

Mercy, Mercy Me

Bible: Mercy, Mercy Me (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-48*

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who aren't kind to you.

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

- No supplies needed

10:15

Opposites

- "Opposites" Activity Pages; 1 half page for each kid (*Note: Make sure there is an opposite match for each page you provide.*)

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

Balloon Scenarios

- Inflated balloons; 1 for each kid (*Note: Be aware of any latex allergies.*)
- Write the numbers 1-8 on the balloons; if you have more than 8 kids, repeat the numbers

10:15

Verse Frame

- "Verse Frame" Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- Markers
- Various decorating materials

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. Everyone has people around them who are unkind at times. And everyone has experience being that unkind person. Ask God for the strength to respond to unkindness with the opposite: kindness. Pray that He would give your kids the courage to be kind even when someone is not kind to them.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Explain what villains are in TV shows and movies.
- See if kids can identify villains in certain movies or shows, such as "Dora the Explorer", "Frozen", and "Cars 3".
- Ask questions such as:
 - What kinds of bad things do the villains do?
 - How do other characters respond to them?

When we watch movies with bad guys or villains, we always cheer for the good guy, because he or she is nice. We believe in them because we believe in the way they behave and treat others. We've been learning about being kind, ***[Transition]*** but this week we're going to learn something about its opposite: 'unkind.' **Let's go to Large Group and find out more."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Opposites****What You Need:** “Opposites” Activity Pages**What You Do:**

- Give each kid an “Opposites” page.
- Make sure there’s an opposite match for each one.
- If you have an odd number of kids, you or another volunteer will need to participate.
- Gather kids into a circle, and make sure kids know what each page says.
- Then tell kids to scatter around your space.
- When you say, “Match,” kids find their opposite match and link arms.
- Gather the papers, mix them up, hand them out again, and play again.
- Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“The opposite of short is tall. And the opposite of hot is cold. But we could also say the opposite of hot is ‘not hot,’ right? Or the opposite of tall is ‘not tall.’ We’ve been learning about being kind, **[Transition]** **but this week we’re going to learn something about its opposite: ‘unkind.’ Let’s go to Large Group and find out more.”**

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
- Remote control

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 the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, guys and gals! I love your energy today. It sounds like you're ready to have some FUN! Let's get the Power Praise team in here!!"

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

SFX: *"Rock this Planet"*

SFX: *"Live Loud"*

SFX: *"Forever Reign"*

Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits.

HOST: "You know, I think you guys are KIND of a big deal. That means you (*put a sticker on a kid*) and you (*put a sticker on a kid*) and you (*put a sticker on a SGL*) and you (*put a sticker on a tech volunteer*). All of you are KIND of a big deal!"

CG: *Kindness Slide*

"Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. It's like if you went around every day of your life putting stickers on everybody, telling them they're a big deal. But you don't necessarily do it with stickers, do you? You do it with actions. Everybody needs to hear that they're valuable. I know I like it when someone makes ME feel like I'm valuable. And that's what we get to do. We get to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated:** with kindness!"

"Sometimes kindness comes easy. It's not difficult to be kind to people who are kind to you. But other times, kindness can be tricky. We'll talk about that in a few minutes. But first, it's time for us to hit

rewind (*hold up the remote*) . . .

SFX: Rewind

“ . . . and have some fun, because kindness deserves a replay. Today we have something everyone in the entire room gets to play. Who's ready for some EPIC dancing?! (*Pause for response.*) Glad to hear it, because it's time for a backward freeze dance!

“Now, you might have played regular freeze dance where you dance when the music plays and freeze when the music stops. But that's too easy. I figured we could try a backward freeze dance, meaning when the music STARTS, you freeze! When the music STOPS, you dance and go crazy. Confusing? Maybe, but I think it'll be so much fun! Now, if you dance when there's music, or if you stop when there's NO music, you're out. And remember, don't be shy. (*Show some tentative movements.*) You've got to REALLY move. (*Do some big dance moves.*) Everyone understand? Any questions? Great! We'll keep moving and dancing until we have a dance champion. Let's do this!

SFX: Fun dance song

Host emcees, telling kids when they're out (in a lighthearted way). When you get down to just a few kids, bring them up on stage for the last few rounds.

“Amazing! You all did great, but [kid's name] is our champion. (*To the winning kid*) You've got some moves!

Dismiss kids to their seats.

“Now all of you get ready to welcome [Historyteller's Name] to the stage to lead is in another amazing Bible Truth.”

Host exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, everyone! Hope you're doing great today! We've been hanging out all month talking about what God says about being kind to others. By now, it's no secret. Kindness is important not only for us, but also to God. We know that He wants us to treat other people like they're really important and valuable, because they are!”

“And you know what? That SOUNDS good. Maybe it even sounds easy. How hard can it be to be nice to people? Well, maybe that's true if they are nice to you! But what if they AREN'T nice to you? Then what do you do?

“Raise your hand if you've ever been treated badly by someone for no reason. I mean, there's no other way to say it. They were just mean! (*Raise your hand.*) Yeah, me too. Unfortunately, that's real life. Not everyone is going to be nice and kind all the time. In fact, there are probably times what we've not been so nice to people around us too. But when you feel like someone is treating you badly, you have a choice to make, right? How will you respond? Will you only be kind to people who are kind to you? Or what if you chose to be kind to people who are UNkind to you? What might happen then? Well, let's

find out together.”

“Please roll that film [Tech Leader’s Name]!”

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “It’s really, really hard to be kind sometimes. It can be hard to be kind to that grumpy old guy, the rude kid at the park, the smart kid at school, or even our own family members. It can start to feel like these people are our enemies.

“But when moments like this happen we need to remember what Jesus said. Let’s take a look.

CG: Matthew 5:43-44 Slide

“You have heard that it was said, “Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.” But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you” (NIRV).

“It’s easy for us to be kind to people who are kind to us. In fact, Jesus says later in this passage that even the worst of the worst people do that. But Jesus calls us to something different, something greater, something that, if we can get it right, can point people to Him! Let’s look at our Bottom Line together.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.** This doesn’t mean you have to be best friends with the bully, but try being kind to them and be a friend. You never know what might happen if you choose to treat them like you’d want to be treated. This isn’t easy, though, so how about we talk to God about it? Let’s pray together.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, sometimes it feels like we’re kind over and over again without anyone being kind back to us. Help us not to look at kindness that way. Help us look at kindness like You do. You love us and treat us with kindness no matter what. Help us to be kind to everyone—even to our enemies. 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.”

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Whoa. This whole ‘love your enemies’ thing is a game changer. It’s super easy for most of us to be kind to most people. But that doesn’t make us any different from anyone else. If we want to be more like Jesus, we’ll figure out how we can show kindness to the people it’s hard to be kind to. Let’s take another look at our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Be kind to people who aren’t kind to you. Say it with me.”

KIDS and HOST: **[Bottom Line]** “Be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.”

HOST: “We can use kind words even when it’s hard. We can celebrate others even when it’s hard. We can help out at home even when it’s hard.

“When we do that—when we are kind to people even when it’s hard—we are just like Jesus. And think about it. Even people who are hard to love need to feel loved, too. Sometimes our kindness can be just what they need the most. Jesus died on a cross to show us He loves us no matter what—no matter what mistakes we’ve made or what bad things we’ve done. We don’t have to do anything to earn that love. And now we have the opportunity to show others that same kind of love. Besides, when you’re not being very nice, ourselves, you still want others to show you kindness and love. So remember,

CG: Memory Verse Slide

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

“You’ll talk more about how you can be kind to people who aren’t kind to you in Small Group. I hope you guys have fun together. I’ve had such a great time talking about what God says about kindness this month. I can’t wait until next week when we start something brand new. See you then!”

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

Balloon Scenarios

What You Need: Numbered balloons

What You Do:

- Tell kids to stand around your space.
- Toss the balloons out one by one, and tell kids to bat them around. Give them about 20-30 seconds to play.
- When you say, "Catch," everyone should catch a balloon and take a seat.
- Then tell the kid(s) with Balloon 1 to stand up.
- Read Scenario 1 below. Then encourage the standing kid(s) to come up with one way to be kind to the person in the scenario.
- Repeat with the other numbers.
- Scenarios:
 1. A bigger kid at school elbowed you in the face in the lunch line and didn't apologize.
 2. Your little sister looked you straight in the eye while tearing a page out of your new book.
 3. The checker at the grocery store laughed when you dropped a bag of apples on the floor and they rolled everywhere.
 4. A kid at the park cut in front of you just as it was your turn for the big slide.
 5. Your older cousin yelled at you when you accidentally spilled juice on his pants.
 6. A kid on the other soccer team called your team "losers" when they beat you.
 7. Your new neighbor yelled at you for going into her yard to get your Frisbee.
 8. The librarian shushed you when you were just asking your friend which book he liked.

What You Say:

"Sometimes people aren't kind to us. That's just the way life works. I mean, sometimes we're not kind to others, right? But we should be kind to others—even when they might not be nice to us. God wants you to **[Bottom Line]** be kind to people who aren't kind to you." **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids an age-appropriate story about a time someone wasn't kind to you, but you make a choice to be kind to them in response.)

10:15**Verse Frame****[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: “Verse Frame” Activity Pages, markers, decorating materials

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page and say the verse together as a group.
- Then see if anyone can say the verse without looking at it.
- Set out the markers and decorating supplies.
- Allow plenty of time for kids to decorate their Verse Frames.

What You Say:

“Let’s say our verse together one more time. (*Say the verse.*) That is such a great rule to live by. It makes life better for us and for other people. It can also be a reminder to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.** I want you to take your Verse Frames home and put them somewhere you’ll see them every day as a reminder to treat everyone with 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 kids in a circle.
- Guide them to silently pray for someone who hasn’t been kind to them in the past week.
- Remind kids that if someone keeps being unkind to them, they shouldn’t keep spending time with that person. They should just make sure to not be unkind back to them.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, please help us to be kind to everyone, even if they aren’t kind to us. We thank You for being kind to us, and we want to be more like You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them. Then encourage adults to help kids find a good place at home to put their Verse Frames (10:15 only).