



FEBRUARY THEME

REWIND

Kindness Deserves a Replay

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 25:35-40

All the Small Things | The Least of These

BOTTOM LINE

Be kind to people who are overlooked

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: Have you ever received unexpected kindness? Often the best kindness is the kindness that feels completely random. Help families discover how they feel when someone surprises them with kindness. Help them figure out the unexpected ways they can show kindness to people in their life.

In **Matthew 25:35-40**, we’ll revisit one of Jesus’ teachings on kindness. For one reason or another, people are overlooked every day—no one even notices them, much less shows kindness to them. But Jesus says that when we show kindness to one of the least of these, it’s as if we’re showing kindness to him. We hope to discover how we can show kindness to people who are overlooked in their world.

Bottom Line: Be kind to people who are overlooked. Everyone deserves to be treated like they’re valuable, no matter who they are. We hope families start to see people who have needs and work together to show kindness and meet those needs.

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. Thank God for eternal kindness. Ask God to forgive you and to forgive your few for the times you’ve overlooked someone and, as a result, were unkind to them. Pray that kids would seek out those who are typically overlooked and purposefully seek to be kind.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

What You Need: Dice

What You Do:

- Give one group member the dice.
- Call out a number (*between one and six*) and instruct the kid with the dice to roll it.
- Pass the dice around the group until someone rolls the number you called.
- For whatever number was called out, the winning kid should try to come up with the same amount of ways they can be kind to a family member this week. (*Provide help as needed.*)
- If there is still time left, do it again, this time listing ways they can be kind to a friend.



●● **GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

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

What You Need: “Items” cards, paper, pen

What You Do:

- Set out the items cards on your table. Tell kids to look at them closely because in a minute you will take the cards away, and they will need to try to remember what was on them.
- Give kids 30-60 seconds to look. Then take the cards away.
- Ask kids to call out the items they can remember. Write them down on the paper.
- Set the cards back out, and ask kids to see if there was anything they overlooked.

What You Say: “There were so many items on the cards, it was easy to overlook some of them. It’s also sometimes easy to overlook people, because there are just so many people in this world. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about how we should treat people who are overlooked.”**

[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.

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Number the pieces of copy paper 1, 2, and 3.
- Let kids choose one of the papers to sit by.
 - Sit by paper 1 if you’d like to write a definition of the word “overlooked.”
 - Sit by paper 2 if you’d like to make a list of the types of people who are often overlooked. *(Types of people, not specific names of people.)*
 - Sit by paper 3 if you’d like to write or draw about a time when you or someone you know felt overlooked. *(Again, don’t use specific names.)*

Pro Tip: It’s okay if not all the papers are chosen. Later, as students share, look for opportunities to include questions about any of the topics from the papers no one chose.

- Give the groups a few minutes to work together on their topic. Then let the teams share their ideas.

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible, bottles of water



What You Do:

- Ask the group to sit in a circle, then give each person a bottle of water.
- Read Matthew 25:35-40 to the group.
- Tell kids to take a sip of water whenever you say the word “I.”
- Read the passage again, but this time ask your group to take a sip of water when they hear the word “you.”
- Point out that when we unselfishly help someone, we’re serving God.
- Reread verses 35-36 pausing after each “I” sentence to give the kids an opportunity to interject an example of a way they have shown or have been shown kindness as described in that part of the verse.
 - In other words, when have they had opportunity to serve God by serving someone’s need for food, clothing, friendship, etc.?
 - Was there ever a time when they or their family were in need and others helped meet that need?
- Take the discussion deeper. Ask:
 - From the needs mentioned in these verses, which one do you think is the hardest for you to help meet?
 - What kind of people are hardest for you to help?
 - Why do you think God wants us to show kindness to those who are overlooked?
 - What gets in the way or makes it hard for you to include others?
 - What can you do to become more aware of others’ needs?

•• DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

• **Ask some of the following discussion questions...**

- When have you felt welcomed by someone? What did that person do that made you feel included? What unexpected kindness did they show you?
- What does it feel like to be left out? If we know how much it hurts to be overlooked, why don’t we try harder to include others?
- Does God ever overlook anyone? Explain.
- What has God done to welcome us? What does God continue to do?
- What would need to change for you to see those around you who have needs that are being overlooked?
- What should you do if the person you want to help doesn’t want your help?

•• VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [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: Bibles, copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Ask your group to look up Hebrews 6:10 and then take turns reading it out loud from their Bibles. If possible, compare different translations.
- Invite them to put the verse into first-person tense as if God is speaking the words directly to them. (*I am fair. I will not forget what you have done. I will remember the love you have shown Me. You showed it when you helped My people. And you show it when you keep on helping them.*)
- Initiate thought-provoking questions that will help your students get to the heart of the verse and compare it with where their hearts are toward others in need.
 - What do you learn about God from this verse?
 - Name three benefits of living out this verse and being known as someone who includes others.



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

FEBRUARY
11/21
2018

GRADE 4-5
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

—Why do we need to be reminded to show kindness to those who are overlooked?

—What keeps us from including others?

Pro Tip: Remember that a change of heart in any of your kids is done by the work of the Holy Spirit. Creative teaching, engaging questions, and relationship-building activities may help to open the door of a kid's heart, but only God's Spirit can do the work of helping him see a need to change. Pray for God's leading before, during, and after Small Group. God has the power to use you to speak truth into the hearts of your preteen group members.

- Assign one sentence of Hebrews 6:10 to each of the kids.
- Hand out paper and markers.
- Ask them to draw something that illustrates their part of the verse.
- Close by letting kids share their drawings and the meaning behind them.

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask your few if any one person or need stood out to them today.
- As they share, ask them how they think that person could use prayer.

What You Say: “God, I thank you that you do not overlook anyone! Thank you for truly loving the least of these, and thank you for giving your love and kindness to us. I pray that you cause our group to see your people like you do. Help us to see the overlooked and boldly reach out to them with kindness. Show us this week how we can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.** In Jesus' name. Amen!”

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, hand out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up. Ask kids to share with their families that every person deserves kindness and that we can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who are overlooked.**