

## Today's Suggested Schedule—February 2024, Week 4

**Today's Bible Story:** Don't Let Me Down (Good Samaritan) • *Luke 10:25-37*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Be kind to people who are different from you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* Colossians 3:12 (ESV)

**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.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the chance to help your group understand more about kindness. Ask God to help everyone remember we're all made in God's image and to show love to people who are different than us. Pray that kids would be looking for anyone who needs help or their kindness.*

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

### **SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)**

**SOCIAL:** Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Just for Fun

### **LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)**

**STORY:** Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

**WORSHIP:** Inviting People to Respond to God

Welcome/Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

### **SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)**

**GROUPS:** Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Who Is My Neighbor?

Application Activity: Include Everyone

Memory Verse Activity: It's Personal

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

**HOME:** Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

*Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.*

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

### What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

## **SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

### **Just for Fun**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Offering container

### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Ask kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to tell stories about a time they got hurt.
- Ask:
  - Have you ever broken a bone, gotten stitches, sprained an ankle, or had surgery?
  - Who took care of you?
  - How did you feel?
  - What made you feel better?

## **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

### **Story Exploration**

The story of the Good Samaritan provides us with valuable lessons on how to follow Jesus' example in our daily lives. Here's how:

**Showing Compassion:** Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Good Samaritan exemplifies this teaching by showing compassion and mercy to a stranger in need. Likewise, we are called to show kindness and compassion to everyone we encounter, regardless of their background or circumstances. (Mark 12:30-31)

**Breaking Down Barriers:** The Samaritan in the story crossed cultural and social barriers to help the injured man. Similarly, Jesus often challenged societal norms and reached out to those who were marginalized or outcast. Following Jesus means treating everyone with dignity and respect. (Luke 5:31-32)

**Taking Action:** The Good Samaritan didn't just feel sorry for the injured man; he took practical steps to help him. Likewise, following Jesus involves more than just having good intentions; it requires us to take action to help others in need, whether it's through acts of service, generosity, or advocacy. (James 1:22)

**Self-Sacrifice:** The Good Samaritan sacrificed his time, resources, and comfort to help the injured man. Following Jesus often requires us to make sacrifices for the sake of others, putting their needs above our own and demonstrating sacrificial love. (Hebrews 13:6)

**Living Out the Gospel:** The story of the Good Samaritan illustrates the greatest commandment – love God and love your neighbor. Following Jesus means living out this message in our daily lives, embodying the values of compassion, mercy, and justice that Jesus taught.

God showed kindness by sending Jesus for us—even when we didn't deserve it. Because of God's love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Kindness can be one of those ideas that we take for granted. However, when we practice kindness toward others, we're actually helping others see God and God's love for them.

## 1. Who Is My Neighbor?

### [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- Invite one kid to be the injured man.
- Instruct the “injured man” to lay face down on the ground and close their eyes.
- Direct the rest of the kids to sneakily walk back and forth in front of the “injured man.”
- Instruct the “injured man” to open their eyes and look up any time they want to.
- Declare anyone the “injured man” spots to be out.

#### **What You Say:**

“In our story today, who walked past the man in need and did not stop to help? (*the priest and the Levite*) Who stopped to help? (*the Samaritan*) How do you think the hurt man felt as the priest and Levite walked by? (*Pause for responses.*) Everyone would have expected the priest and the Levite to stop, but not the Samaritan!

“During the time of this story, Samaritans and Jewish people didn’t like each other, so they usually avoided each other. The Samaritan decided not to avoid the man in need. He stopped to help even though there was nothing in it for him. He bandaged the man, and put him on his donkey. He took the man to an inn and offered to pay for him, and to come back and pay for any extra expense.

“The Samaritan man not only went the extra mile, he was also kind to someone who was different than him. Jesus told this story to make the point that if we love God, we will love our neighbor. Your neighbor isn’t just your friend or someone who is like you. Your neighbor is anyone who needs your help and kindness. When we’re kind to our neighbor, we’re being kind to someone who matters to God. That is why God wants us to **[Bottom Line]** be kind to people who are different from you.”

**[Make It Personal]** (*Describe a time when you showed kindness to someone who was ignored or different than you. What did you do? How did you feel after you showed kindness to them? How did they feel?*)

## \*2. Include Everyone

### [Live for God | Application Activity]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Circles” Activity Page, and pens

#### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Circles” Activity Page and a pen.
- Invite the kids to think of a list of people they enjoy spending time with: their friends, teachers, family members, coaches, or anyone they like.
- Instruct the kids to list those people in the center circle of the “Circles” Activity Page.
- When they are finished, direct the kids to draw a big heart around all of those people.
- Point out the middle circle labeled “The Samaritan” and the outside of the circle, labeled “The Hurt Man.”
- Say: “The Samaritan and The Hurt Man were not in each other’s groups—they weren’t friends.”
- Ask: “Without naming names, can you think of anyone who’s ‘outside’ your circle?”
  - Some suggestions might include: students who sit by themselves at lunch or are not included by others at recess, new students they have not interacted with yet, strangers they encounter during outings or events, neighbors they haven’t met, kids whose bodies or brains work differently than theirs, etc.
- Ask: “Would anyone like to share about a time you remember treating someone differently because they were outside your circle?”

#### **What You Say:**

“In the story Jesus told, He wants us to be like the Samaritan. The Hurt Man was outside of the Samaritan’s circle of people he would be expected to love and to help. The people you drew the heart around are people we are expected to love and help. They’re our friends, family members, and people who know us. These are the people anyone would expect us to love.

“No one expected the Samaritan to help The Hurt Man. Jesus wants us to show kindness to people who think and act differently than we do—like the kid you dislike because he’s constantly pushing others around and making kids do what he wants them to do, or the kid who you just have nothing in common with and haven’t really ever played with. You don’t need to be best friends with everybody, but you can show kindness to them. Why? Because every person you meet matters to God, and that is why we are supposed to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you.**”

### 3. It's Personal

#### [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Personalized Verse” Activity Page, pencils, and 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

- Read the verse together a few times.
- Give each kid a “Personalized Verse” Activity Page and pencils and markers.
- Invite the kids to follow your prompts as you tell them what to draw and color in each box.
  - Box # 1: Draw a stick figure of yourself.
  - Box # 2: Draw a stick figure of yourself surrounded by people who love you.
  - Box # 3 Draw a stick picture of yourself wearing shirt and pants. Label one of them “Mercy” and the other “Kindness.” (Or “Compassion” and “Kindness”
  - )Box # 4: Draw a picture of putting others first, or being gentle and patient with others.
    - For example: Letting someone go ahead of you in line, sharing, listening to someone who is upset, etc.
  - Box # 5: Draw a stick figure of yourself being gentle and patient with others.
    - For example: Playing or doing something with a younger sibling, waiting your turn in line, opening the door for an older person before walking in yourself, etc.
- When done, encourage the group to share what they drew in box # 4 and # 5.

#### What You Say:

“Great job drawing your ideas! This is what I love about God’s Word! It’s like a special letter written just for you—it’s personalized! That’s why all your drawings are different!

“The author of this verse was writing to all the people who love God—that includes you! He was giving us a recipe to spread God’s love and kindness to others. When you choose to be kind, gentle, and patient, you’re choosing to be a good friend and treat others nicely even when things are hard. When things feel difficult or unfair, it’s important to remember that God is with you, God’s Spirit lives inside of you, giving you the strength to keep being kind. So, let’s make it our mission to show God’s kindness to everyone, no matter how different they may be from us. You can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you** every day!”

#### 4. Pray and Dismiss

##### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

##### What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission?

##### What You Need: Tent or blanket

##### What You Do:

- Set up a tent or throw a blanket over a table to create a tent.
- Ask the kids to sit around or inside the tent.
- Briefly share what tents are used for following the discussion below.
- Close your group time in prayer.

##### What You Say:

"Tents are like houses we can carry with us when we go on camping trips or outdoor adventures. They are special shelters that protect us from rain, wind, and bugs while we sleep under the stars. When we go camping with our friends or family, tents become cozy little spaces where we can all gather together. Just like a tent that gives shelter to everyone inside, we can also create a warm and welcoming space for everyone around us. When including everyone—including people who might be different than you—you make them feel valued and special. That is showing kindness. Let's pray."

"Dear God, thank You for this month's powerful reminder of Your incredible kindness. Today, we learned that we should be kind to everyone, even those who may seem different from us. Help us to be kind to those who may look different, have different interests, or come from different places. We want to follow Your example by remembering to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from us.** We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show them the "Personalized Verse" Activity Page and explain what they drew.



## GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

### **GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)**

*\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

### **Story Exploration – No Supplies**

#### **1. Who Is My Neighbor?**

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:**

- No supplies needed

#### **\*2. Include Everyone**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:**

- Print "Circles" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Pens, one for each kid

#### **3. It's Personal**

**[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:**

- Bibles, one for each kid
- Print "Personalized Verse" Activity Page on paper, one for each kid
- Pencils
- Markers

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:**

- Tent or large blanket/sheet, one for each Small Group

### **HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience**

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**