

CITY LG – February 17 - 18, 2024

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 (NIRV)

WORSHIP

Let it Be Known

Every Beat

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

SLIDE: Theme

What's up, everybody? I am so excited to be here today, and I can already tell it's going to be a great day because you're here too! This month we're talking about kindness.

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

Raise your hand if you want to be someone who treats others with kindness. (*Raise your hand.*) Me too! It's so good to know that God can help us to be kind, because sometimes that takes some hard work. We have to 'gear up' and venture out into the world, READY to show kindness. It's like we read in 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)

We've been playing some fun hiking and camping games this month that help us remember to 'gear up' with kindness. Today's game is called 'Hiker, Bear, Hawk.' Sounds fun, right? For each round of the game, you'll choose to make one of three poses: hiker, a bear, or a hawk. Let's practice the poses now!

SLIDE: Hiker

For the hiker, you'll turn sideways, put one arm out like you're holding a walking stick, and say, 'Let's hike!'

Demonstrate the pose.

SLIDE: Bear

For the bear, you'll put both arms up high above your head and ROAR!

Demonstrate the pose.

SLIDE: Hawk

For the hawk, you'll put your arms out to the side like flapping wings and make a high-pitched hawk call, like this: 'SCREEEEEE!'

Demonstrate the pose.

I'm not sure that's exactly what a hawk sounds like, but close enough! You'll see all three of the pictures go by on the screen, but the picture it LANDS on is the winning pose.

Okay, let's start with a practice round. Everybody up on your feet. Pick your pose and make your sound—hiker, bear, or hawk!

SLIDE: Hiker, Bear, or Hawk (cycle through the slides)

Tech note: For each round, move quickly through all three slides for a few seconds, then land on one slide.

For this round . . .

SLIDE: Bear

“. . . it's the bear! If this were the real game, those of you who chose the bear would get to stay in and keep playing, and everyone else would sit down.

Play one more practice round in which everyone stays “in.”

Then play the real version of game, in which kids who chose the correct pose stay in, while everyone else sits down. Play several rounds until you have one winner (or several winners, if you're short on time).

SLIDE: Theme

That was really fun! Everybody stand back up and give a friend a high-five.

Jesus said something really important about kindness that we can read about in the book of Matthew. *(Hold up Bible.)*

You can find the book of Matthew at the beginning of the New Testament. It's one of the four books in the Bible that are known as the Gospels, which tell stories from the life of Jesus. The book of Matthew was written by a man named Matthew, who was a tax collector who chose to follow Jesus.

Let's see what he says...

VIDEO: Bible Story

I think I get what Jesus was saying. Kindness isn't always easy. In fact, sometimes our kindness means the most when the person doesn't expect it. That's why it can be such a powerful thing to CHOOSE kindness . . . and be kinder than we have to be.

Stand up and let's look at our bottom line...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Be kinder than you have to be.

Jesus talked about how someone could choose to go an extra mile when they were carrying someone's pack. But there are ways we can all 'go the extra mile' in our lives today.

- When someone asks you for help, do more than you have to do!
- If your mom or dad asks you to clear the table, take the time to wipe it down too.
- If you know your little sister is supposed to clean her room, ask if you can help—and stick around until the job is done.
- If you're at school and you notice that your teacher is having a tough day, you could draw her a picture to let her know that you're thankful for her.

You can be a person who chooses to give more than you were asked for. That's real kindness—and it's a great way to show God's love to the person you're helping. It shows them that they're important and valuable, because you've chosen to do something extra for them.

Of course, that doesn't mean you should let someone treat you badly. That's not what kindness is about. If you're ever not sure about the best way to respond to something, you can always talk to a parent or another adult you trust about how you can act with kindness.

Let's pray and ask God for help with this.

God, thank You for the way Jesus showed us how to share Your love and kindness. We want to demonstrate Your love to the world by serving others and going the extra mile. Help us to follow Your example and make a difference for other people. Help us to show others with our actions that they're important and valuable. 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

Last week we told you about the new ministry we are raising money for with our offering. Does anyone remember what it is? Yep...Morning Star Mission. It's a mission right here in Joliet, IL that helps people who are struggling financially. If you brought your offering, go ahead and put it in the container. Let's take a look at this video of a family of 6 who lost their home and needed help.

VIDEO: Family of 6 live in car

SLIDE: Theme

What a great mission to support. Morning Star changes lives! See what you can do this week to raise some money for this awesome mission.