

One Part Kindness – Elementary-Teen

Mark 10:13-16

May 11, 2025

Grow in Faith (Info for teachers)

In today's story, Jesus blesses little children. The disciples try to keep the children from Jesus, but Jesus is not having it! He reprimands the disciples for keeping the children away and makes a clear statement that access to him and to God's love is for everyone. Jesus also uses this as an example to teach the disciples about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven can be a difficult concept for children (and adults) to understand. Some people refer to the coming kingdom of heaven, alluding to a time in the future. However, Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven can be a present reality. By blessing the children, Jesus showed the time is now to welcome all into the kingdom.

Children can relate to being told not to do something or maybe feeling too small to be included. Teaching this story is an opportunity to affirm children as an integral part of God's family. A kind and generous kingdom is a kingdom for even those who are small.

Come Together

Prepare to Learn

In person group did not finish the empathy poster so we will do that first. (Golden Rule)

Looking at the poster, ask: "Tell me again what the Bible verse means." Allow answers.

Say: Now we're going to see how we measure up. Have you ever done any of these things to someone else? How can we be more like Jesus when we respond to others who do these things? What can we do or say differently?

- Go through and write positive responses by the list of things the kids didn't like. You don't have to do all of them but pick a variety.

Faith Focus – Jesus teaches us to love and welcome others.

Say: We are learning the recipe to love and welcome others. We talked about empathy last week. Another important ingredient is kindness. Jesus showed kindness by welcoming children to be with him as he taught. **Ask:** Is there anyone in your life who makes you feel welcome? What do they do? *Allow time for sharing.*

Say: We can help others feel loved and welcomed by finding opportunities to be kind. I am going to pass out some Kindness Coupons. I want you to write down some things you can do for other people that are kind and show you care about them. Since it's Mother's Day, I want you to think of at least a few things that you can do for your mom (or family) that are helpful and kind.

Let's Pray:

Lord, we are grateful that you teach us to be kind. Help us to show kindness to others. Amen.

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Open the Bible

You can watch [this video](#).

Faith Response

The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.

1. Craft Boxes for Mom (or others)

Supplies: boxes, ribbon, paint pens, markers, buttons, etc.

Say: We've been talking about how Jesus showed kindness to others. Since it's Mother's Day, we can extend this by showing kindness to our mom, grandmothers, aunts, etc. I am going to give you a 'kindness box' that you can decorate and give to whoever you'd like. Add some of the kindness coupons you made at the beginning of class to give to them as well.

- Have kids decide who they would like to give the box to.
- Using the supplies provided, have kids decorate the boxes as desired. (I will have some boxes painted in advance).
- Encourage kids to add kindness coupons to their box to give to the person.

2. Kindness Story – Activity

Supplies: Kitchen utensil.

Instructions:

- Begin by holding a kitchen utensil and starting the story with the phrase "Once there was a very kind person who wanted to spread kindness to others."
- Pass the utensil to the child beside you. Have the child holding the kitchen utensil say one sentence to add to the story and then pass the utensil to the next person.
- The next child adds another sentence and continues to pass. Each sentence should build on the one before it to tell a story about someone being kind.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to participate.

Worksheets will be available if the kids finish early.

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The following game was not done last week. If time and kids are interested, this can be played as a group.

3. Do Unto Others – Game

Supplies: Make up cards with situations or tasks on them. For example, give the person to your left a compliment, recite the Bible verse, tell how you helped someone today, etc. Make up enough cards for all kids to have at least 4-5 and 10 or more for a draw pile.

How to Play:

- Before you start, have each child write the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. (You can pre-write them if you don't have much time in class.)
- Deal out the cards so that each child has four to five cards. Place the leftover cards in the middle of the circle face down.
- The game's object is to circle all the words on your Bible verse paper first by completing the tasks on the cards.
- To play, the children take turns picking one card from the pile and placing it in their hands. A child picks one card from their hand and does what the card says to do. If the child does it successfully, they get to circle the matching word on the Bible verse sheet that is written on the card they just read. When done, discard the card in a discard pile. Then the next child takes a turn.
- If a child does not have a card with the correct word they need, they can use their turn to swap out one of their cards (put their card in the discard pile and pick a new one from the top of the deck).
- If you run out of cards in your deck, mix up the discard pile and use it for the deck.
- Keep playing until one child has circled all the words on his Bible verse sheet.