

## 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.

### **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: Bible Story Adventures

Application Activity: Helping Hands

Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Bandages

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.

## Kindness Activity

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

**What You Need:** Kindness Tree from previous weeks, purple sticky notes, and pencils

### What You Do:

- Point out the Kindness Tree from previous weeks.
- Point out some of the sticky notes from the previous weeks.
- Review some of the sticky notes from previous weeks.
  - Week 1 (yellow): kids were shown kindness
  - Week 2 (pink): kids showed kindness to others
  - Week 3 (blue): kids showed kindness without being asked
- Invite kids to think of a time they showed kindness to someone who is different from them.
- To get kids thinking, ask:
  - Have you ever invited someone who looked or acted differently than you to join you on the playground or at the lunch table?
  - Have you ever listened to someone tell a story even if they looked different than you or sounded different than you?
  - Have you ever spent time with someone whose body or brain seemed to work differently than yours?
- Give each kid a sticky note and a pencil.
- Invite them to draw a way they showed kindness to someone who was different.
- Invite kids to share their drawing with the group.
- After kids have shared, instruct them to add their sticky note somewhere on the tree.
- *Optional: Add a caption to each sticky note as kids share.*

### What You Say:

"We have created quite a beautiful Kindness Tree! These colors show that you are all working hard to be kind! Keep showing other people how much Jesus loves them by sharing kindness with them!"

**[Transition]** "Today, we'll hear about a guy who really needed kindness and how someone very unexpected was the one to help!"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

## **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. Bible Story Adventures

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

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** “Bible Story Adventures” Activity Pages, “Bible Character Statements” Activity Page, and tape

#### What You Do:

- Use the tape to post the story character pictures from the “Bible Story Adventures” Activity Page around the room on the wall (or floor if that’s a better fit for your space).
- One by one, as you tape the character pictures, review who each person is in the story.
  - The Samaritan was the man who was helpful in the story. He bandaged up the injured traveler, took the man to an inn, and saw that the injured man was taken care of. Jewish people, like the injured man, did not like Samaritans.
  - The priest was one of the Jewish men who walked right by the injured traveler. He was an important religious leader.
  - The Levite was another Jewish man who walked right by the injured traveler. He was also a religious leader.
  - The traveler was a Jewish man who was injured by robbers and needed help.
  - Jesus is the Savior of the world who is always kind and wants us to be kind like He is to everyone—even people who are different than us.
  - The robbers were the men on the road who hurt the Jewish man and took his belongings.
- Instruct the kids to gather in the center of the space.
- One at a time, read one of the statements from the “Bible Character Statements” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to move to the picture of the person who could be saying or thinking that statement. (Let kids know some statements might have more than one correct answer.)
- Direct the kids to return to the center of the room after each statement.

#### What You Say:

“Great job thinking about the different people in the story we heard today. Some of them were good at sharing kindness—some were not! One man in the story was a great reminder to us all to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you.** Which person in Jesus’ story do you want to be like? Why? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“In Jesus’ story, the Samaritan helped the man in need even though there was nothing in it for him. It’s so important for us to show kindness to everyone—even when they are different from us. Kindness is an amazing way to help others see Jesus!”

**[Make It Personal]** *(Share an example of a time you chose to show kindness to someone who is different from you.)*

## 2. Helping Hands

### [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:** Construction paper, yarn, tape, scissors, pencil, and markers

#### What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of construction paper and a pencil.
- Demonstrate to each kid how to use the pencil to trace both of their hands on the piece of construction paper.
  - Be prepared to help them trace each hand, or allow them to work with a partner, as needed.
- Set out the scissors.
- Instruct the kids to cut out the hands they traced. Be prepared to help as needed.
- Use the markers to help the kids to write “Helping hands” on one hand and “Show Jesus’ love!” on the other hand. (Help as needed, or write it for them!)
  - Write each phrase out on a piece of construction paper for those who can copy the phrases.
- Give each kid a short, 6” piece, of yarn.
- Tape a piece of yarn at the wrists of each hand like you’re making a pair of mittens.

#### What You Say:

“The Samaritan man was very different from the man who was traveling and hurt, but he didn’t let that keep him from helping a person in need. He showed kindness! Who is someone you can help this week who is different from you and how might you help them? *(Invite responses.)*”

“You could help by taking out the trash on trash day. Or, you could get a bandage for someone who gets a splinter or a scrape. You could invite someone to play with you who you may not normally play with. And if you really want to help someone in the biggest, best way possible, you could even tell someone how much Jesus loves them!”

“There are so many ways to help our neighbors! Just like the hands we made are connected, when we give a helping hand, we are showing the love of Jesus! You can hang these hands that we made on a door of your room or somewhere at home to remind you that we actually need to DO something in order to help someone and that we should always **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you.**”

### \*3. Memory Verse Bandages

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

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

**What You Need:** Prepared adhesive, cloth bandages; and Bibles (Marked for the Kindergarteners.)

#### What You Do:

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

**Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *Colossians* at the top of the page as you say “Colossians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 3 for the little 12; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

**Finding verses with 1<sup>st</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.” You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C-O. 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 12 in chapter 3.

- Invite any kids who would like to recite the verse from memory to give it a try.
  - If a kid forgets the next word of the verse, encourage the other kids to show kindness and help them with the next word only.
- Give each kid two bandages with “Colossians 3:12” written on it.
- Instruct the kids to put one bandage on themselves to help them remember this month’s verse. (Help them peel and stick, as needed.)
- Challenge the kids to save the other bandage to give someone else to share Colossians 3:12 with them.

#### What You Say:

“Today we heard a parable, or story, that Jesus told about a man in need and how some people chose to walk by him and not help. Only one man stopped and took care of him and bandaged him up. Sometimes, even today, a bandage is a great way to show kindness to someone who is hurting. Sometimes your ‘bandage’ can be a kind word. Sometimes it’s a helping hand. Whatever it is, it’s important that you remember to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are different from you.**”

“Listen one more time to Colossians 3:12. Listen for WHY we should be kind and HOW we should be kind. (*Read the verse.*) This sounds a lot like Jesus, doesn’t it? We are loved by God, and we can choose to be kind, gentle, and patient. While we won’t be perfect like Jesus, we can do as much as possible to be like Him so others see His goodness through the way we live our lives and maybe even the best thing of all—they come to trust Jesus!”

## 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?

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Join the circle yourself!
- Invite the kids to think of one of their neighbors.
- Remind them a neighbor isn't just someone who lives next door or down the street. A neighbor is anyone who is in need of help or being shown kindness.
- Model for the students how to pray for their neighbors.
  - Think of a real-life situation that is appropriate to share or refer to the one you shared earlier.
  - Demonstrate first by thanking God for your neighbor, then asking God to help you show them kindness.
  - Pray something like: "God, thank You for my neighbor \_\_\_\_\_. Please help me to figure out how I can show them kindness by \_\_\_\_\_."
  - Invite the kids who would like to pray, to pray a prayer similar to yours.
  - Be sure the kids know they can pass if preferred.
- After the group has prayed, close your group time in prayer.

#### What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You that You are kind. Please help us show Your kindness, gentleness, patience, and tenderness to all of our neighbors today, tomorrow, and every day! Please help us 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, remind the kids to share their extra bandage with a neighbor as a reminder to be kind and help others see Jesus at work! Invite the adults to look at the Kindness Tree!

## 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 #3.*

## Story Exploration – No Supplies

### 1. Bible Story Adventures

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

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:**

- Print “Bible Story Adventures” Activity Pages on paper, one set for each Small Group
- Print “Bible Character Statements” Activity Page on paper, one for each Small Group
- Painter's tape

### 2. Helping Hands

**[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:**

- Various colors of construction paper, one piece for each kid
- Yarn, one 6” piece for each kid
- Tape, one roll for each Small Group
- Scissors, one pair for each kid
- Pencils
- Markers

### \*3. Memory Verse Bandages

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

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

**What You Need:**

- Adhesive, cloth bandages, two for each kid
- Permanent marker, one for each Small Group
  - *Before group time: Use a permanent marker to write “Colossians 3:12” on each bandage.*
- Bibles (Marked at Colossians 3:12 for the Kindergarteners.)

### 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:**

- No supplies needed

### **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**