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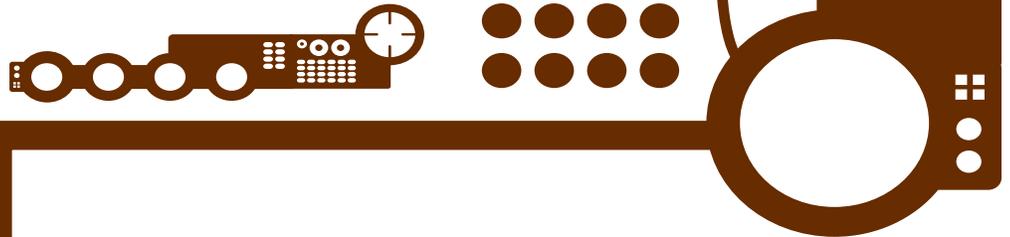
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252 BASICS®

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.

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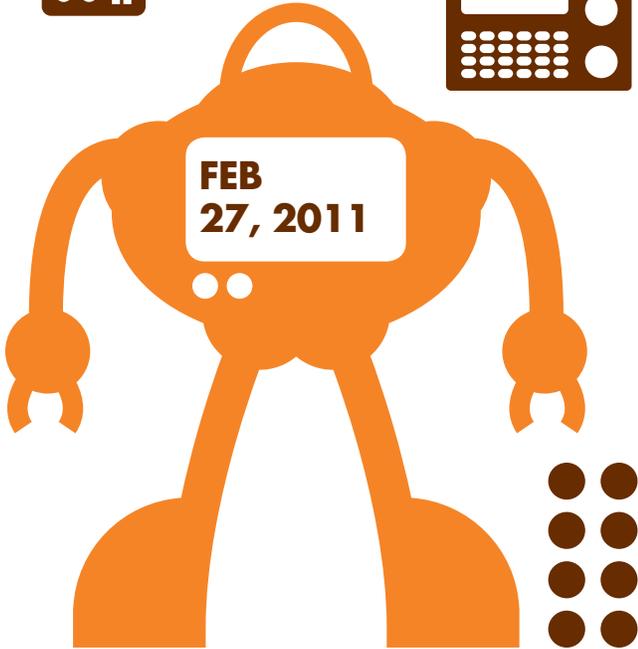
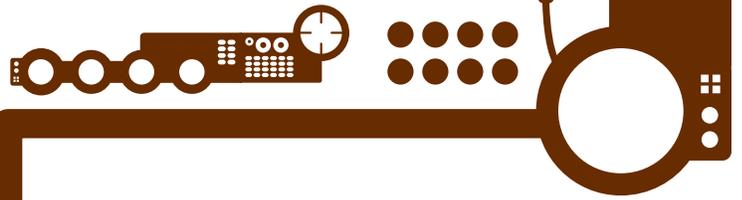
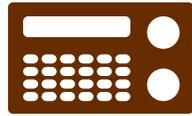
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252 BASICS®

Virtue: **KINDNESS**

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

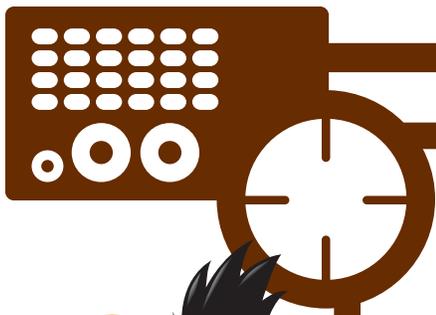


Second Chance

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

Bible Story: Second Chance (Barnabas and Paul) • Acts 9:26-30

Bottom Line: Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.



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: Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.



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:

SECOND CHANCE

Acts 9:26-30

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

We've defined (1) kindness as showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. It's easy to be kind to those who are kind to us, but where the rubber meets the road is how we treat those who aren't so kind to us, those who do, say, and dish out unkindly—in short, our enemies. Which is why today's Bible story is particularly delectable for those who like an unexpected twist: Jesus turning a self-proclaimed and determined detractor into one of the most influential and prolific believers of all time through a "son of encouragement," who negotiated a second chance for a former enemy. (2) But that's just the crazy kind of kindness that God offers us: He's the Master of second chances—and third and tenth and five hundredth chances. When God offered us salvation through Jesus, He performed the most extreme and unexpected act of kindness ever. (3) Because God gives us a "second chance," He wants us to do the same for others. He wants us to do for our enemies what they wouldn't do for us. (4) When we do, there's no telling what God will do in people's hearts.

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?



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.
- **Freeze Tag:** No supplies or preparation necessary.
- 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 think about things that come in twos, such as hands, nostrils, shoes, etc. Invite the kids to put their offerings in the offering container.

SUPPLIES:

none

Freeze Tag

Explain how to play freeze tag. One kid is "It," and when he tags someone, that person must freeze in place. Someone can be unfrozen by being tagged by another person. Play for several minutes, letting several different kids be "It."

WRAP UP

LEADER: "It's great to get a second chance in freeze tag, isn't it?  **Let's go to large group where we'll hear about somebody else who got a second chance."**

Lead your group to the large group area.



Virtue:

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Bottom Line: Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.



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:

SECOND CHANCE

Acts 9:26-30

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

We've defined (1) kindness as showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. It's easy to be kind to those who are kind to us, but where the rubber meets the road is how we treat those who aren't so kind to us, those who do, say, and dish out unkindly—in short, our enemies. Which is why today's Bible story is particularly delectable for those who like an unexpected twist: Jesus turning a self-proclaimed and determined detractor into one of the most influential and prolific believers of all time through a "son of encouragement," who negotiated a second chance for a former enemy. (2) But that's just the crazy kind of kindness that God offers us: He's the Master of second chances—and third and tenth and five hundredth chances. When God offered us salvation through Jesus, He performed the most extreme and unexpected act of kindness ever. (3) Because God gives us a "second chance," He wants us to do the same for others. He wants us to do for our enemies what they wouldn't do for us. (4) When we do, there's no telling what God will do in people's hearts.

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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, and one kid.
- **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. Prepare “Words” as noted in the LGVs.
- **Props and Costumes:** The Assistant will need a Bible times-style costume to wear as “Paul.” He will also need a visual of a sword, hidden somewhere onstage. The Leader will need a Bible times-style robe to fit a child.
- **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). For worship, you will need *The Way I Was Made* CD. (Note: See permissions info in week 1.)

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Assistant should be onstage greeting kids as they come in.

1. Get Started

CG: Virtue Slide

ASSISTANT: “Good morning! It’s so good to see you! We’ve learned that kindness is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. Now I want to know how YOU’VE been showing kindness to others.

Interview kids, roving reporter-style, to find out how they’ve been showing kindness. You will need to ad lib according to the kids’ answers. Interview five to seven kids.

ASSISTANT: “You guys understand what it means to show others how valuable they are by how you treat them! You’ve learned a memory verse this month that can help us remember how to treat others. Can anyone say the verse from memory?”

Choose kid to stand and say verse.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

“That was awesome! That verse sounds really familiar, like something we say every week when we talk about how we should treat others. How should we treat others?”

ASSISTANT and KIDS: ↻ “I should treat others the way I want to be treated.”

Leader enters, listening to the kids’ response.

ASSISTANT: “That’s right! You guys rock!”

Assistant exits.

2. Present the Bible Lesson

Leader: Note that the following Bible lesson script has been organized into three 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.

Note: We’re referring to Saul as Paul for clarity.

LEADER: “I was listening to all the things you’ve done to show kindness. You really understand what it means to treat others the way you would want to be treated.

“Being kind is pretty easy sometimes, don’t you think? But sometimes it’s hard to be kind to certain people. Before we find out what the Bible has to say about this, let me ask you a question. What can you tell me about Paul from the Bible?”

Get answers from kids. You will need to ad lib according to the kids’ answers. Some answers could include disciple (or apostle), wrote many New Testament books, was a missionary, traveled to faraway places to tell others about Jesus, was jailed, beaten, etc.



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

PAUL'S PAST

LEADER: "You guys sure know a lot about Paul. Before he became a disciple of Jesus—a disciple is someone who learns something and then teaches others what he or she learns—Paul lived a very different life.

Assistant enters as Paul, wearing a Bible character-style robe.

LEADER: "Let's say this is Paul. Before Paul became a disciple of Jesus, Paul believed in God, but he didn't believe in Jesus. He didn't know that Jesus is God's Son. Because he didn't believe in Jesus, he didn't think others should tell people about Jesus. In fact, Paul's attitude toward people who DID believe in Jesus was pretty mean.

Place the word MEAN on Paul.

"Paul actually hated Christians, the people who believed in Jesus.

Place the word HATED on Paul.

"Paul was so mean and hateful toward Christians that he did everything he could to have them arrested and put in jail. He made himself an enemy of Christians.

Place the words ARRESTED, JAIL, and ENEMY on Paul.

"As you can see, Paul was not someone most Christians would want to be around!

SECOND CHANCE

LEADER: "But thankfully, no matter what we've done, God gives us the chance to believe in Jesus, trust in Him, and follow Him. Paul got that chance, and even after all the bad things he had done to Christians, he became a believer in Jesus—a Christian himself!

Take each word off of Paul throughout the next few lines.

"Paul was no longer an enemy of Christians. He didn't put them in jail or arrest them. He didn't hate Christians and was never mean to them again. When Paul discovered who Jesus really is, and asked Him to be his Savior,



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

Jesus changed Paul's life. (*Point to the Assistant's chest and head.*) He changed Paul's heart and mind. He changed Paul's attitudes and the way he looked at other people. Then, instead of wanting to do harm to Jesus' followers, Paul wanted to join them.

"Now, knowing how Paul had treated Christians before he started following Jesus, do you think they trusted him? (*Pause for kids to call out answers.*)

(*Open Bible to Acts 9:26-30.*) "The Bible says that Paul 'tried to join the believers. But they were all afraid of him. They didn't believe he was really one of Jesus' followers.'

"Imagine if someone hurt you, your family, and your friends. It would be pretty hard to trust them, like them, and especially accept them as one of your friends after they had been your worst enemy. You can imagine how Jesus' disciples felt! But one of Jesus' disciples had a different opinion. I'll need someone to help me tell this part of the story.

Choose a boy to play Barnabas. Place Bible-times costume on him.

"One of Jesus' disciples, a guy named Barnabas, stood up for Paul. Barnabas had seen how much Paul had changed, and Barnabas believed that Paul really loved and wanted to follow Jesus. When no one else would trust or even be kind to Paul, Barnabas showed Paul real kindness. Barnabas made Paul his friend.

Give the word FRIEND to Barnabas and guide him to tape it on Paul.

"In fact, Barnabas convinced the other disciples to give Paul a second chance. When they did, Paul stayed with them and went around the city, teaching people about Jesus.

"Even though Paul used to be an enemy of all Christians, Barnabas chose to treat him like a friend. Paul really needed an act of kindness, and Barnabas did just that. You know why that's such good news for you and me?



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

PAUL'S MINISTRY

LEADER: "Remember some of those things you already knew about Paul, like that he was a disciple of Jesus; that he wrote lots of books in the New Testament; that he was beaten and jailed because he was a Christian and told people about Jesus?"

"Paul was what we might call the first 'super missionary.' Paul traveled all over, even to faraway places, just to tell others about Jesus. He wrote at least 13 books in the New Testament and he started several churches. Paul was one of the main people God used to help spread the word about Jesus, how much He loves us, and that He died on the cross for our sins so we could be forgiven and live in heaven with Him forever.

"If Barnabas hadn't given Paul a second chance and shown him kindness, Paul may not have started those churches, or wrote those letters that became part of the Bible, or told so many people about Jesus. That's why I'm so glad Barnabas chose to treat Paul like a friend instead of like an enemy.

"Let's thank Barnabas and Paul for helping tell our story today.

Assistant exits. Dismiss kid back to his seat.

CLOSE THE STORY

LEADER: "Okay, guys, we've talked about a tough thing today. Before Paul became a Christian, he was an ENEMY of all Christians. He had really hurt people, and Christians were afraid of him. Even after Paul became a Christian, they didn't trust him, not at first. Thankfully, God gave Paul a second chance through Barnabas. Like I said at the beginning of our story, sometimes it's easy to show kindness to certain people; you know, people you like, like your friends and family. But it's much harder to show kindness to people who are mean, who don't show kindness to us, or who act like enemies.

"The challenge for each one of us is to be like Barnabas was to Paul: to forgive our enemies and show kindness to them. To **!do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.**

"Just think: an enemy is someone who hates you and wants to do you harm. An enemy isn't kind and friendly and forgiving. An enemy doesn't give second chances. But God doesn't want us to treat others like an enemy. He



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

wants us to do the opposite. If you treat someone like Barnabas treated Paul, you'll show that person what God is really like. They might get to know God and then trust Jesus as their Savior! Remember all the things Paul did to tell others about Jesus? He was like the first 'super missionary.' If you're kind to your enemies and they see Jesus' kindness through you, then God might use them to tell others about Jesus, too! So, **!do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.** Let's say that together."

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

LEADER and KIDS: ! "Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you."

LEADER: "Thankfully, God gives us ALL a second chance—and a third chance, and a fourth chance, and many, many chances. God loves EVERYONE—yes, even people who behave like enemies like Paul did—so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for each one of us. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and to be our Savior, He will, and we'll receive life in heaven forever with God."

3. Pray

LEADER: "Let's pray. Dear God, You know that being kind to an enemy is really tough. Help us to be like Barnabas and show kindness to everyone, including people who treat us like an enemy. Thank You for showing every single one of us the biggest kindness of all, by sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins so we can be with You forever. We love You, God. Amen."

4. Lead Worship

LEADER: (*Turn to Titus 2:13c-14, NIV, and read.*) "The Bible says Jesus 'is our ... Savior. He gave himself for us. By doing that, he set us free from all evil. He wanted to make us pure. He wanted us to be his very own people.' God loved us so much that even though Jesus was His only Son, He still sent Him to be our Savior. Because Jesus is my Savior, I know  **I can trust God no matter what.** Can you say that with me?"

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



POWER UP: Engage the Heart

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

LEADER: “And because Jesus is my Savior, He lives in me! Everyone stand and let’s worship our Savior!”

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

“Salvation Is Here” / track 1 / from *The Way I Was Made*

LEADER: “God tells us to show kindness to everyone, and that includes people who treat us like enemies. Let’s remember that we can be examples of Jesus to others—especially people who are unkind to us. We have the opportunity to be Jesus’ hands and feet to others when we show kindness to everyone.”

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

Leader exits. Assistant enters.

5. Wrap Up

ASSISTANT: “Paul was an enemy of all Christians. He didn’t like what they believed and would even hurt them. Thankfully most of us don’t have someone like Paul in our lives. But we may have someone in our lives that we don’t get along with, who doesn’t like us, or maybe we don’t like. Even though it’s really tough, God wants us to show kindness, even to them. Next time an ‘enemy’ is around, you need to remember that you **need to make the wise choice.** Can you say that with me?”

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

ASSISTANT: “Do you know where we find out how to make the wise choice? (Pause for responses.) That’s right—the Bible. The Bible is like a ... (reveal the sword) **sword. It will help you win the battle against evil and stand up for what is right.**

Dismiss children to their small groups.

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

“Make the wise choice and **! do for your enemies what they wouldn’t do for you.** Who knows? God may use your act of kindness to help others know about Jesus and, like Paul and Barnabas, you might become friends.”

Virtue:

KINDNESS

Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Bottom Line: Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you.



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:

SECOND CHANCE

Acts 9:26-30

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:

- **Toss Up:** Provide a "tossable" object (such as a bouncy ball, a counting bear, or a small eraser) and a paper cup for each child.
- **A New Language:** Go to a Web site like <http://www.aslpro.com/> or <http://aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu/browser.htm> and learn the signs for your preferred version of the memory verse.
- **Balloon Pop Review Game:** Prepare "Balloon Pop Review" (from the Activity Pages on the Web site) as noted on the AP. Provide Bibles, balloons, masking tape, a safety pin, and a blindfold for each kid. *Tips: You can make inexpensive blindfolds from strips of muslin. Provide a blindfold for each participant to avoid passing germs.*
- **Sweet and Sour:** Provide a small bottle of water, a plastic spoon, and a pen for each person. You'll also need one cup of sugar in a sealed container and the contents of two unsweetened drink mixes in another. Have a paper plate or towel available for kids to work over in case of spills. Provide hand sanitizer.
- Make copies on cardstock of this week's GodTime and Fridge Door cards.



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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



* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #3. Activity #3 is also particularly good for children who need to move in order to stay engaged (not just for boys).

SUPPLIES:

tossable objects, cups

1. Toss Up (*application activity / great for boys*)

This activity will help kids understand the concept of getting more than one chance at something. Give each kid a tossable object, such as a bouncy ball. Ask them to line up side by side, and place a cup five feet away from each kid. When you say, "Go!" they try to toss their objects into the cups. Those kids who aren't successful get to try again, but from a spot closer to the cup. Continue this until all kids have gotten their objects into the cups, even if they just drop them straight in.

Play several times.

LEADER: "How many of you are glad I gave you more than once chance? (*Kids respond.*) That's what I thought! You know, 🦶 **God is the Master of second chances—and third and tenth and five hundredth chances! It's a good thing God is so forgiving and kind. We all need His kindness! We should do the same for others, no matter how they treat us. ! Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you."**

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

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

- How would you describe an enemy?
- What would it look like for someone your age to express kindness to an enemy?
- What are some situations in which you'd need to give someone a second chance? What should you say to that person? What would you do?

SUPPLIES:

none

2. A New Language (*memory verse activity*)

Teach kids ASL for each word of your preferred version of the memory verse. As you make the sign for each word, practice saying the word out loud. After kids get the hang of doing the signs, recite the memory verse three or four more times while doing the sign language for the words to make sure it sticks. Invite volunteers to recite the verse and sign language individually.



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

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

Challenge kids to teach someone else the memory verse and sign language this week.

LEADER: “We can’t repeat this verse enough! Hopefully all of you know it well by now. God wants us to do to others what you would have them do to you. If you were the ‘enemy,’ would you want people to be mean to you? Nobody wants to be treated meanly. With that in mind, we have to remember that God wants us to **! do for your enemies what they wouldn’t do for you.** 🦶 **Keep treating others with kindness and see what God will do.”**

SUPPLIES:

“Balloon Pop Review” (Activity Page), balloons, masking tape, safety pin, blindfolds, Bibles

* 3. Balloon Pop Review Game (*application activity / Bible story review / great for boys*)

Blindfold a kid. Turn him around several times, put him in front of the balloons taped to the wall, and guide him to pop a balloon with the safety pin. (Maintain control over the pin.) Then tell him to remove the blindfold and pick up the paper that falls out of the balloon. Let each kid have a turn to do this.

After all balloons have been popped, explain what a disciple is: not just those 12 guys who followed Jesus and were His closest friends. A disciple is a learner who passes on his or her knowledge to others. We can be disciples, too. Let each kid read and answer his/her question. Guide kids to read and answer questions in the order listed below. Be ready to help beginning readers as needed.

1. Today’s Bible story comes from the fifth book of the New Testament. Which book is it? (*Acts*)
2. Which new disciple were the other disciples afraid of? (*Paul*)
3. Which disciple helped the new guy to be accepted by the other disciples? (*Barnabas*)
4. What did the new disciple do in Jerusalem when the other disciples decided to give him a second chance? (*He stayed with them and taught people about Jesus.*)
5. What do you think Barnabas said to the other disciples to persuade them to forgive Paul? Read Acts 9:27 for the answer.
6. If you were “the new guy or girl” at your school, how do you think other kids would treat you? How would you want them to treat you? (*Encourage kids to give an example or share a story from their experience of being the “new guy/girl.”*)
7. Before the new guy believed in Jesus, he was an enemy of Christians. He put them in jail and made sure they were punished because they believed in Jesus. What would



CATCH ON: Make the Connection

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

you do if suddenly someone, who had always been mean to you, started being kind to you? (Encourage kids to think about how the disciples gave Paul a second chance, to come up with their own answers.)

8. True or False: Jesus says that even if a person is mean to me many, many times, I still need to be kind to that person. (True)
9. If we treat others kindly, even when they act like an enemy, what does that show them about God? (That He is kind, that He loves them regardless of how they behave, that they are valuable to Him, etc.)
10. What is something you can say, do, or give to someone who is mean to you that would show that person kindness?

LEADER: “In our Bible story, the disciples—and especially Barnabas—set a great example for us about giving second chances. 🦶 **God is the Master of second chances—and third and tenth and five hundredth chances! It’s a good thing God is so forgiving and kind. We all need His kindness!** ❤️ (Share a story about a time that you gave someone a second chance [or a third chance, or a fiftieth chance], or a story about a time when someone else gave you the second chance.) 🦶 **Jesus wants us to treat enemies kindly. One specific way to do that is to give people another chance, like Barnabas and the other disciples gave to Paul. Jesus wants you to ! do for your enemies what they wouldn’t do for you.”**

SUPPLIES:

water bottles, plastic spoons, pens, sugar, unsweetened drink mix, paper plate or towel, hand sanitizer

4. Sweet and Sour (pray)

Sanitize hands. Give each of the kids a water bottle and ask them to open it and take a small drink. In the remaining water, let them add a spoonful of unsweetened drink mix powder, about ¼ to ½ of a teaspoon. Work over a paper plate or towel in case of spills. Ask them to close the water bottles, shake the mixture, and then taste it.

Invite a brief discussion about ways an enemy is like the sour, unsweetened drink they just tasted. Pause for a moment and ask kids to think of someone they don’t like or who doesn’t like them.

Let the kids open their water bottles and add a spoonful of sugar to the drink mix. Then guide them to close their lids tightly and shake their bottles. After the sugar has dissolved, invite kids to taste the drink mix. 🦶 **Drawing from what they have learned today, ask for ideas of ways to take action in turning a sour enemy into a friend.**



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Allow kids time to pray about a way they can show kindness this week to someone they don't like or who doesn't like them. Perhaps it will be the person who came to mind earlier. Let them indicate they're done praying by taking another sip of the sweetened drink in their water bottles.

Close with the following prayer:

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for the way you continue to love us, even when we sin and disobey You. Help us to not take advantage of the fact that You're the Master of second chances. Instead, help us be like You and keep treating others with kindness. Amen.

 **"This week, try adding some kindness to a situation or a relationship that's sour and see if it sweetens the picture. Keep treating others the way you'd like to be treated and see what happens. Kindness isn't a magic potion that turns enemies into friends, but if you **! do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you**, you'll be giving someone a second chance that might make a big change. It sure worked for Paul!"**

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: "You know what, guys? Everyone makes unwise choices and mistakes, and everyone has sinned. So everyone needs forgiveness from God. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and be our Savior, He will, and we'll live in heaven forever with Him and God.

"Because God is willing to forgive us, He wants us to be willing to forgive others. That's one of the most important things we need to know about kindness. Jesus shows His kindness to us in many ways and He wants us to show the same kindness to others. It doesn't matter if someone 'deserves' our kindness or not. What matters is that God wants us to be kind to others, so that's what we should do! Being kind to an enemy is no easy task. But if you keep your kindness up, God will be proud of you and He will bless you for your faithfulness. Pray for people, even when they treat you like an



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enemy, and be willing to give them a second chance. When you do, there's no telling what God will do! He could make a big change in their lives, just like He did with Paul."

Distribute the GodTime and Fridge Door cards.