

All the Small Things

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

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who are overlooked.

Key Question: Have you ever received unexpected kindness?

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: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Just For Fun

- Hula hoop

10:15

Get Your Head in the Game

- Hula hoop
- 20 items that represent caring for the needs of others,.
- 1 sheet, to cover the Hula-Hoop and the items you place inside of it
- Stopwatch

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

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

9:00 & 11:30

Bible Truth Extension

- Bible
- 1 bottle of water for each student

10:15

Verses to Take with You

- Play-Doh[®]; 1 container for each student
- Bibles

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)

- One container of Playdoh

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

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)

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

Before your kids arrive for small group, spend some time in prayer. Pray that God would give you eyes to see the students in your group in a new way, especially the ones that don’t always get as much attention or interaction as others in your group. Ask God to give your students the courage to treat everyone around them the way they would want to be treated, especially those whom are often overlooked

9:00 & 11:30

Just For Fun

What You Need: Hula hoop

What You Do:

- **Ask** the students to stand in a circle and point to the person across from them, holding their hands in that position.
- Carefully **lay** the hula hoop over everyone's extended pointer fingers.
- **Explain** that their job is to work together to set the hoop on the floor without dropping it.
 - They must keep their fingers pointed straight ahead, touching the hoop only on the underneath side.
 - They can’t bend or use any of their other fingers to help it along.
 - If the hula hoop slips off of someone’s finger, everyone must start again.

What You Say: “You can’t overlook any one person when you’re trying to do something like this, together. Truthfully, we should work hard never to overlook anyone, ever. We’ll hear more about this in Large Group. Let’s check it out.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Get Your Head in the Game**

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

What You Need: Hula hoop, cloth, items for inside the hula hoop, stopwatch

What You Do:

- **Place** the items for the game inside the hula hoop. Cover it up so students can't see what's there.
- Tell them that when you remove the covering, they will have 10 seconds to look closely at the items before you cover them back up.
 - They should do their best to not overlook any of the objects or where they are placed.
- After the students have **viewed** the items, ask them to turn completely around so they can't see the hula hoop.
- **Choose** one person to remove or reposition one of the objects in the hoop then **let** the other students turn around and try to find the change within 10 seconds.
- **Repeat** several times removing or repositioning one or more objects or possibly none at all.

Wrap Up and Say:

"You guys have sharp eyes! You did a great job NOT overlooking anything and figuring out what was missing. That skill will come in handy today as we hear what Jesus said about people who often get overlooked."

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Seven Index Cards with backwards quotes

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Box of props
 - Sandwich in a baggie
 - Water bottle
 - Invite card
 - T-shirt or other article of clothing
 - Can of chicken noodle soup
 - Bottle of medicine
 - Watch or clock

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, 30 minutes)

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

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: 10-second countdown

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game (Super Bowl), movie opening, or a viral video on YouTube, etc. February events include: The Winter Olympics during February 9-25, Valentine’s Day on February 14, and Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.

Host transitions to Worship.

HOST: “Hey, everybody! I love that we are all here together. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning.”

WORSHIP

SFX: “Rock This Planet”

SFX: “Live Loud”

SFX: “Forever Reign”

Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage. Host transitions to the opening game.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, guys! We’ve been having a ton of fun REWINDing with some backwards competitions this month. Today we’re going back to movies because everybody loves movies. I know I do!”

"I'm going to read a famous line from a movie. If you know what movie it's from, stand up quickly, and I may call on you. Oh, and since we're REWINDing, I'll be saying the lines backwards."

Host turns around.

"Ready?"

Host turns back around.

"Just kidding. The LINE will be backwards. Not me. OK, here we go!"

Host pulls out the cue cards and reads them one by one. He chooses a kid to answer each time. Optional: Give out candy when a kid gets the answer.

- "Behind left gets nobody means family. Family means Ohana." ("Lilo & Stitch")
- "Smalls me killin' you're!" ("The Sandlot")
- "You love I and you met just have I. Dug is name my." ("Up")
- "Lightning am I. Quick than quicker, fast than faster. Speed." ("Cars")
- "Beyond and infinity to!" ("Toy Story")
- "For melting worth are people some." ("Frozen")
- "You with be force the may." ("Star Wars: Episode IV")

HOST: "You guys were great at that. All right, now let's welcome [Communicator's Name]."

Communicator enters with the prop box and places it on the stage before they start speaking.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "How's it going, everybody?! Great to see you here again. To kick us off this morning, I have a question for you. Ready for it? OK . . . Have you ever seen somebody show kindness to someone else and it kind of surprised you? Maybe it was somebody really popular and the person he was being kind to . . . eh . . . wasn't so popular. Or maybe it was somebody famous. Do you know of somebody like that?"

"If you've seen that sort of kindness, turn to your small group and talk about it . . . NOW!"

Give a moment to share and then call everybody back.

"Okay, leaders, can you help me out by pointing out a few kids that had good examples? Let's have them share with us."

Have a few willing kids share their examples.

"Those are great! Now, several months ago, here in Richmond, Fulshaer, and all of the Houston area experienced a devastating hurricane. It was pretty bad. But as a result, people from all over starting showing up in the Houston area to show kindness and help out however they could. Stories were

popping up everywhere of some amazing acts of kindness. Including this one! We had people staying in this very room. People who came from out of town, to help clean, demolish and just serve in any way they could. They just needed a place to stay and so we opened our doors and they stayed here. Guys here in the Base and Women in the Treehouse. People were stepping up and stepping in some seriously heart-tugging way.”

“Did you hear about what rookie starting quarterback, DeShaun Watson, did at the start of the season? So here is this famous, hot shot, starting quarterback of an NFL team getting paid a whole lot of money! And do you know what he did with his first paycheck? He didn’t buy a car. He didn’t go shopping. He GAVE it to three women who serve food at the team’s cafeteria who lost everything as a result of the hurricane!”

“Can you believe that!? These women were just serving food to the team, and this up-and-coming star quarterback gives up his whole first check to help them!”

“He didn’t have to do that, but he did it anyway—surprising kindness from a surprising source. Watson saw a need and did what he could to meet it, especially for people who are probably overlooked pretty often. Pretty cool, right?”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “All month, we’ve talked about the opportunities for us to show kindness that pop up all of the time. Just think about your day so far. We see people in need all the time. And some of these opportunities involve people who might be quite different from us. If we’re honest, we might even say we’d rather not be seen around them for some reason or another.”

“The lack of opportunities to show kindness is not the problem. Rather, we notice the needs of others but often overlook them. Why is this? People need help; why do we go on with our days as if they don’t? Maybe it’s because sometimes it is difficult to make ourselves STOP and focus on others and what they’re going through. Yet, is this the best way to respond when we see needs? That’s a good question, and good questions need answers. The best place to start is God’s Word, the Bible. Let’s see what we can find out.

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Sure enough, Matthew includes one of Jesus’ teachings where He seems to be talking about this idea. Jesus is the One speaking these words, and He is talking about what His kingdom will be like when He returns to rule—it is kind of a big idea, but stick with me. In this passage, He is explaining that in the future, He will be like a king rewarding His subjects for what they have done. He begins to tell them just what they’ve done. Check this out . . .”

(Read directly from Matthew 25:35-36, NIV) “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.”

Communicator walks over, grabs the box of props, and brings it over to center stage. Communicator can take one item at a time and line them up along the front of the stage.

“Jesus has a lot to say here! How about we break it down a bit? Let’s start with the first thing He says: ‘I was hungry. And . . . you gave me something to eat.’”

Pulls out sandwich in a baggie. Encourage kids to help you remember what was said by letting them respond with the second part.

“I was thirsty. And . . . (Encourage kids to respond.) you gave me a drink.”

Pulls out water bottle.

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

Pulls out the invite card.

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

Pulls out the t-shirt or other clothing item.

“I was sick. And . . . you took care of me.”

Pulls out the chicken soup and the bottle of medicine.

“I was in prison. And . . . you came to visit me.”

Pulls out the watch or clock.

“Well, this is quite a list here! Did they really do all of these things for Jesus? That’s the question they have, too. Listen to what they ask.”

(Read directly from Matthew 25:37b-39, NIV) “‘Lord . . . 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?’”

COMMUNICATOR: “They’re just as confused as we are! ‘When did all of this happen? Jesus—we don’t remember seeing You in prison or hungry or thirsty . . . help us out here! I’m sure we would have remembered making a sandwich for Jesus!’”

“This is amazing—check out Jesus’ response . . .”

(Read directly from Matthew 25:40 NIV) “‘What I’m about to tell you is true. Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

COMMUNICATOR: “Did you catch that?! No they hadn’t given food to Jesus . . . or given Him clothes . . . or visited Him when He was sick. BUT . . . He says that when you did it for the least important . . . the people that are forgotten or overlooked . . . it was like you were doing it for Me!”

“Jesus notices the kindness that we show to others . . . especially those who are overlooked. I think this is absolutely incredible!”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “So at the top, we were talking about how we are surrounded by opportunities to show kindness all the time but how easy it is to overlook people. Now I think there are other ways to show kindness than the six Jesus talked about, but what if we were to start there?”

Move to the different objects that can represent the ideas shared below.

“Is there a family you know that is struggling to buy groceries right now because maybe a parent lost a job or they are just going through a rough patch? What if your family surprised them with some groceries . . . and what if it was like you were buying groceries for Jesus?”

“Or maybe there is somebody from your school who has been really sick lately. She is getting really behind on her schoolwork, and she is feeling pretty lonely being away from all her friends. What if you collected some of her work for her and dropped in to help her get caught up . . . and what if it was like you were visiting Jesus?”

“Or maybe your closets are overflowing with some new clothes you got for Christmas along with all of your old ones. What if you went through and picked out some that are still in good condition and donated them to a local shelter or organization . . . and what if it was like you were giving clothes to Jesus?”

“Remember Jesus’ words: ‘Anything you did for one of the least important of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Those words go right along with our Bible Verse.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

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

“As you head to small group today, I want you to think again about that idea of surprise kindness and answer this question: have you ever received unexpected kindness?”

CG: Key Question Slide

“Have you ever received unexpected kindness? Now, here’s the thing: it doesn’t stop there. It is not just about what we have RECEIVED, but it is now a challenge about what we can GIVE. After you answer that question, think about those who are often overlooked. How could you show kindness to them this week . . . and by doing so, show kindness to Jesus! Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 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

Bible Truth Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Truth Review]

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

What You Need: Bible, bottles of water

What You Do:

- **Ask** the students to sit in a circle, then give each person a bottle of water (or a snack item you’ve provided).
- **Read** Matthew 25:35-40 to the students.
- **Tell** students to take a sip of water (or eat one of the snacks) whenever you say the word “I.”
- **Read** the passage again, but this time ask your group to take a sip of water when they hear the word “you.”
- **Point out** that when we unselfishly help someone, we’re serving God.
- **Reread** verses 35-36 pausing after each “I” sentence to give the students an opportunity to interject an example of a way they have shown or have been shown kindness as described in that part of the verse.
 - In other words, when have they had opportunity to serve God by serving someone’s need for food, clothing, friendship, etc.?
 - Was there ever a time when they or their family were in need and others helped meet that need?
- **Take the discussion deeper.** Ask:
 - From the needs mentioned in these verses, which one do you think is the hardest for you to help meet?
 - What kind of people are hardest for you to help?
 - Why do you think God wants us to show kindness to those who are overlooked?
 - What gets in the way or makes it hard for you to include others?
 - What can you do to become more aware of others’ needs?

10:15**Verses to Take with You****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

What You Need: Bibles, Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a Bible or **let** him use a device on which they can find an online Bible source.
- **Ask** them to look up Hebrews 6:10 then take turns reading it out loud from their Bibles. If possible, compare different translations.
- **Invite** them to put the verse into first-person tense as if God is speaking the words directly to them. (*I am fair. I will not forget what you have done. I will remember the love you have shown Me. You showed it when you helped My people. And you show it when you keep on helping them.*)
- **Initiate** thought-provoking questions that will help your students get to the heart of the verse and compare it with where their hearts are toward others in need.
 - What do you learn about God from this verse?
 - Name three benefits of living out this verse and being known as someone who includes others.
 - Why do we need to be reminded to show kindness to those who are overlooked?
 - What keeps us from including others?

Pro Tip: *Remember that a change of heart in any of your students is done by the work of the Holy Spirit. Creative teaching, engaging questions, and relationship-building activities may help to open the door of a kid's heart, but only God's Spirit can do the work of helping him see a need to change. Pray for God's leading before, during, and after Small Group. God has the power to use you to speak truth into the hearts of your preteen students.*

- **Assign** one sentence of Hebrews 6:10 to each of the students then give them a container of Play-Doh®.
- **Ask** them to shape the dough in a way that illustrates their part of the verse.
- **Close** by letting students share their Play-Doh® creations and the meaning behind them.

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding***What You Need:** Play-Doh®**What You Do:**

- **Say something like:** “We all know how great it feels to be included. We also know what it’s like to be overlooked. Rewind this past week. Did you ever feel overlooked like one of the hungry, cold, or lonely people that Jesus was talking about in today’s lesson? Maybe you felt like everyone around you had someone to talk to except for you. It feels so great at times like that when someone steps out and makes a connection with you! Let’s pray that God will help you to be the kind of kid who isn’t afraid to be friends with those who get overlooked. When you do, you’ll leave a mark of kindness on that person.”
- **Sit** in a circle and hand a smooth ball of Play-Doh® to one of the students.
- **Invite** him to pray a short prayer – silently or out loud – asking for God’s help to see those who are overlooked and to be able to leave a mark of kindness on that person’s life in some way this week.
- As each student takes a turn praying, **let** him press his fingerprint into the dough, leaving a distinct mark.

Dear Jesus, You left Your imprint on the lives of everyone You met. You’re still leaving Your mark on the world today by using us to meet the needs of those who are often overlooked. We know that every time we serve someone else, we’re serving You. Help us to serve You well. Help us to serve You unselfishly. Help us to serve You the way You serve us. In Your name we pray, Amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.