

Alley SG-February 10th-11th, 2018

Bible Truth: We are Family (Ruth and Boaz) • *Ruth 1–2*

Bottom Line: Be kind to your family and friends.

Key Question: When is it hard to be kind?

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

1. Just For Fun

What You Need: Index cards, pens

What You Do:

- **Hand out** index cards and pens then **ask** the students to draw stick figure poses that would be physically difficult (but not impossible) to hold for a long time.
 - For example, standing on one foot with one arm in the air and another behind their back.
- **Choose** a volunteer to demonstrate a pose from one of the cards (within reason) then ask him/her to lead the group to “hold that pose” for as long as they can. Last one standing is the winner.
- **Play** several times, changing poses and leaders each time.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Conversation hearts (candy) (one bag per group), smartphone timer

What You Do:

- **Set** the hearts within everyone’s reach.
- If not using tables, **give** each person a hard surface to work on, such as a clipboard or hardcover book.
- **Tell** students that they must stack as many of the hearts as they can in 1 minute.
 - If a student’s pile falls over she will need to start again.
 - At the end of 1 minute, the player with the tallest stack wins that round.
- **Repeat** several times.
- After the final round, **ask** students to name things they like about their families—one comment for each candy heart on their stacks.
 - *Note: If any of your students has a particularly difficult home life, ask students to name things they like about either family or friends.*

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

Invite students to share something they wish they had the chance to do all over again with their families. It can be something enjoyable that they would like to rewind and do again, or it could be something they regret or didn’t like and wish they could go back and erase or do over.

- **Ask** them to share what the redo might look like for any situations they'd like to rewind and play out in a better way.

NOTE: *Preteens may have significant difficulties they've had to live through. Be sensitive and encouraging, directing them back to the Source (Jesus) of all hope and forgiveness. Remind your group that even though we can't rewind our lives, we can learn from mistakes (our own as well as others') and grow our trust in God during hard times.*

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- **Read** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 one sentence at a time as you let the students identify ways Ruth, Boaz, and others lived out kindness as described in that part of the verse. (Example: When was someone in the story *patient*? How were they *kind*?)
- **Challenge** students to make a deeper, more personal application. **Ask** the following questions:
 - Why do you think we often treat complete strangers with kindness more than we do our own family members?
 - God wants us to show kindness freely to others, but that doesn't mean it's "free." What does kindness cost us?
 - Do you think others would describe you as kind? Why or why not?
 - What aspect of kindness did you discover today that you hadn't thought of before?

5. Discussion Questions

- Have you ever regretted showing kindness to someone? Explain.
- Would you say that being kind is something you DO or something you ARE?
- Do you think it's possible to be kind to everyone? Why or why not?
- Do you think kindness changes depending on how well you know a person, if they are family or friend, how old they are, or whether they follow Jesus? Explain.
- Describe the kind of relationship you want to have with your family. How might the kindness you show today impact that?

6. Close with Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how to love our family and friends with kindness that honors You. Teach us how to show others they are valuable by how we treat them, especially as we choose to be kind to our families and friends. In Your name we pray, Amen."

7. God Time (Take Home Sheets)

Pass out these sheets at the close of service, and reminds students to bring them back the following weekend for \$3 in Alley Cash.