

City SG-February 24th-25th, 2018

Bible Story: 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 want them to do to you." *Luke 6:31, NIV*

1. Balloon Scenarios

What You Need: Sharpie and Numbered balloons (#1-#8) (one set per group)

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.)

2. Wheel of Unkindness

What You Need: "Wheel of Unkindness" (Activity Page) (one per group)

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to form a circle so you can put the spinner in the middle where they can all reach.
- Allow every kid to spin and act out the unkind challenge they land on.
- Continue until each kid has a turn and as time and interest allows.

What You Say:

"Sometimes we laugh at people or do or say things that are unkind. But the truth is, if you're unkind in a serious way, it can really hurt someone. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group we are going to learn what we can do for people who are being unkind to us."

3. Kindness Origami

What You Need: "Kindness Origami" Activity Pages (one per child), scissors

What You Do:

- Hand out Activity Pages, and tell kids to cut out the square, but keep the instructions nearby.
- Help kids follow the instructions. Walk them through folding the lines one at a time.
- Display how the Kindness Origami works by using your fingers to manipulate it while counting a predetermined number. Read through some of the examples.
- Ask for a few volunteers to use their Kindness Origami to choose a "way to be kind" and then give an example of how they'll do that thing this week.

What You Say:

"How cool is this? What a fun way to help us show kindness when we are in some super tough situations. Can anyone think of a tough situation they have faced lately where it was difficult to be kind? (*Allow time for answers.*) Wow! That sounds really hard. How about we open up our Kindness Origami and get an idea for what you could do for that person to be kind? (*Continue this several times.*) This week, use your Kindness Origami as a tool to remind you of ways you can **[Bottom Line]** be kind to people who aren't kind to you."

3. Opposites Attract

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask your few to share (without using names) about something unkind that someone has done to them.
- As they respond, ask them what the opposite would be in that situation. How could that person have been kind instead of unkind? For example: Someone cut in front of me in line. They could have waited their turn instead.
- After you have had some discussion, remind your few of this month's memory verse.
- Encourage them to go out and be the kindness that they wish to see.
- Repeat the verse together as a group.

What You Say:

- "Our memory verse this month tells us that we should show the kindness to others that we would want to receive ourselves. I want to encourage you to go out and be the kindness that you wish to see. If you want people to wait their turn in line, you should let someone go in front of you! Whatever sounds like a really cool thing to be given, give that very thing to someone else. And don't forget to **[Bottom Line]** be kind to people who aren't kind to you, not just those who are kind."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- Explain to your few that they will be writing out prayers to God that they will take home.
- Encourage them to ask God to help them be kind to the people who are unkind to them.
- After kids are finished writing out their prayers, pray over your few that they would continue to find ways to be kind every day.

What You Say:

- “God, I thank you for this month’s great reminder of the amazing love and kindness You have gifted us with. As we talked about today, we know that it isn’t always easy to be kind, especially to those who aren’t kind to us. But God, I pray that each and every day from here on out, we would continue to find ways to show Your love and kindness to the world. Help us to be kind to people who aren’t kind to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”