

ALLEY SG – February 3 - 4, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Show Me the Way (The Kindness of Jesus) • *Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 19:13-15, Matthew 9:10-13*

Today's Key Question: What does kindness look like?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be kind.

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. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Trail Marker Poster (1 per group – keep for all services), Trail marker blanks (1-2 per kid), markers, blue wall tape, tacky tape

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a marker and one trail marker blank.
 - If you have a group of fewer than five kids, give each kid two trail marker blanks.
- Invite kids to write a word or short phrase on the trail marker that describes or defines what kindness is.
- Go around the circle and invite each kid to share their phrase.
- Ask: "Why did you choose to use that particular word or phrase when describing kindness?"
- Tape the Trail Marker Poster to a wall.
- Explain that hiking trails often have signposts or trail markers that show what's ahead or which direction hikers should go to reach their destination.
- Invite kids to create a trail marker by using tacky tape or rolled blue tape to attach their cards to the post.

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bibles, "Face It" Activity Page (3 sets per group per service)

What You Do:

- Divide your group into three groups.
- Give them each one of the different "Face it!" activity pages.
- Instruct the teams to look up and read the verses that are referenced on their "Face It!" picture.
- Based on the Bible story that each team looks up, instruct them to work together to draw the missing faces on each of the people in their picture.
- When the teams have finished drawing, bring them together.
- Invite each team to share their picture as they review each of the stories.
- Ask:
 - In these three stories, what do each of the people Jesus showed kindness to have in common? *(They were often overlooked, ignored, or disliked.)*
 - What are some ways Jesus showed others they were valuable?
 - How was Jesus kind to others?

- Which of these three situations below would be the hardest for you to show kindness? Why?
 - Younger kids who can be annoying at times
 - People who are mean, unfair, or bullies
 - People others ignore or don't want to be around
- Ask: "What are some ways you can follow Jesus' example this week and move in the direction of showing greater kindness to the people around you?"

3. Discussion Questions

- Is there a difference between being nice and being kind? Explain.
- Why do you think kindness is so important? How do you feel when someone is kind to you versus when someone is unkind to you?
- "Kindness is always cool." Explain why you agree or disagree with that statement.

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Cards (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible. (Or invite the kids to use a Bible App on their phone.)
- Instruct the kids to look up Colossians 3:12.
- Read Colossians 3:12 out loud several times.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a set of memory verse cards.
- On your "go", have the teams race to put the cards in the correct order.
- Play as many times as time allows

5. Pray

- "Dear God, thank You for Your kindness toward us. Help us to follow Your example and treat others with patience and love. Remind us to be as mindful of the way we wear kindness as we are of the clothes we put on. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

PARENT PICK UP POINT: Invite the kids to show their parents what they wrote on their trail marker about the meaning of kindness.