

Chief Executive Officer
Reggie Joiner

Editor in Chief
Melanie Williams

Editor
Dana Wilkerson

Copy Editors
Elloa Davis
Kelly Nishi
Wendi Zebell

Group Experience Writers
Terri Adams
Sharon Carey
Sharon Ellis
Monica Rodriguez
Dana Wilkerson

GodTime Writer
Sharon Ellis

Family Experience Writers
Greg Payne
Jon Williams
Jacob York

Graphic Designer
Mike Davis

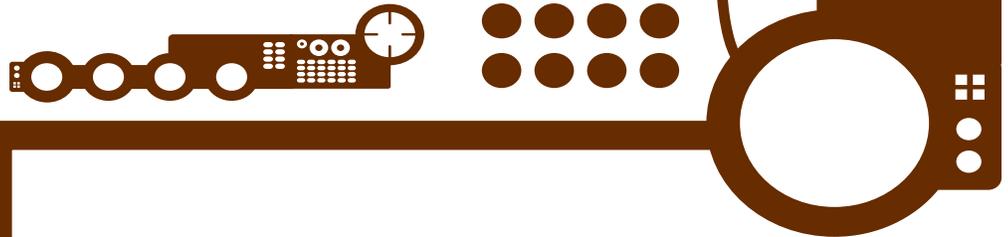
Illustration
Jodi Blackwell
Joe Goode
Debbie Woodall

Technical & Web Support
Hadley Brandt

Executive Director
Sue Miller

252 BASICS®

Group and Family Experiences for K-5th Grades



1. I need to make the wise choice.
2. I can trust God no matter what.
3. I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Statement of Faith

ABOUT GOD

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

ABOUT PEOPLE

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention,

or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

ABOUT SALVATION

That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

Scripture marked "NIRV" is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™, Copyright ©1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica.

User Agreement

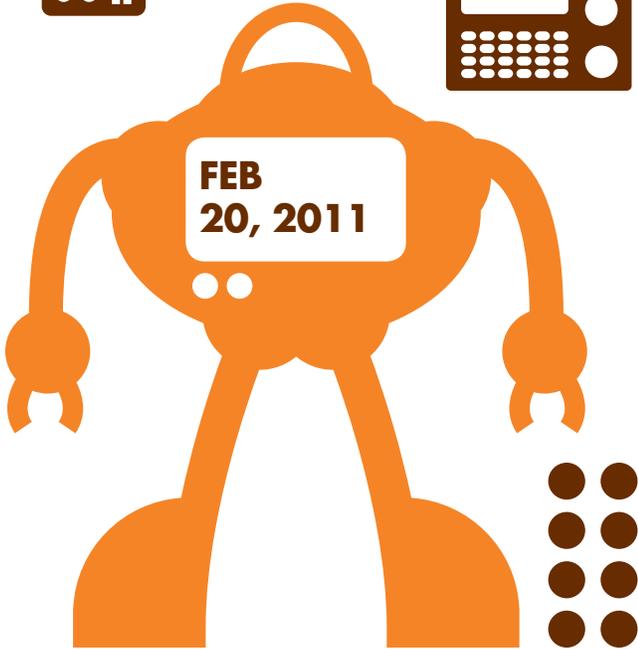
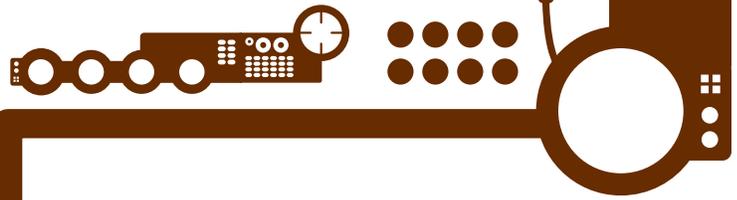
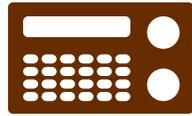
The reThink Group gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor 252 Basics® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we've expressed in our Statement of Faith.

These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. © 2010 The reThink Group. All rights reserved. 252 Basics® and the 252 Basics® logo are trademarks of The reThink Group, Inc.

252 BASICS®

Virtue: **KINDNESS**

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

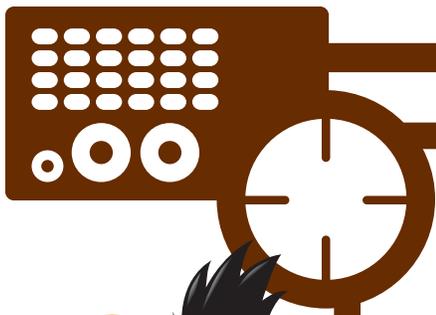


You Belong

Memory Verse: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31, NIV

Bible Story: You Belong (the least of these) • Matthew 25:35-40

Bottom Line: Treat others as if they belong to God.



PLUG IN Small groups

- 10-15 minutes
- Focus the Energy

POWER UP Large group

- 20-25 minutes
- Engage the Heart

CATCH ON Small groups

- 25-30 minutes
- Make the Connection





Virtue:

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Bottom Line: Treat others as if they belong to God.



Memory Verse: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
Luke 6:31, NIV



PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes

Bible Story:

YOU BELONG

Matthew 25:35-40

PREVIEW

Note! This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both large and small group time.

Plug In is designed to introduce children to the day's topic in a setting that gives them individualized attention from a leader and plenty of interaction with their peers. If you have enough leaders, divide kids into small groups of up to 10 children. Ideally, assign the same Small Group Leader to the same group of kids for the entire year.

Kindergarten–5th Grade

FOR LEADERS ONLY

This month we've been talking about (1) kindness, which is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. (2) No one can say, do, or give anything to us that tops what God did for us when He sent His Son to save us. He did this for all people, not just for people like us, and not because we've done anything to deserve it. He did it because He loves us. That's why everyone is important and valuable to God. He made them, and He loves them like sons and daughters. (3) And that's one reason Jesus wants us to treat others kindly: to show them they are valuable to God. He goes so far as to say that when we treat others kindly, especially those less fortunate than ourselves, it's as if we're treating Him that way. (4) So today challenge kids to look around pay attention to people. What do they need, and what can we do about it? Kindness opens doors to share God's love.

Heads up: Today is a natural opportunity to tell children about God's plan for our salvation. Note the highlighted paragraphs in Catch On in particular. Pray ahead of time, asking God to prepare the kids' hearts and minds for this important message and to give you just the right words.



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



Apply • Make It Fit
What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



PLUG IN: Focus the Energy

Small Groups, 10-15 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Early Arriver Idea:** Provide an interesting offering container.
- **View the Valuables:** Provide a 15-foot length of mural paper and some markers.
- Gather the leaders together to pray before the kids arrive. Pray that each child would listen and learn the Bible truths presented during today's session. If any kids arrive before or during the prayer, invite them to participate with the leaders.

SUPPLIES:

an interesting offering container

Early Arriver Idea

Encourage kids to talk to each other about to whom they "belong" (parents, grandparents, etc.). Then they should tell each other what they like about those people. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

SUPPLIES:

mural paper, markers

View the Valuables

Tell kids to sit around the mural paper. Instruct them each to draw a picture or cartoon of what they think is the most valuable thing in the world.

WRAP UP

LEADER: "Those things are all very valuable.  But when we get to large group we're going to find out about the most valuable thing of all."

Lead your group to the large group area.



Virtue:

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Bottom Line: Treat others as if they belong to God.



Memory Verse: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
Luke 6:31, NIV



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes

Bible Story:

YOU BELONG

Matthew 25:35-40

PREVIEW

Note! This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both large and small group time.

Power Up is designed to engage children in worship in a large group setting. Music, prayer, and an innovative approach to the Bible story are always a part of this interactive time.

Kindergarten–5th Grade

FOR LEADERS ONLY

This month we've been talking about (1) kindness, which is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. (2) No one can say, do, or give anything to us that tops what God did for us when He sent His Son to save us. He did this for all people, not just for people like us, and not because we've done anything to deserve it. He did it because He loves us. That's why everyone is important and valuable to God. He made them, and He loves them like sons and daughters. (3) And that's one reason Jesus wants us to treat others kindly: to show them they are valuable to God. He goes so far as to say that when we treat others kindly, especially those less fortunate than ourselves, it's as if we're treating Him that way. (4) So today challenge kids to look around pay attention to people. What do they need, and what can we do about it? Kindness opens doors to share God's love.

Heads up: Today is a natural opportunity to tell children about God's plan for our salvation. Note the highlighted paragraphs in particular. Pray ahead of time, asking God to prepare the kids' hearts and minds for this important message and to give you just the right words.



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



Apply • Make It Fit
What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

GET READY

Gather all the supplies needed for large group:

- **People:** You will need a Leader, an Assistant, four older kids, and four younger kids.
- **Bibles:** You will need a Bible for the story presentation and worship (preferably the NIV).
- **Large Group Visuals (from the Web site):** You will need the “Virtue Slide” and today’s “Bottom Line Slide,” prepared at the beginning of the month.
- **Props and Costumes:** The Assistant will need a visual of a seed, hidden somewhere onstage. The Leader will need a prop box, placed at the back of the room, behind the kids (opposite wall from the stage). The prop box should include the following: edible food (such as bread or a can of soup), a bottle of water, and a coat or blanket. The box should also have several other items, which can be silly or simply miscellaneous. For example: a feather boa, rubber chicken, books, magazines, a tiara, football, etc. Make eight signs by writing the following words on torn cardboard in black marker, in the manner of a “Will Work for Food” sign: *Hungry, Thirsty, Cold, Lonely, and Jesus* (make four “Jesus” signs). Four volunteers (older kids) will hold the “hungry,” “thirsty,” “cold,” and “lonely” signs. The “Jesus” signs will be taped to their backs. See details in the Bible story script.
- **Music and Sound Effects (SFX):** You will need high-energy music as the kids enter and exit the room (like the downloadable MP3 virtue song from the Web site) as well as high-energy instrumental music like *The Flight of the Bumble Bee*, downloadable on iTunes®. For worship, you will need the *Chase the Light* and *The Way I Was Made* CDs. (Note: See permissions info in week 1.)

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Assistant should be on stage greeting kids as they come in.

1. Get Started

ASSISTANT: “Good morning, everyone! Can anyone remind me what we’re talking about this month? (Get responses.) That’s right—kindness.

CG: Virtue Slide

**POWER UP:** Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

"Kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. What do we say every week about how we should treat others? I should ..." (Get kids to complete sentence.)

ASSISTANT and KIDS:  "I should treat others the way I want to be treated."

ASSISTANT: "That's right. And kindness is a great way to treat others the way you want to be treated. Next week I'll be asking you some ways you've been showing kindness. I look forward to hearing how you're showing kindness!"

Assistant exits. Leader enters.

2. Lead Worship

LEADER: (Turn to Psalm 103:13, NIV, and read.) "Psalm 103:13 says, 'A father is tender and kind to his children. In the same way, the Lord is tender and kind to those who have respect for Him.' Did you know that we're God's kids? That's right! God is our Father! You are valuable to God because you're His kid and He can't wait to show you His kindness and love! Because God is my Father, I know  **I can trust God no matter what.** Say that with me."

LEADER and KIDS:  "I can trust God no matter what."

LEADER: "Let's stand and sing to our Heavenly Father, letting Him know that we want to be His hands and feet as we show kindness to others."

Lead the group in singing the following songs. Add motions, like American Sign Language or other meaningful motions, where possible.

"Hands and Feet" / track 10 / from *The Way I Was Made*

Bring four older kids to the stage, lining them up across the stage behind the Leader. They should be holding their signs (hungry, thirsty, cold, lonely) with the blank side facing the audience so no one can read what's written on them. Put 'Jesus' signs on each of their backs, without the audience seeing them.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

3. Present the Bible Lesson

Leader: Note that the following Bible lesson script has been organized into FOUR main points (noted in brown) to help you present it in a memorable way. The lesson concludes with a “closer” to help make real-life application for kids.

LEADER: (Open Bible to Matthew 25:35-40.) “In the book of Matthew—wait, is Matthew in the Old or New Testament? (Get responses.) Matthew is the first book in the New Testament. In Matthew 25, Jesus gave us some very specific ways we can show kindness to others. To help us understand what He said, we’ve got a challenge. Who wants to accept the Kindness Challenge?”

Choose younger kid volunteer and bring onstage. ‘Hungry’ volunteer steps forward and stands beside Leader.

HUNGRY

LEADER: “What’s your name? (Get younger kid volunteer’s name.) Here’s your challenge: we have someone here holding a sign. In a minute, he’s going to show us what his sign says. There’s a box in the back of the room. Can you see it? After we read what his sign says, your challenge is to run to the box and find something you think would show kindness to him and then bring him that thing. Are you ready for the Kindness Challenge? Okay, [insert older kid’s name], show us what your sign says.

Older kid #1 reveals the sign reading ‘Hungry.’

LEADER: “Can anyone tell us what this sign says? (Get responses.) The sign says, ‘Hungry.’ Okay, [insert younger kid’s name], it’s time for the Kindness Challenge. Find an item in the box, and show kindness to our hungry person. Ready, set, go!”

Younger kid runs to prop box, finds appropriate item to meet the need, and runs back to hungry person.

SFX: Play high-energy music like The Flight of the Bumble Bee while kid runs to box and back to stage.

LEADER: “Let’s see if you met the Kindness Challenge. (To audience) What do you think? Does [insert item] meet our hungry person’s need? Did [insert name of younger kid] meet the Kindness Challenge?”



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

Hold up item to audience and get response. If the item meets the need, give it to the hungry person. If it doesn't, have the younger kid do the challenge again.

*(Open Bible to Matthew 25:35.) "In Matthew 25:35, Jesus tells us, 'I was hungry. And you gave me something to eat.' (To younger volunteer kid) You met our first Kindness Challenge! When someone's hungry, we can show him kindness by giving him food. This is a great way to **!treat others as if they belong to God.***

Thank younger kid volunteer and dismiss him. Hungry person remains onstage, holding sign and item.

THIRSTY

LEADER: "Who wants to accept the second Kindness Challenge?"

Choose younger kid volunteer and bring her onstage. 'Thirsty' volunteer steps forward and stands beside Leader.

"What's your name? (Get younger kid volunteer's name.) You saw how the Kindness Challenge works. Our person here is going to show us what her sign says. After we read what her sign says, your challenge is to run to the box and find something you think would show kindness to her. Are you ready for the Kindness Challenge? Okay, [insert older kid volunteer's name], show us your sign.

Older kid #2 reveals the sign reading 'Thirsty.'

"What does her sign say? (Get responses.) Her sign says, 'Thirsty.' Okay, [insert younger kid's name], it's time for the Kindness Challenge. Find an item in the box, and show kindness to our thirsty person. Ready, set, go!

Younger kid runs to prop box, finds appropriate item to meet the need, and runs back to the thirsty person.

SFX: Play high-energy music like The Flight of the Bumble Bee while kid runs to box and back to stage.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

LEADER: "Let's see if you met the Kindness Challenge. (To audience) What do you think? Does [insert item] meet our thirsty person's need? Did [insert name of younger kid] meet the Kindness Challenge?"

Hold up item to audience and get response. If the item meets the need, give it to the thirsty person. If it doesn't, have the kid do the challenge again.

(Open Bible to Matthew 25:35.) "In Matthew 25:35, Jesus tells us, 'I was thirsty. And you gave me something to drink.' You met our second Kindness Challenge! When someone's thirsty, we can show her kindness by giving her something to drink. That's a great way to **! treat others as if they belong to God.**

Thank younger kid volunteer and dismiss her. Thirsty person remains onstage, holding sign and item.

COLD

LEADER: "Who wants to accept our third Kindness Challenge?"

Choose younger kid volunteer and bring him onstage. 'Cold' volunteer steps forward and stands beside Leader.

"What's your name? (Get younger kid volunteer's name.) I'm sure you're ready to take the challenge, so let's see how we can show kindness to [insert older kid volunteer's name]. Show us your sign.

Person #3 reveals the sign reading 'Cold.'

"What does his sign say? (Get responses.) His sign says, 'Cold.' [Insert younger kid's name], it's time for the Kindness Challenge. Find an item in the box, and show kindness to our cold person. Ready, set, go!

Younger kid runs to prop box, finds appropriate item to meet the need, and runs back to the cold person.

SFX: Play high-energy music like The Flight of the Bumble Bee while kid runs to box and back to stage.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

"Let's see if you met the Kindness Challenge. *(To audience)* What do you think? Does [insert item] meet our cold person's need? Did [insert name of younger kid] meet the Kindness Challenge?"

Hold up item to audience and get response. If the item meets the need, give it to the cold person. If it doesn't, have the kid do the challenge again.

(Open Bible to Matthew 25:36.) "In Matthew 25:36, Jesus tells us, 'I needed clothes. And you gave them to me.' *(To younger kid)* You met our third Kindness Challenge! When someone's cold, we can show him kindness by giving him a coat or blanket. That's a way we can **! treat others as if they belong to God.**

Thank younger kid volunteer and dismiss her. Cold person remains onstage, holding sign and item.

LONELY

LEADER: "Who wants to accept our last Kindness Challenge?"

Choose younger kid volunteer and bring onstage. 'Lonely' volunteer steps forward and stands beside Leader.

"What's your name? *(Get younger kid volunteer's name.)* I'm sure you're more than ready to take the challenge. Let's see how we can show kindness to [insert older kid volunteer's name]. Show us your sign.

Older kid #4 reveals the sign reading 'Lonely.'

"What does her sign say? *(Get responses.)* Her sign says, 'Lonely.' [Insert younger kid's name], it's time for the Kindness Challenge. Find an item in the box, and show kindness to our lonely person. Ready, set, go!

Younger kid runs to prop box, but shouldn't be able to find an appropriate item. After looking for several seconds, music stops and you call the younger kid back to the stage.

SFX: *Play high-energy music like The Flight of the Bumble Bee while kid runs to box.*



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

“Could you find anything that you thought would meet our ‘lonely’ person’s need? (Get response and then open Bible to Matthew 25:36.) In Matthew 25:36, Jesus says, ‘I was sick. And you took care of me. I was in prison. And you came to visit me.’ Our fourth Kindness Challenge is to show kindness to someone who needs someone. Does anyone have an idea what we could do?”

Get responses from younger kid and/or audience. You may have to ad lib as you take suggestions. Place younger kid beside the ‘lonely’ person as you deliver the following lines.

“When someone’s lonely, we can show her kindness by spending time with her, going to visit him if he’s in the hospital, nursing home, or has to stay at home. Those are all great ways we can **! treat others as if they belong to God.**”

“So you, [insert younger kid volunteer’s name], can meet our fourth Kindness Challenge just by being here with our lonely person. Thank you.”

Lonely person, with younger kid beside him, remains on stage.

CLOSE THE STORY

LEADER: “We can show kindness to people in all kinds of ways, like our Kindness Challenge today. You saw someone who was hungry, thirsty, cold, and lonely, and you met their need as soon as you saw it. Maybe you see your little brother or sister needing help doing something like getting dressed or tying their shoes. Or there’s a kid at school who forgot his lunch and you could loan him some lunch money.”

“You and your family could also PLAN to show kindness by taking coats, scarves, gloves, or blankets to a homeless shelter. Or PLAN to visit the elderly in a nursing home. These are all ways we can **! treat others as if they belong to God.**”

(Open Bible to Matthew 25:35-40) “In Matthew 25, Jesus says you can be kind by feeding the hungry, giving someone something to drink, sharing clothes with people who need them, or visiting people who need a friend. When you do these things, do you know who you’re really being kind to?”



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

Four older kid volunteers should turn, with their backs to the audience, revealing the 'Jesus' signs on their backs.

"That's right, Jesus. Jesus says anything you do for others, it's like you're really doing it for Him. In other words, when we're kind to others, we're kind to Jesus. Jesus wants us to see others the way He does. He created everyone. He created your brother, sister, neighbor, parents, grandparents, teachers. God made everyone. When we're kind to others, we're kind to Him. Just think: we can actually be kind TO JESUS by being kind to others. That's why it's important to remember to **!treat others as if they belong to God.** Say that with me."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

LEADER and KIDS: ! "Treat others as if they belong to God."

4. Pray

LEADER: "Let's pray. Dear God, thank You for giving us this powerful message in the Bible. Help us remember that how we treat others is how we're treating You. Thank You for showing us the greatest kindness of all by sending Jesus to die for our sins so we could be with You forever. We love You, God. Amen."

Dismiss volunteers from stage.

5. Lead Worship

LEADER: "When we're showing kindness to others, we're really showing kindness to whom? (*Get responses.*) Jesus! Stand and worship Jesus—it's all about Him, for Him. It's all because of Jesus we're alive!"

"All Because of Jesus" / track 3 / from Chase the Light

Leader exits. Assistant enters.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

Large Group, 20-25 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

6. Wrap Up

ASSISTANT: “God created (*point to kids*) you, and you, and you. Because each one of us sins—each one of us does wrong things—God knew we needed a Savior. He gave us the ultimate gift of kindness: His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. When we ask Jesus to forgive us for the wrong things we’ve done and to be our Savior, He will, and we’ll live with God forever in heaven.

“I’m so glad Jesus told us how we can show kindness to Him: by being kind to others! Not only are we being kind TO Jesus when we’re being kind to others, but when we show kindness, we’re also showing others how kindness is FROM Jesus. And the biggest kindness we can show others is to tell them what Jesus did for them. Then they can believe in Him and live with God forever in heaven, too!

“Like we saw today in our story, there are lots of ways we can show kindness to others. Maybe you see ways to show kindness at home, at school, in your neighborhood, or even here at church. When you have an opportunity to show kindness to someone, what kind of choice do you need to make? (*Get responses.*) **I need to make the wise choice.** Let’s say that together.”

ASSISTANT and KIDS: “I need to make the wise choice.”

ASSISTANT: “Where do we find out how to make the wise choice? (*Pause for responses.*) **That’s right—the Bible. The Bible is like a ... (show visual of seed) seed. It will help you grow up the right way.**

“Today’s story was a great ‘seed’ for me. It helps me grow up the right way by reminding me that I can be kind to Jesus by how I treat others. People are around me every day who need help, might be hungry or thirsty, or need something that I have and can give to them. I hope it helps you remember to **! treat others as if they belong to God.** I look forward to hearing next week about how you’ve been showing kindness. Have a great week!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

Virtue:

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Bottom Line: Treat others as if they belong to God.



Memory Verse: "Do to others as you would have them do to you."
Luke 6:31, NIV



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes

Bible Story:

YOU BELONG

Matthew 25:35-40

PREVIEW

Note! This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both large and small group time.

Catch On is designed to help kids understand how the day's topic applies to them. They'll discuss real-life experiences, interact with a group of peers, and participate in a variety of activities that appeal to different learning styles. Life-application and memory-verse activities, as well as prayer, are always a part of this hands-on time. Gather children into the same small groups as for Plug In.

Kindergarten–5th Grade

GET READY

For each small group, do the following:

- **Thinking Inside the Box:** Provide red and black construction paper, masking tape, and one beanbag (or Koosh® ball). Cut out four red circles and four black circles. Use masking tape to make a 4x4 grid on the floor.
- **Dare to Share:** Provide modeling dough.
- **Trashketball:** You'll need Bibles, one Nerf® ball (or beanbag or Koosh® ball), and a clean trashcan (or anything that can be used as a basket).
- **Prayer of Thanks:** No supplies or preparation needed.
- Make copies on cardstock of this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1. Activity #1 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).*



Recycle • Make It Stick
What do you want to make sure they never forget?



Impress • Make It Big
What is the one thing you want them to understand?



Personalize • Make It Real
What can you model for them from your own life?



Apply • Make It Fit
What do you want them to walk away and do?



Transition • Make It Flow
What will you say or do to keep them engaged?



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

SUPPLIES:

red and black construction paper circles, masking tape, beanbag

* 1. Thinking Inside the Box (*application activity / Bible lesson review / great for boys*)

Divide the group into two teams. Assign each team a color of circles. Have teams take turns throwing a beanbag onto the grid. If the beanbag lands in a square, they have a chance to answer a question about the Bible story. If they answer the question correctly, place a circle in the square. If they answer the question incorrectly, the other team will have a chance to answer the question and put their circle in the square instead. The first team with four circles in a row wins the game. Repeat the game until all the review questions have been answered correctly.

1. Which book of the Bible (or Gospel) did we learn our Bible story from today? (*Matthew*)
2. True or False: Jesus said when people are hungry you should ignore them. (*False*)
3. Fill in the blank: "I was thirsty and you gave me something to ____." (*Drink*)
4. When we give people what they need, like clothes, who are we also giving them to? (*Jesus*)
5. Who does Jesus want us to treat kindly? (*everyone; "the least of these," which means poor or needy people*)
6. Fill in the blank: "I was ____ and you gave me something to eat." (*Hungry*)
7. True or False: When you are kind to someone who doesn't have many friends, you are being kind to Jesus. (*True*)
8. Why does Jesus say that when you do kind things for people that you are doing kind things for Him? (*Jesus wants us to be kind to others. When we are, we're obeying Him. When we treat others kindly, we show them they are valuable to God.*)
9. If your family car broke down, what would be something kind someone could do for you? (*Give you a ride home or to a repair shop; give you a ride to where you were going; help fix your car; etc.*)
10. What is something you can SAY to show kindness the way Jesus teaches in today's Bible lesson? (*Encourage kids to give an example of a potential real-life example.*)
11. What is something you can DO to show kindness the way Jesus teaches? (*Encourage kids to give an example of a potential real-life example.*)



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

12. What is something you can GIVE to show kindness the way Jesus teaches? (*Encourage kids to give an example of a potential real-life example.*)

LEADER: 👣 “When we are kind to people, it’s as if we are treating Jesus that way. The smallest act of kindness can make a huge difference in a person’s day and life! 👣 What else can you say, do, or give this week that would show someone how valuable he or she is to God? Look around and pay attention to the people around you. What do they need, and what could you do about it? You can smile at a passerby or let someone go ahead of you in line. 👣 One way to show others they’re valuable to God is by sharing with them. What do you have to share? You could donate your old clothes, or you could use your allowance to buy groceries for a family in need! 👣 Everyone is important and valuable to God. He made them and He loves them like sons and daughters. That’s one reason why Jesus wants us to treat others kindly: to show them they are valuable to God. Whether you are with your family, your friends, a classmate, or anyone else, remember to **! treat others as if they belong to God.**”

SUPPLIES:

modeling dough

2. Dare to Share (*application activity / great for boys*)

Ask the following questions to review:

- What should you do if someone is hungry or thirsty? (*Give them food or drink*)
- What should you do if someone is sad? (*Try to cheer him up*)
- Why should we help people who need something? (*Because they’re valuable; because Jesus would; because Jesus said to*)
- 👣 **One way to show others they’re valuable to God is by sharing with them. What do you have to share? (*Each child will answer; see below*)**

Give each child a lump of modeling dough. Instruct them to each make an object that symbolizes something they could share with others. For instance, they might make a doll if they could share their toys. Or they could make a cookie if they could share food. Give kids several minutes to make their items. ❤️ **Make an object of your own, and tell kids what you’re making.** Encourage kids to talk about what they’re making as they work.



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, ball, clean trashcan

LEADER: “God shared the best thing with us when He sent us His Son, Jesus. Jesus wants us to share with others, too. When we do that, we show others that they’re valuable. **! Treat others as if they belong to God.**”

3. Trashketball (*memory verse activity*)

Guide kids to turn in their Bibles to Luke 6:31. Read the verse and reference out loud. Taking turns, have each kid read the verse and reference out loud, as well. Ask kids to pay close attention to all the words in the verse and their order.

Have kids line up 5 to 10 feet from a trashcan (used as the basket). Have a small ball ready for kids to toss at the trashcan, attempting to make the basket. Before kids can toss the ball, each has to recite the memory verse and reference out loud. If they say the verse incorrectly, they have to go to the back of the line and wait for another turn.

LEADER: “Hopefully you’ve all said and heard the memory verse enough now that you’ll never forget it! This verse reminds us how God wants us to treat people. 🦶 **When you understand that God loves and is kind to everyone, it’ll change the way you treat people. You can’t love God and not love, care about, and be kind to the people He cares about.** God’s love and kindness is for EVERYONE. 🦶 **Don’t be kind to someone just to get something back from them, expecting something in return. Be kind to everyone, because that is what God wants us to do. ! Treat others as if they belong to God.**”

SUPPLIES:

none

4. Prayer of Thanks (*pray*)

Explain to kids why God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Convey the following to your kids in a way that you feel will best speak to them: 🦶 **No one is kinder than God. In fact, no one can say, do, or give anything to us that tops what God did for us when He sent Jesus to save us. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and be our Savior, He will, and we’ll be adopted into God’s family forever. God did this for all people, not just for people like us, and not because we’ve done anything to deserve it. He did it because He loves us.**



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

Small Groups, 25-30 minutes • for kindergarten–5th grade

LEADER: “Let’s all thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. (Guide kids to repeat the following prayer sentence.) ‘Thank You, God, for Jesus.’ (Then finish your prayer time with something like ...) God, we know You love everyone. Thank You for loving us so much You gave us Your Son. Help us to treat others as if they belong to You. We love You, too, God. Amen.”

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What has Jesus given to every person who ever lived?
- What did He take for every person who ever lived?
- How can someone become a part of God’s family forever?
- If you really believe God loves people like a perfect Father, how will that change the way you treat them?

WRAP UP

Bring together all the groups in your classroom so the Leader can conclude the session with a review. Be prepared to distribute this week’s GodTime and Fridge Door cards.

LEADER: “Being kind is a BIG deal! We all like it when people are kind to us, right? When people show kindness to you it makes you feel special and cared for. So when you show kindness to others, it will make them feel that way, too. God wants us to be kind to everyone! Think about what you can say, do, and give that will show kindness to people and let them know they are loved by God, and then do those things this week.”

Distribute the GodTime and Fridge Door cards.