

FEBRUARY THEME

REWIND

Kindness Deserves a Replay

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 5:43-48

Mercy, Mercy Me | Love Your Enemies

Spark Story Bible pgs. 274-275

Love Your Enemies

BOTTOM LINE

Be kind to people who aren't kind to you

MEMORY VERSE

"Do to others as you want them to do to you."

Luke 6:31, NIV

LIFE APP

Kindness | Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **KINDNESS** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: How can you be kind to people you don't get along with? There are times when we face people who we feel don't deserve our kindness. Most likely, we all have a list of people who we don't get along with and why those people don't deserve our kindness. But Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Through this question, we hope families start to discover how they can show kindness to people who fall into this category.

We finish out our month in **Matthew 5:43-48**. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus expands the scope of who deserves our kindness. Not everyone will be kind to us; some may be quite mean to us. Jesus says that we should love our enemies and pray for them.

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who aren't kind to you. As we discover what Jesus says about loving our enemies, we pray that families discover ways they can show God's love and kindness to people they might not get along with all of the time. They don't have to be best friends, but they can be kind.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Everyone has people around them who are unkind at times. And everyone has experience with being that unkind person. Ask God for the strength to respond to unkindness with the opposite: kindness. Pray that God would give your kids the courage to be kind even when someone is not kind to them.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "Swiper," "Hans," and "Jackson" coloring pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Explain what villains are in TV shows and movies.
- See if kids can identify villains in certain movies or shows, such as "Dora the Explorer," "Frozen," and "Cars 3."
- Hand out coloring pages and crayons. Ask kids color, ask questions such as:
 - What kinds of bad things do the villains do?
 - How do other characters respond to them?

•• OPPOSITES

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Opposites” activity pages

What You Do:

- Gather kids into a circle, and show them the “Opposites” pages. Make sure kids know what each page says and what it means.
- Give each kid an “Opposites” page, making sure there’s an opposite match for each one. *(If you have an odd number of kids, you will need to participate.)*
- Then tell kids to scatter around your space.
- When you say, “Match,” work as a group to help kids find their opposite match and link arms.
- Gather the papers, mix them up, hand them out again, and play again.
- Repeat as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say: “The opposite of short is tall. And the opposite of hot is cold. But we could also say the opposite of hot is ‘not hot,’ right? Or the opposite of tall is ‘not tall.’ [Transition] **We’ve been learning about being kind, but today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’re going to learn/we learned something about its opposite: ‘unkind.’**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• KIND, KIND, UNKIND [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have your group sit around your small group table.
- Play “duck, duck, gray duck” using the words “kind” and “unkind.”
- The small group leader should go first, to show the group how the game works.
- Walk around the table, tapping heads and saying “kind” as you go around.
- At a random time, say “unkind” instead of “kind.”
- The person whose head you tapped when you said “unkind” should get up and chase you around the table.
- After running around the table, you should sit in the vacated spot.
- The chaser should say something kind to you. *(For example, “You are a nice small group leader,” or “I like your shoes.”)*
- Then the chaser becomes the head tapper.
- Continue as time and interest allow.

What You Say: “When someone says something “unkind” to you, you want to do it back to them. But Jesus tells us to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.** But I want to explain something about that. It doesn’t mean you should just let someone be mean to you over and over again. If someone keeps being mean, tell an adult, and then don’t play with them again. God just wants you to avoid being mean back to them, not to keep getting hurt by them.”

•• **VERSE FRAME** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Verse Frame” activity pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Verse Frame” activity page and say the verse together as a group.
- Then see if anyone can say the verse without looking at it.
- Set out the crayons and allow plenty of time for kids to decorate their Verse Frames.

What You Say: “Let’s say our verse together one more time. (*Say the verse.*) That is such a great rule to live by. It makes life better for us and for other people. It can also be a reminder to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.** I want you to take your Verse Frames home and put them somewhere you’ll see them every day as a reminder to treat everyone with kindness.”.

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Guide them to silently pray for someone who hasn’t been kind to them in the past week.
- Remind kids that if someone keeps being unkind to them, they don’t have to keep spending time with that person. They should just make sure to not be unkind back to them.
- Close with the prayer below...

What You Say: “Dear God, please help us to be kind to everyone, even if they aren’t kind to us. We thank you for being kind to us, and we want to be more like you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue** cards to any family who has not yet received one this month.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them. Then encourage adults to help kids find a good place at home to put their Verse Frames.

