



**FEBRUARY THEME**

**REWIND**

Kindness Deserves a Replay

**BIBLE STORY**

Titus 3:4-7

Amazing Grace | Kindness Principle

**BOTTOM LINE**

Be kind to others because God is 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: What does kindness look like?** While this may seem like a simple question, preteens need to start from a concrete idea before connecting that idea to their own life. When kids can identify the kindness of others, they have a better chance of replicating that in their own life. We want families to figure out how they can show kindness to others based on the ways people have been kind to them.

We start the month talking about the foundation for our kindness. In **Titus 3:4-7**, Paul talked about God’s amazing kindness toward us. God poured out kindness when God sent Jesus to rescue us from the consequences of our sin. We can have life forever because of God’s kindness and love.

**Bottom Line: Be kind to others because God is kind to you.** We pray that as families learn about God’s kindness through Jesus, they will see how they can reflect God’s kindness to the people in their life.

**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 the everlasting kindness that God first gave to us, allowing us to then be kind to others in return. Pray that kids would get a glimpse today of the “why” behind being kind, and that they would be encouraged to be intentionally kind to others.

**•• JUST FOR FUN**

**Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body**

**What You Need:** Chairs

**What You Do:**

- Form a circle of chairs with one less spot to sit than the total number of kids.
- Ask one person to stand in the middle and think of something he has (*or hasn't*) done that others might identify with.
- The player in the middle should then say, “Monkey jump if you have ever/never \_\_\_\_\_.” (*For example, “Monkey jump if you have ever eaten deep-fried pickles.” Or, “Monkey jump if you’ve never been to the ocean.”*)
- Anyone around the circle who can identify with the statement (*anyone who has eaten deep-fried pickles/not been to the ocean*) jumps up and quickly switches places with someone else.



- The last one left standing makes the next statement. Note: If only one person stands, he can switch with the student in the middle.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

## •• 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:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Ask for two kids to volunteer to play a game called “mirror.” They should begin by sitting or standing side-by-side a few feet apart.
- Tell both players to close their eyes as you name a facial expression you’d like them to make. (Example: “Make a face like someone riding a roller coaster.”)
- Give them a moment to form their faces into a pose, then on the count of 3, tell them to open their eyes and reveal their faces to their partners to see how closely their expressions match.
- They must hold their pose for at least five seconds.
- The first one to lose her pose is out and another kid takes her place; or you can simply switch players after each round.
- Consider letting group members suggest facial poses for one another to make.
- Here are some ideas for face poses:

—Old man	—Scared of the dark
—Lemon taster	—Caught red-handed
—Toothache	—Driving a car for the first time
—Fish	—Opera singer
—Furious	—Something in your eye
—Sneeze freeze	—Winner of a million dollars
—Mouth full of marshmallows	—Surprised

**Wrap Up and Say:** “One thing about a mirror is it’ll always reflect what’s in front of it. Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll look at/we looked at what it means to be walking, talking ‘mirrors’ that reflect Jesus to those around 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.

### •• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Strips of heavy cardstock, plastic party cups, stapler (on leader bin cabinet), cotton balls

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a party cup.
- Help kids make a handle on their cup (like on a bucket) by stapling one end of the cardstock strip to the top of the cup and the opposite end of the strip to the other side of the cup.
- Dump the cotton balls in the middle of your table.
- Explain that the group will take turns calling out different things that God has done for you.
- For every kind thing someone lists, everyone will put a cotton ball in their bucket.



- Give an example by going first: “God did a kind thing by \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Encourage kids to grab a cotton ball and place it inside their bucket.
- If kids get stuck (*or are tempted to repeat an answer that’s already been given*), guide kids to understand the kind things God has done for them by asking questions:
  - How does God take care of you?
  - Do you have clothes to wear?
  - Do you have something to sleep on?
  - Has God given you any people in your life?

**What You Say:** “Your “Kindness Buckets” look amazing! You know, there are so many kind things God has done for us that there aren’t enough cotton balls in the WORLD to cover them. But what do you think is the kindest thing God has ever done? I’ll give you a hint. We talked about him in our Bible story today. (*God gave us Jesus!*) And does anyone know why God sent Jesus to earth? (*To save us! To teach us how we should live.*) (*These could be tough questions for the kids, so allow them time to think.*) I love to think of all of the things God has done for us and be reminded that you and I can **[Bottom Line] be kind to others because God is kind to you.** **[Make It Personal]** (*Describe how God has been kind to you. You can talk about a time when you needed a friend and God put someone in your path or about a time when God gave you the strength to do something you didn’t think you could.*)

•• **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Re-sealable plastic bags, scissors, pens, stapler (*on leader bin cabinet*), “A Kindness Project” and “A Kindness Project Parent Note” activity pages, “Kindness Buckets” from the first activity

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid “A Kindness Project” activity page and a pen.
- Instruct your group to write down some ways they can be kind—one thing in each box.
- Guide kids to think of examples by asking questions:
  - How could you make someone happy at school?
  - What is something that needs to be done around the house?
  - What is something you would like done for you?
  - What happened the last time you were unkind? What can you do differently next time?
- Hand out scissors and plastic bags to each kid.
- Encourage them to cut out their examples and place them inside their bags.
- As kids are finishing, staple a parent note to each of their bags.

**What You Say:** “I am really loving all of the kindness examples you have given. We talked earlier about the many amazing things God has done for us to show kindness and how you should **[Bottom Line] be kind to others because God is kind to you.** This week, I challenge you to be kind as many times as you can. You are going to take your “Kindness Bucket” and your bag of examples home. Each time you complete one of your kindness examples, you can take it out of your bag, crumple it up, and replace a cotton ball in your cup with that paper. Your goal at the end of the week is to have all of your cotton balls gone and your cup FILLED with ways you showed kindness! If you need more paper squares throughout the week, you can ask to make more at home with any kind of paper.

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [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:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:** Ask some of the following questions...

- If there were an award given for extreme kindness, what would someone need to do to receive it?
  - Do you know anyone who might qualify?



- Would YOU be nominated for the award?
- Why might Jesus be given the extreme kindness award?
- What can help you be kind, even when you don't feel like it?
- Do you think people can be kind even when they're upset or angry? Explain.
- What are some benefits of being kind to others?

**•• 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, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- Ask everyone to look up Luke 6:31...

**Pro Tip:** If students need help in finding the verse, direct them to the Table of Contents. Explain that the Bible contains many smaller books with chapters. The first part of the Bible is the Old Testament, and the second part is the New Testament. Each book is listed in the Table of Contents along with the page number where they can be found.

- When everyone has their Bibles open to Luke 6:31, ask them to read the verse. Some may recognize it as the "Golden Rule."
- Hand out copy paper, pens and markers.
- Ask kids to write the verse on the copy paper and decorate it with the markers.
- If time allows, invite everyone to create a small graphic or logo that depicts the meaning of Luke 6:31 and then draw it on their paper.
- Use the Sentence Starters below to discuss the meaning and application of Luke 6:31...

**Sentence Starters**

1. I think this verse matters because . . .
2. I need to remember this verse when . . .
3. The most important thing to remember about this verse is . . .
4. If everyone followed this verse . . .

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**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:** 'Kindness Buckets' and 'Kindness Projects' from earlier activities

**What You Do:**

- Let kids hold their 'Kindness Buckets' and bags of "ways to be kind" from earlier.
- Ask kids how they can remember to be kind this week. (*This is kind of a "tongue in cheek" question, since they're holding their bags full of ideas for kindness.*)
- Pair kids up and let them share with their partner one of their ideas for kindness.
- As soon as they've shared, they should pray a short prayer for one another, asking God to help their friend be kind in the specific way they shared this week.
- Close the group in prayer when everyone has finished...

**What You Say:** "God, I know we often get busy and sometimes forget to show kindness. But, as I think of the crazy, awesome things you have done for me and these kids, I want us to remember to be kind to everyone we meet. This week, I ask that you help us remember that we can be kind to others because you are kind to us. Show us and teach us ways that we can live this out each and every day. In Jesus' name. Amen!"

Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, have each kid show their parents their bucket and plastic baggie. Encourage each parent to read the attached note. Prompt kids to share that God has done some super kind things for us and say the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Be kind to others because God is kind to you.**