

All the Small Things

Bible: All the Small Things (The Least of These) • *Matthew 25:35-40*

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who are overlooked.

Memory Verse: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” *Luke 6:31, NIV*

Life App: Kindness—Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Don't Overlook

- Memory-match game; 1 for each small group
- To make your own set of memory-match cards:
- Collect 20 index cards and 10 pairs of stickers. Each pair should be identical.
- Place the stickers on the index cards.

10:15

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Overlooked Subjects

- “Overlooked Subjects” Activity Page, cut apart; 1 for each small group
- “Overlooked Subjects: Acts of Kindness” Activity Page, cut apart; 1 for each small group
- 1 die

10:15

Race to Kindness

- 1 quarter sheet of paper for each kid
- 2 yellow markers
- 3 oz. paper cups; 1 for each kid
- Building blocks; 2 sets for each small group
- 2 baby dolls
- 2 baby blankets
- BAND-AIDS®; 1 for each kid
- Smiley stickers; 1 for each kid (could also use markers)
- 2 pieces white copy paper

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.

9:00 & 11:30

Don't Overlook

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

What You Need: Memory-match game

What You Do:

- Set up the memory-match game as normally instructed.
- Guide kids in taking turns trying to find a match.
- If a kid turns over two cards that don't match, he turns them back over in their original spot.
- If a kid turns over two cards and they do match, she gets to keep those cards.

What You Say:

“You all must play these memory games a lot! You did a fantastic job. How many of you found it was still easy to forget where some of the cards were? I sure did. **[Transition] Today in Large Group we're going to find out about something else we sometimes forget.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15

Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Welcome kids' offerings as they arrive.
- Ask:
 - Have you ever been left out or seen someone be left out?
 - How does it feel to be left out of something?

What You Say:

I hope today's Bible Truth will help all of us start eliminating feelings of being 'left out' in our lives and our communities. Let's go check it out.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

All the Small Things

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Remote control
- Bucket
- Candy

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

-
- Bible
- Host
- Weed whacker (does not need to work)
- Items to hide around the room (see "What You Do" below)
 - Box of macaroni and cheese (name brand, not store brand)
 - Warm jacket
 - 3 rectangular pieces of cardboard (*Note: Cardboard should be large, but small enough that the Host can hold up all three at the same time.*)
 - Thick, black permanent marker

3. Worship

What You Need:

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "Rock This Planet"
- "Live Loud"
- "Forever Reign"

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: 10-Second Count Down

CG: Rewind Theme Slide

Host welcomes the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! I’m so glad you’re here. Can anyone remember what we’re talking about this month? That’s right: kindness.”

CG: Kindness Slide

“Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. And today I want to show some kindness by giving a shout out to some very important people in the room—our Small Group Leaders! You guys are KIND of a big deal. And so I got your favorite kind of candy that you can enjoy later. (*Hold up the candy bucket.*)

“First up, [SGL’s name], thanks for being awesome. Let me hear from one person in your group about why you’re awesome.”

Let one kid say something kind about her SGL (using a handheld mic).

“I love it! [SGL’s name], here are some [SGL’s favorite candy]. You’re KIND of a big deal!”

Host puts a KIND Sticker on the Leader and gives him his favorite candy. (Note: Go through all the SGLs in the room if you can do it quickly. If not, just highlight two or three of them.)

“Awesome. Can we give all of our Small Group Leaders a big hand? (*Lead applause.*) I love taking time to celebrate them, because you know what? Kindness deserves a replay. Everyone needs kindness, and we need to be on the lookout so we don’t miss a chance for kindness. We just have to remember to SHOW it.”

“If you were here last week, we hit the rewind button (*hold up the remote*) . . .

SFX: Rewind

“. . . and did a little competition with some backward movie quotes. Today we rewind (*hold up the remote*) . . .

SFX: Rewind

“. . . and compete to figure out some famous movie SCENES. Let's replay some of our favorites. We'll make it this side of the room versus this side of the room. (*Demonstrate this with your hands.*) I need one Small Group Leader to represent each side.

Bring two SGLs up on stage.

“All right! [SGL #1's name] and [SGL #2's name] are going to take turns acting out some famous movie scenes, and you all are going to raise your hands and try to guess the movies they come from. But remember, only raise your hand when you actually know the answer. Whichever side has the most correct answers after three rounds will be the champion. Let's rewind (*hold up the remote*) . . .

SFX: Rewind

“. . . and guess that movie! [SGL #1's name], you're up first.

Hand SGLs the cards one by one. Emcee the action, taking turns between SGL #1 and SGL #2, calling on kids with their hands raised to guess the answers. If possible, pre-select the SGLs and make sure they're familiar with the scenes so they can practice ahead of time. Be ready to demonstrate the scenes yourself in case the SGLs don't know them.

SGL #1 acts out Card #1.

SFX #1: “Part of Your World” instrumental

SGL #2 acts out Card #2.

SFX #2: “Dancing in the Dark” by Rihanna

SGL #1 acts out Card #3.

SFX #3: “Hakuna Matata” instrumental

SGL #2 acts out Card #4.

SFX #4: “Fun, Fun, Fun” by Pharrell

SGL #1 acts out Card #5.

SFX #5: "Can't Stop the Feeling" by Justin Timberlake

SGL #2 acts out Card #6.

"Great job, guys! Some of those were easy. Maybe some of them were a little less obvious. Now, this side of the room had [number] correct answers. But our champions, with [number] correct answers, are you guys and gals on this side. Congratulations!

Dismiss SGLs to their seats.

"Everybody please welcome [Historyteller's Name]."

Historyteller enters as Host exits.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "Hey guys! Like [Host's name] was saying earlier, kindness is about showing other people they're valuable. And there's a really important reason why God wants to act that way. We don't just show kindness because we're supposed to. We show kindness to others because we really believe it'll make a difference in their lives.

"Think of it this way. It's really easy to treat people like they're valuable when we think they're cool or popular. If [local sports hero] walked in the door, you bet everyone would give him/her special treatment! We'd go crazy clapping and cheering and wanting to get a selfie.

"But wait a second. Do we treat everybody like that? The random stranger who takes your order at the fast-food place? Your teachers at school? The quiet girl who keeps to herself at recess?"

"Jesus often taught about what it looks like to be part of the Kingdom of God. In other words, He taught people the best way to live if they wanted to be part of what God was doing in the world. This one time He taught others about how we should treat people. He told this in the form of a parable. This is Jesus speaking in Matthew, chapter 25. He talks about a king inviting people into his kingdom. This is what the king says to those people.

Open the Bible to Matthew 25:35-36 and read.

"I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger. And you invited me in. I needed clothes. And you gave them to me. I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me" (NlrV).

"But hold on. You might be thinking to yourself, 'When did I do those things for Jesus?' Well, the people in Jesus' parable thought the same thing. Listen to what they ask Him: "Lord," they will ask, "when did we see you hungry and feed you? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in? When did we see you needing clothes and give them to you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? (Matthew 25:37-39 NlrV)

"The king responded, "Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers

and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40 NIV).

“Through this parable, Jesus is saying that we need to pay attention to the people around us. We need to take a closer look at what they really need. When we help those around us, we’re actually helping Him. But what does this look like for us? How about we find out together?”

HUNGRY/THIRSTY

(Holding a box of Mac n Cheese) “Did you guys know that kindness can look a lot like this box of mac and cheese? Maybe you’ve heard of a food drive before. Maybe your family has even given food to a food drive. Some people have a hard time buying enough food for their families. Others have maybe had some tough thing happen to them and they need some help from the rest of us. They might feel like they’ve been overlooked or forgotten.

“But we can change that! We can give them the food they need—GOOD food, like the same kind of things you like! *(Hold up the box.)* Or maybe they need good, safe drinking water. We can donate that too. And it doesn’t just have to be during the holidays. There are places that take food donations all year round.

“When you show kindness by giving food or water, you’re showing people that they’re valuable. You’re not going to ignore them or overlook them. Remember what Jesus said.

Open the Bible to Matthew 25:35a-b and read.

“I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink” (NIV).

COLD/CLOTHES

Historyteller: *(Holding up Warm jacket)* “You all know what this is. Everyone needs one of these this time of year.

“But you know what? Not everybody has one. There are some adults and kids who are cold all winter because they don’t have a good toasty jacket like this one.

“You and your family can donate clothes, too, just like people donate food. It’s a way to show kindness and love to people who really need it—people who have may have been overlooked. Remember what Jesus said.

Open the Bible to Matthew 25:36a and read.

“I needed clothes. And you gave them to me” (NIV).

STRANGER/FRIENDSHIP

Historyteller holds up the pieces of cardboard in front of him.

Historyteller: “I know what you’re thinking.... ‘You should recycle that.’ Well, maybe they’re more valuable than you think. I need three volunteers real quick.” *(Choose three responsible volunteers).*

“Here’s the deal. You never really know what’s going on with someone on the inside. They might ACT like everything is perfectly fine. But deep down, everyone is going through something they might not want to share with the people around them.

“They might feel scared because they’re afraid something is happening with their family, and they don’t know what to do about it.

Historyteller uses the marker to write “SCARED” on a piece of cardboard and hands it to one volunteer so that they can hold it where the audience can read it.

“Maybe they feel like they’re not good enough with their grades at school, or on their team, or at their audition.

Historyteller writes “NOT GOOD ENOUGH” on a piece of cardboard and hands it to one volunteer so that they can hold it where the audience can read it.

“Maybe they just don’t feel cool enough. They’re not sure that they fit in.

Historyteller writes “I DON’T FIT IN” on a piece of cardboard and hands it to one volunteer so that they can hold it where the audience can read it.

“You wouldn’t know about these things on the outside. But we’ve all had times when we felt scared, not good enough, or like we didn’t fit in. We’ve all felt overlooked sometimes. That’s why kindness is so important. You never know what someone is going through. But if you show kindness, you show them that they can be brave because you’ve got their back.

Historyteller writes “BRAVE” on the back of the “SCARED” cardboard sign. Host holds it up.

“You show them that you believe in them and let them know they’ve got what it takes.

Historyteller crosses out “NOT” on the “NOT GOOD ENOUGH” sign.

“You show them you’ll always be their friend. You can show them that they belong.

Historyteller writes “I BELONG” on the back of the “I DON’T FIT IN” cardboard sign. Host holds up the “I BELONG” side.

“That’s like what Jesus said.

Open the Bible to Matthew 25:35c and read.

“I was a stranger. And you invited me in” (NIV).

“When you’re kind to someone, you treat them like a friend so they don’t have to feel like a stranger.

(To Volunteers) “Thanks for helping us uncover something important today!”

Dismiss volunteers to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

Historyteller: “Guys, do you see how powerful kindness can be? We can see a need and do something about it. Let’s look at the one thing to remember for today.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “**Be kind to people who are overlooked.** See, when we provide food or water or clothes or friendship to people who need it, we show them how valuable they are. We treat them the way Jesus taught us to so they don’t have to feel overlooked or forgotten. They feel like they really matter. That’s what kindness can do! Let’s pray and ask God to help us discover ways we can **[Bottom Line]** **be kind to people who are overlooked.**”

Pray

Historyteller: “God, thank You for the way You provide what we need—from food and clothes to friends and family who love us. We know there are people around us who are hungry or cold or who just need to know someone loves them. Help us to see the chances we have every day to help other people, and please give us the courage to show them Your kindness. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to God!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: *“Rock this Planet”*

SFX: *“Live Loud”*

SFX: *“Forever Reign”*

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “What a great lesson today! Now, I want you to think about something for a second. Go ahead and rewind your life. (*Hold up the remote.*)

SFX: *Rewind*

“Have you ever been overlooked? You know, like one of the people that Jesus was talking about? When you felt like that, you probably wanted a friend to come alongside you to help or at least listen to what was going on in your life.

“Maybe someone sat next to you at the lunch table. Someone asked how you were feeling when you were having a bad day. Or maybe someone offered to lend a hand when you could really use one. If those kinds of things made you feel better, think about how your kindness can make others feel.

“You have people in your life who feel the same and could use a friend to help them feel better. You can be on the lookout to show that sort of kindness to the people around you. But sometimes that type of kindness takes a little bit of work. You have to keep your eyes open. Sometimes you even have to go looking for people who are desperately in need of help. And when you find them, you can make their day just by listening and helping to meet their needs.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Our Bottom Line for today read: **Be kind to people who are overlooked.** Jesus said when you’re kind to those people, it’s like you’re being kind to Him. One way we can show Jesus how much we love Him is by loving people who need it the most. I want us to read our memory verse together.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“‘Do to others as you would have them do to you.’ Luke 6:31, NIV.”

“I would like to think that if somehow, I wound up in a place of need, or you did, that we would all find ways to treat you with kindness, love, dignity; just the way we would want to be treated. There are lots of ways you can show that kind of kindness, and that’s what you guys are going to talk about back in Small Group. Have a great time together. See you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

9:00 & 11:30

Overlooked Subjects

What You Need: “Overlooked Subjects” and “Overlooked Subjects: Acts of Kindness” Activity Pages, die

What You Do:

- Place the “Overlooked Subjects” cards in a row (in numbered order) in the middle of your space. Place the “Acts of Kindness” cards below them, also in numbered order.
- Explain to kids that they will each get a turn rolling the die.
 - They will roll it two times with each turn they receive.
 - The first roll will determine which overlooked subject they landed on. For example, if they roll a two, they landed on the homeless man.
 - The second roll will determine what act of kindness they landed on. For example, if they roll a two, they landed on “something to drink.”
- Once they have rolled twice, they will determine how they can be kind to their selected person with the item that was selected. For example: I can be kind to the homeless person by giving him a bottle of water.
- Continue until each of your few has had a turn rolling, and as time and interest allow.

Note: Be careful not to encourage your few to invite a stranger into their home without express permission from a parent or guardian. If they happen to roll the combination of house and homeless man/new kid at school, give suggestions such as, “Get to know the new kid and then ask a parent if you can invite him over,” or, “Ask a parent to help homeless person find a shelter to go to.”

What You Say:

- “The options really are endless for how we can show kindness to others. We often forget about the people all around us who may need a kind word or action. Maybe it’s the new girl in school who doesn’t have any friends yet. Or perhaps it’s the person you know who doesn’t have as much as you. Whoever it may be, we can all **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.**” *[Make It Personal] (Describe a time when you were overlooked and received kindness, or you gave kindness to someone who was overlooked.)*

10:15**Race to Kindness****[Live for God | Application Activity]***Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

What You Need: Quarter sheets of paper, yellow markers, 3 oz. paper cups, building blocks, baby dolls, baby blankets, BAND-AID[®]s, smiley stickers or markers, white paper

What You Do:

- Using two pieces of paper, write “Team 1” on one and “Team 2” on the other.
- Set up the race in the following order. Form two identical lines with the same challenges:
 - **Stop 1:** Quarter sheets of paper and yellow markers. *Kids will “butter” their bread by coloring a sheet with yellow marker.*
 - **Stop 2:** Paper cups filled with water (one for each kid). *Kids will chug a cup of water.*
 - **Stop 3:** Blocks. *Kids will build a house using at least five blocks.*
 - **Stop 4:** Baby and blanket. *Kids will wrap the baby in a blanket.*
 - **Stop 5:** BAND-AIDs. *Kids must put on one BAND-AID.*
 - **Stop 6:** Smiley stickers or markers. *Kids will put a smiley sticker (or draw a smiley face) on their team sign.*
- Explain each stop of the race to your few.
- The first team to have every player put a smiley face on their sign wins!

What You Say:

“You guys sure know how to race! Can anyone tell me how some of our race stops remind us of today’s Bible Lesson? *(Allow time for kids to think. Ask leading questions if needed.)* What does buttering our bread have to do with kindness? *(We can give food to someone who’s hungry.)* How about chugging that cup of water? *(We can give the thirsty something to drink.)* That’s right! As much fun as our game was today, it’s even more fun to be kind to others who aren’t expecting it. This week, think of some of the ways you can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.**”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Ask your few if any one person or need stood out to them today.
- As they share, ask them how they think that person could use prayer.

What You Say:

“God, I thank you that You do not overlook anyone! Thank You for truly loving the least of these, and thank You for giving your love and kindness to us. I pray that You cause our group to see Your people like You do. Help us to see the overlooked and boldly reach out to them with kindness. Show us this week how we can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.** In Jesus’ name, amen!”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask each kid to share that every person deserves kindness and that we can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.**