



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:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Greet kids as they arrive.
- Ask kids:
  - What are some things a bully does?
  - Have you ever met a bully?
  - How did they make you feel?



●● **WHEEL OF UNKINDNESS**

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

**What You Need:** “Wheel of Unkindness” activity page, dice, pen

**What You Do:**

- Number the challenges on the “Wheel of Unkindness” 1-6.
- Set it out where everyone can see it.
- Give a group member the dice.
- He should act out the “unkind challenge” that matches the number rolled.
- Continue until each kid has a turn and as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:** “Sometimes we laugh at people or do or say things that are unkind. But the truth is, if you’re unkind in a serious way, it can really hurt someone. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’re going to learn/we learned what we can do for people who are being unkind to us.**”

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

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## 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.

●● **SCENARIOS-BY-NUMBER** [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:** Dice

**What You Do:**

- Give somebody in your group the dice. Ask them to roll it.
- Read the scenario below that matches the number rolled. Then encourage the kid who rolled the dice to come up with one way to be kind to the person in the scenario. *(Provide lots of help as needed.)*
- Continue by letting other kids have a turn rolling the dice and responding to a scenario. It is okay to repeat the scenario if the same number is rolled more than once. Just try to brainstorm additional ways to be kind.
- Scenarios:
  1. Your little sister looked you straight in the eye while tearing a page out of your new book.
  2. The checker at the grocery store laughed when you dropped a bag of apples on the floor and they rolled everywhere.
  3. A kid at the park cut in front of you just as it was your turn for the big slide.
  4. A kid on the other soccer team called your team “losers” when they beat you.
  5. Your new neighbor yelled at you for going into her yard to get your Frisbee.
  6. The librarian shushed you when you were just asking your friend which book he liked.

**What You Say:** “Sometimes people aren’t kind to us. That’s just the way life works. I mean, sometimes we’re not kind to others, right? But we should be kind to others—even when they might not be nice to us. God wants you to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.**” [Make It Personal] *(Tell kids an age-appropriate story about a time someone wasn’t kind to you, but you made the choice to be kind to them in response.)*



●● **KINDNESS ORIGAMI** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** “Kindness Origami” activity pages, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Hand out “Kindness Origami” activity pages, and tell kids to cut out the square, but keep the instructions nearby.
- Help kids follow the instructions. Walk them through folding the lines one at a time.
- Display how the Kindness Origami works by using your fingers to manipulate it while counting a predetermined number. Read through some of the examples.
- Ask for a few volunteers to use their Kindness Origami to choose a “way to be kind” and then give an example of how they’ll do that thing this week.

**What You Say:** “How cool is this? What a fun way to help us show kindness when we are in some super tough situations. Can anyone think of a tough situation they have faced lately where it was difficult to be kind? (*Allow time for answers.*) Wow! That sounds really hard. How about we open up our Kindness Origami and get an idea for what you could do for that person to be kind? (*Continue this several times.*) This week, use your Kindness Origami as a tool to remind you of ways you can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.**”

●● **OPPOSITES ATTRACT** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Ask your few to share (*without using names*) about something unkind that someone has done to them.
- As they respond, ask them what the opposite would be in that situation. How could that person have been kind instead of unkind? For example: Someone cut in front of me in line. They could have waited their turn instead.
- After you have had some discussion, remind your few of this month’s memory verse. Look it up in a Bible (*Luke 6:31, NIV*) if your group doesn’t have it memorized yet.
- Encourage them to go out and be the kindness that they wish to see.
- Repeat the verse together as a group.

**What You Say:** “Our memory verse this month tells us that we should show the kindness to others that we would want to receive ourselves. I want to encourage you to go out and be the kindness that you wish to see. If you want people to wait their turn in line, you should let someone go in front of you! Whatever sounds like a really cool thing to be given, give that very thing to someone else. And don’t forget to **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you**, not just those who are kind.”

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**PRAY AND SEND** [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Copy paper, pens

**What You Do:**

- Explain to your few that they will be writing out prayers to God that they will take home.



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

FEBRUARY  
**25/28**  
2018

**GRADE 2-3**  
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

- Encourage them to ask God to help them be kind to the people who are unkind to them.
- After kids are finished writing out their prayers, pray over your few that they would continue to find ways to be kind every day.

**What You Say:** “God, I thank you for this month’s great reminder of the amazing love and kindness you have gifted us with. As we talked about today, we know that it isn’t always easy to be kind, especially to those who aren’t kind to us. But God, I pray that each and every day from here on out, we would continue to find ways to show your love and kindness to the world. Help us to be kind to people who aren’t kind to us. 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, have each kid show their parents their written prayer to God. Prompt each kid to share what they learned today—that even when you are in a tough situation, you can **[Bottom Line] be kind to people who aren’t kind to you.**