

City “All Together Activities”—February 21st, 2021

Today’s Bible Story: One More Time (Go the Extra Mile) • *Matthew 5:41*

Today’s Bottom Line: Be kinder than you have to be.

Monthly Memory Verse: *You are God’s chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved.*

So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don’t be proud. Be gentle and patient. *Colossians 3:12 (NIV)*

1. Kindness Greeting

What You Need: Hand sanitizer, paper, pen

What You Do:

- Invite each kid to use a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Direct the kids to pair up, while maintaining physical distancing.
- Instruct the kids to introduce themselves to each other and create a simple **NO CONTACT** greeting.
- Explain that a no-contact greeting is like a secret handshake but without touching the other person.
- Kids can make their greeting as silly, simple, or elaborate as they choose.
- The idea is to mirror each other, doing the motions at the same time while facing—but not touching—each other.
- Encourage them to use more than one “move” to make their greeting unique.
 - If the kids need help, write the following ideas on a sheet of paper.
 - Air high fives
 - Spins
 - Silly dance moves
 - Bow or curtsy to each other
 - Back to back
 - Jumping jacks
 - A series of snaps or claps
 - Silly faces
 - Hug yourself
 - Thumbs up to each other
- Once kids come up with their greeting, invite them to show it off to the rest of the group.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Kindness Bingo Card, Pen

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Kindness Bingo Card” and a pen.
- Point out the blank line under each act of kindness on the bingo cards.
- Invite kids to write their own names in the center of their card as their free space.
- When the game starts, direct the kids to walk around and ask other kids which act of kindness they’ve performed that week.
- If a kid has performed that act of kindness, to keep physical distance, the owner of the card can write down the kid’s name in the correct blank.

- Explain that the winner is the first kid to fill five spots in a row—either down, across, or diagonally.
- Instruct the kids to yell “BINGO!” if they get five spots in a row.
- Play until someone yells “BINGO!”

What You Say:

“I LOVE bingo! And bonus, in this version of bingo, you learned several new ways you can spread a little kindness, too. **[Transition] Sometimes when it comes to kindness, we do JUST enough instead of going above and beyond.”**

3. The Extra Mile

What You Need: Bible, paper, and pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Look up Matthew 5:41.
- Read the verse aloud and instruct the kids to write out the verse along the top of their paper.
- As they write out the verse, ask these questions to invite discussion:
 - What do you think it means to “go the extra mile”? (*to do more than you have to, to do more than is expected*)
 - How could you do more than you have to when it comes to kindness?
- Give the kids a couple of prompts from the list below.
- Instruct them to write down how they could “go the extra mile” to show more kindness than they have to in that situation.
- Give as many prompts as the kids need.
- Allow kids to write as many responses as time allows.
- After each prompt, call on a few kids to share their responses.
- Possible kid responses are written in italics below.

Prompts:

Your mom asks you to put your clean clothes away.

KID RESPONSE: *Offer to put the towels away, too.*

Your brother asks to play video games.

KID RESPONSE: *Say, “Yes” and let him pick the game.*

Your teacher asks you to help explain the homework assignment to the new kid.

KID RESPONSE: *Help her with the assignment and invite her to play with you at recess.*

Your dad asks you to help mow the lawn.

KID RESPONSE: *Mow the lawn then help bag the grass and take it out to the street, too.*

You see someone struggling to carry something.

KID RESPONSE: *Help them carry the load and take it all the way to wherever they’re going.*

What You Say:

“I love how each of you wrote down something a little different! That just proves that there are many ways to be kind. Every single day, we have SO many opportunities to show kindness to others. But what about going beyond that? What about going the extra mile? Jesus challenges us to not just do the minimum amount of kindness but to **[Bottom Line] be kinder than you have to be.** How can you **[Bottom Line] be kinder than you have to be** this week to the people around you? How can you show MORE kindness to your parents, to your classmates and teammates, to the stranger behind you in line, or to the person behind the counter? Kindness matters. So, challenge yourselves to go the extra mile and **[Bottom Line] be kinder than you have to be.”**

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when someone was kinder to you than they had to be. Talk about how that extra measure of kindness made you feel and how it impacted the way you treated others around you.)

4. Pick a Number

What You Need: Numbers on Cardstock (1 set per campus), white floor tape

What You Do:

- Place the #1-10 pages around your room with #1 closest to the kids and #10 farthest away.
- Tell kids you’re going to think of a number between one and ten, and they’ll try to guess which number it is.
- Instruct them to stand by the number they think you have in your head.
- Multiple kids can choose the same number, but **be mindful that they space themselves out.**
- Once kids make their choice, “reveal” the number you were thinking, but choose a number that’s far away from where the majority of the kids are standing.
 - For example: If a large amount of the group is close to #2, choose #9 or #10.
 - If a majority of the group is around #9, choose #1 or #2.
- Instruct kids to go over to the “correct” number, while keeping a bit of space between themselves.
- Continue this way, always choosing a number that is far away from most of the kids—making them go the “extra mile.”

What You Say:

“Wow. I bet you’re tired from all that walking between numbers. **[Transition] In Large Group we heard a Bible Story about how we should go a little farther than we want to go. We should go the extra mile for others!**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Index cards and pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to write “Go the EXTRA mile” on the front of their index cards any way they choose.

- Encourage the kids to place these cards in their backpacks or somewhere they will see them all week long as a reminder to **[Bottom Line] be kinder than you have to be.**

What You Say:

"This week, you will have LOTS of chances to show kindness! But will you go the extra mile and **[Bottom Line] be kinder than you have to be?** Let's ask God to help us with that this week.

"Dear God, thank You for choosing to be kinder than You had to be by sending Your only Son, Jesus. This week, when we're tempted to just get by and do a little, help us remember how much You love us and to go the extra mile and do MORE to show kindness to the people around us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."