



**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, NIRV

**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,” 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.]*

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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.)*

●● **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."

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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:** No supplies needed



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

FEBRUARY  
**25/28**  
2018

**GRADE K-1**  
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

**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.