

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

Early Arriver

- Dice; 1 for each kid

10:15

Overlooked Items

- Serving tray
- Cloth to cover tray
- 15+ different small items to place in one layer on tray
- 1 piece of paper
- Pencil

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

Kindness Challenge

- “Challenge Cards”; 1 set for each kid
- “Parent Note” Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; 1 note for each kid
- Markers
- Zip-top baggies; 1 for each kid

10:15

Your Name Here

- “Your Name Here Fill-In Sheet V1 and V2” Activity Pages; 1 set for every 2 kids
- Pencils

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)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Thank God for His eternal kindness. Ask Him to forgive you and to forgive your few for the times you’ve overlooked someone and, as a result, were unkind to them. Pray that kids would seek out those who are typically overlooked and purposefully seek to be kind to those people.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: Offering container, dice

What You Do:

- Collect kids’ offerings as they arrive.
- Give each kid a die.
- Divide kids into groups of two or three.
- Call out a number (between one and six) and instruct kids to all roll their dice at the same time.
- Let them keep rolling until each group rolls the number you called out. (Once a kid has rolled the number, he stops rolling and waits for the rest of his group to catch up.)
- The first team to have all members roll the assigned number is the winning team.
- For whatever number was called out, the winning team must come up with the same amount of ways they can be kind to a family member this week.
- If there is still time left, they do it again, this time listing ways they can be kind to a friend.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Overlooked Items**

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

What You Need: Serving tray covered with small items, cloth, paper, pencil

What You Do:

- Place the uncovered tray in the middle of your group. Tell kids to look at it closely because in a minute you will cover the tray, and they will need to try to remember what was on it.
- Give kids 30-60 seconds to look. Then cover the tray.
- Ask kids to call out the items they can remember. Write them down on the paper.
- Uncover the tray, and ask kids to see if there was anything they overlooked.

What You Say:

“There were so many items on our tray, it was easy to overlook some of them. It’s also sometimes easy to overlook people, because there are just so many people in this world. **[Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about how we should treat people who are overlooked.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 5 volunteers
- 5 blindfolds
- 5 brown paper bags
- Potato chip crumbs
- Pennies
- Almost-empty toothpaste tube
- Broken crayons
- Blanket scrap
- Table
- Tent Labels for each of the bags

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

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 is on stage welcoming kids as they enter.

HOST: “What’s up, friends? Welcome to The Fort. If you’re excited to be hanging out with us today, look at your neighbor and say, ‘I’m more excited than you are!’”

HOST and KIDS: *(Point to the audience.)* “I’m more excited than you are!”

HOST: “My name is [Host’s name], and I think I might be the MOST excited of us all. Because I know all the fun, awesome, and hilarious things we’re going to do together today. Let’s get started with some of those right now. Raise your hand if you remember this month’s Life App. I’ll give you a hint. It starts with the letter K. *(Pause for response.)*”

CG: Kindness Slide

“That’s right! It’s kindness! Let’s read the definition of kindness together.”

HOST and KIDS: “Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.”

HOST: “One more time. But this time, use a kind whisper to say it.”

HOST and KIDS: *(Whisper)* “Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.”

HOST: “That was perfect. Kindness is simple when you choose to treat others the way you want to be treated. If everyone were kind like that, this world would be a way better, way cooler place to live. That’s just one of the reasons we’re looking at what God says about kindness.”

SFX: Upbeat game music

(Hold your hand to your ear.) “Ohhh! That’s my favorite sound! It’s our game music. Would the five volunteers I chose earlier come onstage?”

As volunteers come up, direct them to each stand in front of a bag.

“Here’s how we’ll play. Each of our contestants has a bag filled with something that we often overlook. In other words, in each bag there is some item that we sometimes ignore or don’t pay attention to. Instead, we throw it away, give it away, or maybe even lose it. They’ll have to figure out what’s in their bag. Sounds easy enough, right? Well, we thought we’d kick it up a notch. Today they’ll have to try this blindfolded!

Place blindfolds on kids and make sure they aren’t able to see what’s in the bag.

“Are you ready to play? Any questions? Great! Let’s do it! Contestants, open your bags. You can pull out your item. You can smell it. You can touch it. I would NOT recommend tasting all these items. Audience, don’t yell out the answers. Let’s see if they can guess them.

Walk from contestant to contestant, encouraging them to experiment with their item. After about 15 seconds, have them stop.

“Okay, contestants. Each of you has an item that we often overlook . . . that we don’t value . . . that doesn’t get a lot of love, respect, or kindness. Keep your blindfolds on while I reveal to our audience what item is in each bag.

Set up signs in front of bags.

“Contestants, does everyone have a guess? Okay, let’s see who can guess what their item is.

Go down the line of items, allowing contestants to guess. An SFX should play after each one, according to whether they’re correct or not.

SFX: Ding, Ding (as needed)
SFX: Buzzer (as needed)

After contestants guess, they can take off their blindfold to see what their item is. Ask the audience for some suggestions for what a few of the overlooked objects could be used for.

“Wow! You all sure know your overlooked items. Some of those were hard. Thank for giving your best. Sometimes you just need to give something or someone that’s overlooked some attention. I mean, who doesn’t love some potato chip crumbs?! You can have a seat. Audience, let’s give them some attention with a round of applause!

Send kids back to their seats.

“Hey, speaking of attention, let’s give ALL of our attention to [Historyteller’s Name] as she comes on up to share today’s Bible Truth with us.”

Host exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hello, hello. How’s everyone feeling today?”

Hold hand beside ear and nod.

“That’s great! I’m feeling good, too. You know why? Well, it’s because I love getting to talk with you about something important from God’s Word. This month we’ve been talking about kindness—showing others they are valuable by what we say and do. But here’s the thing; we shouldn’t be kind because we’re supposed to be kind. Instead, we should show kindness because we think being kind to people will make a difference in their lives. That what’s happened when God was kind and loving when He sent Jesus. It made a HUGE difference in our lives. We can do the same for others.

“Being kind to people who might be famous, like a football player or rock star, do you think that would be easy? *(Pause for response.)* Yeah, me too! If we saw someone like that, we’d probably do whatever it took to make sure they felt valuable by what we said to them.

“But do we treat everyone like that? How about our teachers or kids who seem to keep to themselves? What about kids who are just different than us?”

“That’s a great question. And when we have a great question like that, the first place we should look is the Bible, God’s Word to us. How about we do that right now in a unique way? We’re going to watch our Bible Truth today. Play close attention. Here we go.”

CG: 252 Story

HISTORYTELLER: “Kindness is powerful. When we see a need and do something about it, that’s kindness. Let’s look at the one thing to remember for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Be kind to people who are overlooked.** When we give food or water or clothes or friendship to people who need it, we show them they are important to us. We treat them the way Jesus taught us to so they feel like they really matter. Hmm. ‘Treat them’ is another way of saying ‘Do to others,’ like from our memory verse. I say we take a look at it real quick.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

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

“Say that with me.”

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us discover ways we can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.** Let’s pray together.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, You are such a big, awesome, and loving Father. You’re always kind to us, even when we don’t deserve it. Please help us to be kind to others, especially to the people who get ignored, who are lonely, or who feel forgotten. When we’re kind to them, help them see how much You love them. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

“Now, up on your feet and give some mad respect, and kindness, to our Power Praise team!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “Rock this Planet”

SFX: “Living Loud”

SFX: “Forever Reign”

Host enters as Power Praise Team exits.

Closer

HOST: “Hey, everyone! What an important lesson from Jesus today. You know, I’ve never thought that being kind to others was like we’re being kind to Jesus. It’s so awesome that God uses people like us to show others how much He loves them.

“If we think about it hard enough, I bet we could think of people in our life who feel overlooked. These could be kids in our class who always seem to get picked last in P.E. or at recess. Or maybe they’re people in our neighborhood who might not have enough to eat or could use a warm winter coat. We could be kind to others who just look like they’re a bit lonely.

“When you see kids like that at school, think about how you would want someone to show kindness to you and think about our Bottom Line for today.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “Be kind to people who are overlooked. Can you say that with me?”

KIDS and HOST: **[Bottom Line]** “Be kind to people who are overlooked.”

HOST: “Now, I know what you’re wondering: How do I know WHO is overlooked? How can I even show them kindness? I’m just a kid!

“It starts with being on the lookout for people who are overlooked. You can ask someone at home about people they know who could use some kindness in their life. You might find kids at school, someone on your basketball team, or maybe even your brother or sister. Sometimes WE can feel overlooked. But when we’re kind to these people, it can make a huge difference in their lives.

“In Small Group, you’ll talk more about HOW you can show kindness to people who are overlooked. I bet you’ll think of some awesome ways to make them feel like they matter to you and to God! Have fun doing that. We’ll 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)

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

9:00 & 11:30

Kindness Challenge

[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: “Challenge Cards” and “Parent Notes” (Activity Pages), markers, baggies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a set of “Challenge Cards” and a baggie.
- Guide kids to look at each card. Tell them to say what’s on the card, and then say the verse together.
- Allow kids to use the markers to color the pictures.
- Tell kids to put their cards and a “Parent Note” into their baggies to take home.

What You Say:

“I want you to take these home with you. My challenge to you and your family is to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked** in each of these ways before the month is over. There’s a note in there for your parents, but I want you to explain to them what each thing is, and then work together to come up with some ideas of how you can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.**”

10:15**Your Name Here****[Talk about God | Bible Review | Application Activity]***Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***What You Need:** “Your Name Here Fill-In Sheet V1 and V2” Activity Pages, pens or pencils**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into pairs.
- Make sure each pair has a writing utensil and two different Activity Pages.
- The first player in each pair asks their partner for the categories of words as indicated on their page and writes them in the appropriate spaces.
- The second player then does the same.
- Players switch and read their papers out loud.
- For younger kids, play this as a group, inviting the whole group to suggest choices for the fill-in spaces on both V1 and V2 while you write them in. When you’re finished, read both sheets to the group.

What You Say:

“Some of these answers were kind of silly, but there’s a good point to this. When we put our names in the places of people who are hungry or thirsty or cold or lonely, their situations seem a lot more real. The amazing thing we heard in our Bible Truth today is that Jesus put His name in the place of people in need. Jesus said that when we take care of others, it’s like we’re being kind to Him. That’s kind of a big idea, but I really understood it myself when I **[Make It Personal] (share a time when you showed kindness or served someone who was in need)**. We’ve all been hungry or lonely or any of those other things, so we know how it feels. But we also know how great it feels when someone decides to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked**. Whenever we can, let’s try to put our names in their places and show kindness.”

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:**

- Gather the group to pray.
- Invite kids to each think of a word to describe someone who might be overlooked: hungry, thirsty, tired, scared, lost, sick, sad, lonely, cold. There can be more than one kid per word.
- Open your prayer by saying, “Dear God, today we know that there are many people in our world who might be overlooked. Please help us to remember people who are _____.” Go around the circle, with each child contributing their word.
- Finish the prayer for the group.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You that You notice everyone no matter who they are or what they need. Please help us to do the same so that we can ***[Bottom Line]*** be kind to people who are overlooked. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, help kids share the Bottom Line for the day with their families.