

## Alley Rundown—July 3rd, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Be Kind (The Good Samaritan) • *Luke 10:25-37*

**Today's Key Question:** How can you be kind even when it's hard?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Show kindness to everyone.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

**CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos**

**Ice-Breaker Activity: Get to Know You Game**

**Supplies Needed: Beach Balls (3 per Campus)**

**How to Play:** Toss the Beach Ball to a Kid to start. They will answer a question based on what color their left thumb lands on. Repeat with all Kids, and have multiple rounds as time and interest allows.

**Questions:**

**Red**—"Where would be your dream vacation?"

**Blue**—"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

**Green**—"Who is your best friend? Tell me something about them."

**White**—"What is your favorite thing to do?"

**Orange**—"If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

**Yellow**—"Favorite Color? Animal? Cereal? Candy?"

**Begin Rundown...**

"Welcome, everyone! Question for you: do you know anyone in your life who is just REALLY nice? Like, someone who is, at their core, just . . . super kind? Let's be honest, looking around it can seem like kindness is in short supply. People are much more apt to point out someone's faults than compliment someone. Kindness can be hard sometimes, especially when we think someone is taking advantage of us or isn't treating us well. But what if we knew the end of the story first before we judged someone? Would we be more willing to show kindness? That's what this fun little animated short story is all about. Take a look!

**CG: A Joy Story Video (Runtime: 3:00)**

Wow. Who knew cartoons could teach us life lessons? Let's remember as we go deeper into our lesson today, how important it is to show kindness. But what about real life? Like not an animated dog and bird? Thankfully, we have a story..."

"Take IKEA, for example. If you haven't heard of it, IKEA a large store where you buy furniture in a million pieces and have to put it together with a small Allen wrench and instructions that are just pictures with all the captions in a different language.

"Well, the IKEA in Catania, Italy did something super kind. In the winter of 2018, the store opened its doors to all of the stray dogs in the city to come sleep on their rugs and get warm. Not only that, but it inspired people who were shopping to bring food for the dogs to make sure they were fed. On top of that, many of the dogs ended up getting adopted by people in the community.

"And it's not just kindness to cute, cuddly creatures, I recently heard another story about a mom named Ashlee Buratti. She threw a birthday party for her son, Glenn, who was turning 6. Glenn has some special needs. He invited all 16 classmates, but none of them showed up. She posted on Facebook about how heartbroken she was because Glenn kept asking when his friends would arrive.

“Well, immediately after posting, she was flooded with requests from other moms and kids in the neighborhood asking if they could come celebrate his party. In a little bit, 40 people came over to eat cake; they brought gifts, and even the local sheriff’s department got involved—they arranged for a helicopter fly-over over Glenn’s house. The local fire department came and let Glenn explore a fire truck, even letting him take a ride on a police motorbike.

“Stories like these make me remember that people can be really kind! It’s not all bad news out there. OK, so what about you? Do you have any stories of random acts of kindness?” (*take a few responses*)

“These are great stories, right? But often times we show kindness to people we know, maybe only people we like. How can we show kindness, not just to those people . . . but to EVERYONE?”

“People can be funny and loving and enjoyable to be around. But they can be in bad moods, hard to get along with, or sometimes just downright mean. Everyone knows that kindness is a good thing, and honestly, being nice and kind to others seems like common sense . . . so why is it sometimes so hard to be kind? Can we LEARN to be kind? Even to the people who annoy us the most? These are great questions to think about, and thankfully the writers of the Bible have quite a bit to say about kindness.

“We can find all sorts of wisdom in the Bible. It’s the kind of wisdom that you can actually take and apply to your own lives. The Bible is full of ideas and truth that, even though it was thousands of years ago, can help us today. Let’s take a look with the help of this week’s Episode!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 16:00)**

“With this story, Jesus showed people a different way of thinking—a new way of living. Not only was Jesus helping people understand what it means to ‘love your neighbor,’ but Jesus also clarified who a ‘neighbor’ was in the first place. The Samaritan wasn’t the person who people would have expected to show kindness, especially to a Jewish traveler.

“Let’s think about this for a moment. You know, being kind doesn’t just mean ‘being nice.’ You can be ‘nice’ to someone’s face and totally not be kind to them, right? Being kind means going beyond yourself, reaching out to others and treating them in the same way that you would want to be treated. If you were beaten up by the side of the road, you’d want someone to stop and help! So, in being kind, be the sort of person who would stop.

“A kid at school sitting by themselves. Someone who is being bullied. Your brother or sister struggling to ride their bike. A parent who has worked all day and is now faced with a sink full of dishes. Look around you, and there are LOTS of ways to be kind, right in your own neighborhood. It’s a great way to make waves and show people God’s love.

“Show kindness not just to some people, not just to those who you like or that you know . . . but to everyone. EVERYONE. You can be the one to make the first move toward kindness, and in doing so, you’re showing others that they are valuable. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

“**[Key Question]** How can you be kind, even when it’s hard? Think about the times when it’s difficult to be kind. Times when the people around you aren’t the nicest—times when the situation gets your blood boiling or when others really don’t deserve it. How can you find ways to be kind, even in those situations? You’ll talk more about this in Small Group, but before we head there, let’s pray and ask God to help us choose kindness. Let’s pray.

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.*

## **OFFERING:**

As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. Over Summer Jam this week, you learned more about why clean water is so valuable and important. I heard you all did an amazing job raising money at Summer Jam! Each week this Summer, when you bring your offering in, not only are you showing Kindness, but you are also helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!

**CG: Malawi Wells Pictures**