. Worthy of discussion, for sure. Now, I realize there are plenty of times it is difficult to assist someone in need. Sometimes we can’t stop to help because it may be too dangerous. It’s not like you’re going to walk out on the highway to help someone change a flat tire. But we often don’t have an excuse, and I want us to explore this topic today.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Long ago, Jesus talked about helping others, all the time, especially even when it is difficult. This story can still impact our lives today—and it comes to us from the book of Luke.

“At the time of our story, Jesus was becoming known as a miracle worker. As He journeyed, Jesus healed those inflicted with evil spirits, fed over 5,000 people with a small meal, calmed a massive storm, and even brought a young man back to life! Imagine if that were happening today—Jesus would be trending like crazy!

“Further, Jesus was known to be a gifted teacher. Often, Jesus would communicate truths about God through parables, or stories, which are incredibly effective ways to teach a point.

“Religious leaders in Jesus’ time always wanted to try to trap Him in a question. Almost like a ‘gotcha.’ They wanted to be the ones to ask a question that Jesus either couldn’t answer, or something that would make Him contradict Himself, or just make Him look foolish. They wanted to be the smart ones . . . but it never worked.

“One day, one such religious leader, with great knowledge of the Old Testament laws, wanted to test Jesus’ understanding of the laws by asking a tough question. He asked,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:25b (NirV) and read.

“‘What must I do to receive eternal life?’

Talk about a huge question. This was the whole point of why Jesus came, and it was the hope—and the goal—of people everywhere, to gain favor enough with God to spend eternity in Heaven. This religious leader thought that maybe there was a checklist of things to do to get into Heaven, and he was trying to trap Jesus into tripping up.

“Like a good teacher, Jesus answered the question with a question of His own.

Open the Bible to Luke 10:26b (NirV) and read.

“‘How do you understand it?’

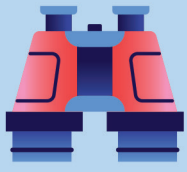
“The man answered by quoting Old Testament law. He said,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:27 (NirV) and read.

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind. And, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”

Jesus agreed, saying,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:28 (NirV) and read.



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“You have answered correctly . . . Do that, and you will live.”

“The man wasn’t done with Jesus, though, and here’s where he thought he’d catch Him or trip Him up. His follow-up question was,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:29b (NirV) and read.

“And who is my neighbor?”

“Ah. That was a good question. Is my neighbor the person living next to me? Is it people I know well? Family and friends?

“I can almost see Jesus smile to Himself. He took this opportunity to answer the man with a parable. The story went something like this.

As you tell the story, open each jar that correlates to the same number sound.

“Once upon a time, there was a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 1

“Sounds like he was walking. Yikes, that’s a long way. Maybe he should get a horse.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 2

“Okay, so the horse ran away. Looks like he’s walking.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 1

“Yep. There he goes. Now, the road between these two cities wasn’t the safest route. People often traveled in groups because it was safer. Unfortunately, this guy was traveling alone. Because of that, the man was an easy target for robbers—and that’s exactly what happened. The robbers pounced!

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 3

“They beat him up!

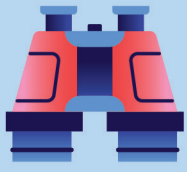
AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 4

“And they stole everything from him, including his clothing.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 5

“The man was badly hurt and left on the side of the road. After some time, a priest walked by. Now, those listening to the story that Jesus was telling would assume that the priest, being a man of God, would stop to help.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 6



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“The job of the priest was to teach and show others how to follow God, right? Instead of offering assistance, though, the priest looked at the injured man, moved to other side of the road, and walked right past him.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 7

“Wow. Not cool, priest. Shortly after the priest totally ignored the man, a Levite man walked down the road. The man, still beaten up and still on the ground, needed help badly!

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 6

“A Levite was a religious leader who helped people worship. Like [name of Worship Leader]. Surely, he would help! Surely, he would stop! But just like the priest . . .

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 7

“ . . . the Levite moved to the far side of the road and offered no assistance. He didn't help at all.

“Finally, a Samaritan came walking down the road. He saw the injured man, just as the priest and the Levite did. Remember, Jesus was talking to a religious leader. It was common knowledge that Samaritans and Jews didn't like each other. Jews viewed themselves as better than Samaritans and would go to great lengths to avoid even walking through a Samaritan town.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 6

“Because of their differences, no one would suspect the Samaritan to help the injured man. But this Samaritan, this enemy, went out of his way to help. Jesus said,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:33-34 (NirV) and read.

“When he [the Samaritan] saw the man, he felt sorry for him. He went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey. He brought him to an inn and took care of him.”

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 8

“In the story, the Samaritan inconvenienced himself to make sure the man was taken care of. He even gave the owner of the inn money to cover the cost of the man's stay and care.

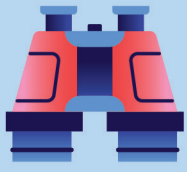
AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 8

“Then, as Jesus finished the parable, the religious leader sat there in silence.

AUDIO: SOUND EFFECT 9

“Jesus asked the religious leader a simple question—and now Jesus was the one with a ‘gotcha’ question. He said,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:36 (NirV) and read.



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“Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?”

“The religious leader admitted the Samaritan was the neighbor.

“Jesus responded with six strong words. He said,

Open the Bible to Luke 10:37b (NirV) and read.

“Go and do as he did.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “This is an *amazing* parable. Although the intent of the religious leader was to test or trap Jesus, Jesus took the opportunity to flip it around and teach a lesson on kindness. To the religious leader, the person least likely to assist in this story would have been the Samaritan.

“Kindness for many during this time had limits. It was extended to those who had the same beliefs or were from the same culture. Samaritans weren’t supposed to show kindness to the Jewish community, and the Jewish community certainly was not going to help Samaritans. However, Jesus made it clear: your neighbor is anyone who needs your help and kindness.

“If you look around, there are needs all around this community—in our schools, in our homes, around town, and in our neighborhoods. Jesus’ message to us is the same message told to the religious leader. We are to help those around us in need even if the person is different than you. And one of the most powerful forms of kindness is showing love to people who are different from you.

“If there is someone new on your bus who speaks a different language than you, you can try to strike up a friendship despite the language barrier. With your parent’s permission, you can make hygiene bags for those asking for help on the side of the road. If you live near an elderly couple who struggles to walk, you can offer to help around the yard.

“Kindness is easiest to share with those we love. But kindness can be shown to everyone even if there is nothing in it for us!”

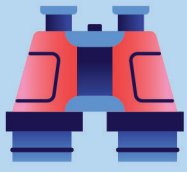
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SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP