

Alley SG—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)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Kindness Coupon" Activity Page (1 per Kid), scissors, pens

What You Do:

- Invite kids to look up and read Ephesians 4:32.
- Ask:
 - Would you say kindness is a command from God or a choice we have? Or is it both? Explain your thoughts.
 - What are some reasons we should show kindness?
 - How do kindness and forgiveness go hand-in-hand?
- Point out that being kind doesn't simply mean "being nice."
 - It means reaching out and treating others the way we want to be treated—even people who may be different from us.
 - Jesus followers are kind not just to some, but to EVERYONE.
- Ask kids to share some everyday ways we can show kindness to our family, kids at school, and even strangers we meet.
- Give each kid "Kindness Coupons" and a pen.
- Take a few minutes to have them write a simple act of kindness on the lines provided.
 - They can use ideas from your discussion or add others they feel express kindness to others.
 - Challenge kids to think of someone they don't normally interact with or always get along with or who is from a different friend group.
 - How could they use their "Kindness Coupon to do something thoughtful for this person?
 - Remind them that kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.
- When all of the coupons have been filled out, let the kids cut the cards apart to take home.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, ball (1 per Group), dot stickers (5 sheets per Group)

What You Do:

- Form a circle.
- Give the beach ball to someone in the circle.
- Explain that the group will toss the ball around to each other as you read today's story from Luke 10:25-37.
- When you pause, the kid holding the ball must fill in the word they think you will say next.
- Pause at names, places, and other key words that are important to the story.
- If a kid gives an incorrect answer, give them a dot sticker to wear on their hand.
- Once the story is reviewed, set the ball aside then ask kids to share some ways the Samaritan showed kindness.
- Engage kids in conversation about today's story.
 - Based on the story Jesus told, who would you say is your neighbor?

- What are some excuses the Samaritan could have made for why he should not stop and help the injured man? (*Jews and Samaritans weren't supposed to talk to or interact with each other; the Samaritan could have potentially been in danger for what he did*)
- When is it sometimes hard for us to show kindness to people?
- We tend to only show kindness to those we know and like. How do we show kindness to EVERYONE, even people we really don't like?
- What does it look like for a kid your age to be a good neighbor? Give some specific examples.
- Give each kid a dot sticker (unless they are already wearing one from the game) to wear as reminder to be a modern-day "Good Samaritan."
- Encourage them to look for ways to show kindness to EVERYONE.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- When you really don't feel like being kind or you're struggling with someone who is not easy to like, what's are some things you could think about to motivate you to be kind even when it's not what you want to do? (*remember that each person was made by and is loved by God, try to find something you DO like about that person, think about when someone has been kind to you when you weren't easy to be kind to*)
- Give three reasons why you think God wants us to treat others with kindness.
- Why might kindness feel awkward at times? How can you push through that awkwardness and be more comfortable?

4. Hidden Colors

What You Need: Pens, "Hidden Colors" Activity Page (1 per Kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen and a copy of the "Hidden Colors" Activity Page.
- Invite them to find the name of a color hidden in each sentence.
- Explain that in order to identify the colors, they will have to disregard word spacing and punctuation marks (periods and commas).
- Point out the sentences at the top of the page by way of examples.

Answers:

1. **Gold** (A biG, OLD, hungry dog appeared at our door every morning.)
2. **Copper** (The COP PERsuaded him not to create a disturbance.)
3. **Black** (The caB LACKed proper brakes to stop at the intersection.)
4. **Tan** (You shouldn't leT AN upstart like him bother you.)
5. **Green** (I aGREE Not to eat all the food.)
6. **Red** (NewspapeR EDitors decided to go on strike.)
7. **Gray** (LonG RAYon fabrics were loaded on the truck.)
8. **Rose** (The sunset makes caiRO SEem magnificent.)
9. **Plum** (Some states shiP LUMber and coal on canal barges.)
10. **White** (The new laW HIT Everybody's wallet pretty hard.)

What You Say:

"That wasn't as easy as it seemed. If I didn't already know there were names of colors hidden in those sentences, I'd never have noticed. Good thing I had the answers! Hidden words make for a fun game, but apart from word games and stuff like burps and spiders, some things should never be hidden.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to pray for the people who will receive the kindnesses written on their “kindness coupons.”
- Encourage those who are willing to pray out loud while others pray silently.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for what we have learned today about kindness. Now, help us to bring about a wave of kindness to those around us. We need Your help to be able to do that. Please help us look for opportunities to make a difference through a simple act of kindness. Use these small tokens this week to let others see You in us. Give us the courage to reach out to others. We pray in Your name, amen.”