

CITY LG – February 10 - 11, 2024

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

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 they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.* Colossians 3:12 (NIRV)

WORSHIP

Let it Be Known
Every Beat

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Group

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, friends! I'm so excited that you're here in the City! All month long we're talking about how we can 'gear up' with kindness.

SLIDE: Virtue

Kindness **is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.**

SLIDE: Theme

You see, each and every person in the world is unique and special. God loves each one of us more than we can imagine. And that's why kindness is so important! When we're kind to other people, we can actually SHOW them how valuable they are. We can help them see how much they matter to us, and to God. So we need to 'gear up' and be ready to show kindness to everyone we meet!

I've got another fun game for us to play today where you'll try to 'Guess the Gear.' If you've ever been camping or been in the outdoors, some of this gear may look familiar to you!

We'll put a picture of an item on the screen. I'll give you two choices of what the item is called, and you'll turn and face one direction or the other to make your choice of what you think the answer might be. Let's get started!

SLIDE: Game Image 1 (hiking boots)

If you think these are called hiking boots, turn this way. (*Point to the wall on the kids' left.*) And if you think they're called 'foot gloves,' turn this way. (*Point to the wall on the kids' right.*)

Give the kids some time to make their choice.

"You are all so brilliant! They're definitely hiking boots. Okay, let's keep going!"

SLIDE: Game Image 2 (camp stove)

Play the game the same way for all the rounds, moving quickly. Use the printed script for reference as you announce the name choices for each item. For this item, give the kids the choice between a camp stove and a “camping record player.”

SLIDE: Game Image 3 (carabiner)

For this round, give the kids the choice between a carabiner and “Mr. Clippy.” Explain that you use a carabiner to clip onto ropes when you’re rock climbing.

SLIDE: Game Image 4 (trekking poles)

For this round, give the kids the choice between trekking poles and “ski scepters.” Explain that you use trekking poles for balance, especially when you’re on rocky or slippery ground.

SLIDE: Game Image 5 (compass)

For this round, give the kids the choice between a compass and a “direction-ator.” Explain that you use a compass to find your way if you get lost.

SLIDE: Game Image 6 (headlamp)

For this round, give the kids the choice between a headlamp and a “lighty brightly.” Explain that you wear the headlamp on your head so you can shine the light while using your hands for other things.

SLIDE: Game Image 7 (water filter)

For this round, give the kids the choice between a water filter and a “tubey-tubey-pump-a-rooney.” Explain that you use a water filter to clean water and make it drinkable.

SLIDE: Game Image 8 (multi-tool)

For this round, give the kids the choice between a multi-tool and a “corky-drivey-ply-o-grabber.” Explain that a multi-tool has lots of different tools in one, which is handy when you’re out in nature.

SLIDE: Theme

Nice work, everyone! Raise your hand if you knew about all of those kinds of gear already. *(Pause for response.)* Raise your hand if some of those were new for you. *(Pause for response.)* There's a lot of really helpful gear out there to help us enjoy the outdoors!

Today we're looking at a story in the Old Testament (*hold up Bible*), in the book of Ruth.

This took place after God had led the Israelites out of Egypt, into the wilderness, and finally to the land that God had promised to them. Let's take a look...

VIDEO: Bible Story

I love hearing how Ruth showed kindness to Naomi. Ruth could have gone home to her family and been taken care of. But she chose to love and serve Naomi. Ruth's kindness showed Naomi that she was important and valuable, and that God cared for her.

In the end, it's pretty cool to think that Ruth ended up as part of Jesus' family tree!

Here's what we need to think about today. Take a look at the screen...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Be kind to the people closest to you.

Sometimes it can feel easier to be kind to friends—or even strangers—than it is to be kind to our families. We see our family members all the time, so it's natural that we feel frustrated or annoyed with them from time to time. But even when we feel that way, we can STILL choose kindness.

Maybe it's as simple as not trying to get the last word when you're having a little argument with your brother or sister. You can just *(take a breath)* . . . let it go.

Or maybe just say thank-you to your mom or dad or grandparent when you sit down to dinner. They took the time to cook for you, and it would make them feel so good to know you appreciate their hard work!

Sometimes we might even disagree with our close friends, or we might say something that hurts their feelings. We can show kindness by saying we're sorry, and showing them that their friendship is important to us.

Let's say our Memory Verse, Colossians 3:12.

SLIDE: 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. (NIRV)

There it is—*Be gentle and patient*. That's how you bring kindness to your relationships with everyone, including the people who are closest to you. Let's pray and ask God to help us with that.

SLIDE: Theme Background

God, thank You for the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Thank You for reminding us how important it is to be kind to everyone—including the people closest to us. Sometimes it feels easier to be kind to people we barely know than it is to be kind to a brother or sister who frustrates us. So help us remember to ask for Your help so that we can kind. Help us to treat others the way we want to be treated. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

There is a brand-new ministry that we are supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called Morning Star Mission and it's located right near here, in Joliet, IL.

SLIDES: Morningstar pictures *(scroll through as the leader talks about the mission)*

Since its beginning in 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal — to help people in need. Morning Star Mission helps people who are struggling to have enough money to live. They have a shelter that gives them a place to live if they don't have a home. People in the community can go to the mission to get clothes and food if they need it too. AND they tell people about Jesus and his love for them while they are helping them, how cool is that?

Morning Star doesn't just stop there. They have many programs that they offer people to help them get in a better financial place so that they don't need the help anymore. Morning Star is a mission that is changing lives in our area!