



GEAR UP

AN ADVENTURE IN KINDNESS



WEEK
ONE

FEBRUARY 2024

SMALL GROUP

2-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: Walking stick (or similar)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose one kid to be the leader.
- Give the "leader" a walking stick (or whatever you're using for a walking stick).
- Direct the group to line up behind the "leader."
- Instruct the kids to "Follow the Leader" on an adventure.
- Direct the kids to pretend to be using a walking stick (just like the leader), while copying all the actions and movements of the leader.
 - Some action suggestions might include: running, skipping, galloping, hopping, jumping, balancing on one leg, clapping, turning, doing helicopter spins, climbing motion, stamping feet, clicking fingers, going around objects, etc.
- When you say "switch," instruct all of the kids to freeze.
- Direct the last kid in line to run to the front of the line, grab the gear from the leader, and put it on. They become the new leader.
 - *Option: Provide each kid with a wig cap to put on their head before placing the hat on their head to help minimize germs.*
- Play as many rounds as time and interest allow.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Show Me the Way

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

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus showed us how to be kind.

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.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! You did a great job following the leader. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group, to learn about whose actions we are to always try to follow.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



1. REPLAY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Charades" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into three groups.
- Give each group a card from the "Charades" Activity Page.
- Instruct each group to read the card quietly and decide how they will act out the story on their card. Encourage them to give everyone in the group a role, if possible.
 - If space allows, let groups split off away from each other so they can plan more easily.
- After a few minutes to practice, invite each group to take turns acting out their story.
- After the group is done acting out the entire sequence, ask the other groups to guess what the events are.
- Continue until all three groups have acted out their charade.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Show Me the Way

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who did Jesus spend time with that made the disciples and religious leaders upset? (*Pause for responses.*) Jesus was the kindest person ever. Jesus spent time with all kinds of people—even if some others didn't like it.

"Jesus cared about everyone, especially those who were considered outcasts like people with skin diseases, children, tax collectors, and even those who sinned. **Jesus showed us how to be kind** and all we need to do is follow His example. He showed kindness to everyone He met. And guess what? The biggest, kindest thing Jesus did was to give His life for us by dying on the cross for our sins. That shows how much He loves us!

"And because Jesus is God, He shows us what God is like. So, when we're kind to others, we're showing them the kindness of God too. Let's find ways to share the same kindness that Jesus modeled for us so others can experience God's love through our actions and words."

[Make It Personal] (*Share about a time you were kind to someone who was overlooked or about a time you felt overlooked and someone showed kindness to you.*)

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



3. WEAR IT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Backpack" Activity Page, and tape; *Optional: markers*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up Colossians 3:12 using the Bible Navigation Tips below:

***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 12.*

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- Read the verse together a few times.
- Tape the "Backpack" Activity Page on the back of every kid so that it is visible.
- Form a circle with all kids facing inside the circle, then ask everyone to turn to their right so that they are facing the back of the kid in front of them.
- Say the verse in short phrases at a time, in varying ways.
- Instruct the kids to copy not only your words, but also your tone, speed, volume, and even bodily actions!
- Inform kids to follow along by reading the verse attached to the back of the kid in front of them.
- Some ideas for reading the portions of the verse are:
 - Act like a superhero
 - Slow motion words
 - Fast words
 - Mumbled words
 - Speak normally but stand up and run in place
- After a few rounds, encourage the kids to get into pairs.
- Instruct the pairs to take turns repeating the verse after each other.
- Direct one kid in the pair to come up with a creative way to say the verse, and then direct the other kid in the pair to do it.
- Then instruct the kids to switch roles.
- If time allows, set out the markers and invite kids to color their backpacks.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The author of this verse was delivering a special message to us. You are important to God. You are loved by God. God wants you to remember to be kind and show love to others.



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(3. WEAR IT, CONTINUED)

“Just like you’re wearing the verse right now, God wants you to wear tender mercy and kindness. God wants you to be gentle and patient.

“This verse is calling all of us to carry our backpack of kindness everywhere we go, wearing it like your favorite clothes. The great news is that **Jesus showed us how to be kind** and we can follow His example.”



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Walking stick

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite the kids to form a circle.
- Show the group a walking stick.
- Ask: "Why might a hiker gear up with a walking stick?"
- After sharing the explanation of a walking stick below, close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"A walking stick is like a special friend that helps people walk better and feel more balanced. It's a long stick—just like a big, strong branch from a tree—but people make it smoother and put a handle on top. People who love to explore nature and go hiking sometimes use a walking stick to help them climb up hills and go down slopes. It's like a trusty companion that makes walking and adventures even more fun and safe! In a lot of ways, Jesus is like a walking stick—He is always with you, always helping you do the things God commands us to do—like showing kindness to others. Let's pray."

"God, thank You for sending Your only Son Jesus to show us how to be kind to others. It's not easy to be kind to those who are unkind. Help us to remember that **Jesus showed us how to be kind** and that He is always with us empowering us to be kind to those who are unkind and overlooked. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them their backpacks and share this month's verse.

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