

ALLEY SG – February 10 - 11, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Family Ties (Ruth and Naomi) • *Ruth 1–2*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to be kind?

Today's Bottom Line: Be kind to the people closest to you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if there were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.*

Colossians 3:12 (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story review

What You Need: Fly swatters (two per group), and "Swat the Fly" Activity Pages (1 set of 3 per group)

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to share what they remember from the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Set out each of the three cards from the "Swat the Fly" Activity Page on the floor.
- Choose one kid from each team to gather around the "Swat the Fly" Activity Page at an equal distance—give each of those kids a flyswatter.
- Explain that you will read a statement that is true of either Ruth, Naomi, or Boaz.
- Instruct the kids with the flyswatters to swat the fly on the picture of the correct person from the Bible story—Ruth, Naomi, or Boaz—to earn a point for their team.
 - Explain if they swat the fly before the statement is completely read, they must also complete the statement correctly or lose their turn.
- After each statement, give a point to the winning team.
- Instruct the kids with the flyswatters to pass the flyswatter to one of their teammates.
- Read one of the Story Statements below to start the game.
- Repeat until all Story Statements have been read.

Story Statements:

1. My husband and sons all died in the land of Moab. (*Naomi*)
 2. I went with Naomi to the land of Bethlehem. (*Ruth*)
 3. I told Naomi, "Your people will be my people, your God my God." (*Ruth*)
 4. I owned land in Bethlehem. (*Boaz*)
 5. I am related to Boaz. (*Naomi*)
 6. I told my workers to leave extra grain in the field for Ruth. (*Boaz*)
 7. I asked permission to pick grain from the field of Boaz. (*Ruth*)
 8. I married Ruth. (*Boaz*)
 9. I gave birth to the future grandfather of King David. (*Ruth*)
 10. Bonus: I told friends to call me BITTER. (*Naomi*)
- After reading all the Story Statements, declare a winner.
 - Collect the fly swatters and set them aside.
 - Ask:
 - How did Ruth show Naomi she was valuable?
 - Why is Ruth's choice to stay with Naomi considered an act of kindness?
 - Do you think the decision to leave Moab and go to Bethlehem with Naomi was easy or hard for Ruth? Why or why not?
 - What do you see in this story that reminds us how kindness is not always easy?
 - Even with our favorite people we love the most, kindness can be hard. Share some ways we can express kindness in everyday ways to those we're with the most.
 - What is one thing you can tell a family member or friend that would really impact them in a good way? Describe how this could change that person's life for the better.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Craft sticks, permanent markers, sandwich bags

What You Do:

- Set out the craft sticks and permanent markers.
- Ask kids to think of 1-5 people they feel closest to and would choose to be with on a camping trip.
- Instruct the kids to use the marker to write the names of one friend or family member on each stick. (One name per stick.)
- One by one, invite the kids to “introduce” the people they named by going through their sticks and telling a little bit about each person.
- Ask:
 - Why did you choose those five people over others?
 - What are some kind things you have done for those people?
 - How have these people shown kindness to you?
 - If you had to spend a rainy day cramped inside of a tent with those people, what would kindness look like? When might it be hard to be kind?
 - Why is it sometimes a lot harder to be kind to the people we see all the time and easier to be kind to strangers or people we don’t know very well?
- Give each kid a sealable sandwich bag.
- Instruct the kids to place their craft sticks in the bag.
- Direct the kids to use the marker to write their name on the outside of the bag.
- Encourage the kids to play for the names in their bag during the week.

3. Discussion Questions

- Describe the kind of relationship you want to have with your family. How might the kindness you show today impact that?
- BE KIND. If everyone in the world followed this one rule, how would it change the things that happen around us?
- What are things you can do to remember to show kindness to family and friends?
- When is it hard to be kind?
- When you’re in a bad mood and everything is just annoying, what can you do to successfully be kind in that situation?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible. (Or a Bible App on their phone.)
- Invite kids to look up and read Luke 6:31.
- Many kids may be familiar with this verse already. Say: “The truth in this verse is sometimes known as the ‘Golden Rule.’”
- Invite the kids to say the verse together from memory.
- Ask:
 - If your family made this their motto or rule, how would it change things at home?
 - When you think of the people you’re with each day, what are some situations when you might need to remember this verse most often?
 - Without saying a name out loud, who is a person who is most difficult for you to show kindness to? Silently insert their name into the verse as we say it together. (“Do to _____ as you want _____ to do to you.”)

5. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for showing us how to love our family and friends with kindness in ways that please You. Teach us how to show others they are valuable through the words we use and the way we act toward them. Help us to choose to be kind to our families and friends by treating them the way we want to be treated. We love You. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT Ask kids to tell their parents one thing they will do this weekend to show kindness to someone.