



Jesus is Kind

Matthew 5:38-48

God Statement: Jesus Is Kind

KEY VERSE:

“I have given you an example, you should do as I have done for you.”

John 13:15 NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Kind

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is Kind.

Say: Did anyone ever hurt you? How did that feel? What did you do? Jesus is kind and forgives. How can we be kind like Jesus?

MAKE: Heart Craft

Supplies: paper heart, decorations

Directions: Help kids decorate their paper hearts.

Say: Let's decorate this paper heart to remind us to have kind hearts like Jesus. If we ask Jesus, He will help us.

While you are working with each child say:

- Jesus said: Love your enemies and Pray for them Matthew 5:44
- We can pray: Help me Lord to have a heart that will love and forgive
- Let's pray for those who are not always nice
- Are we always nice? We can ask Jesus to help us.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**.

- *Oh Be Careful Little Eyes*
- *Jesus Loves Me*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, read about a story about how Jesus is Kind.

BIG IDEA: Jesus told His friends to be kind to each other and forgive each other, even when it's difficult.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus is Kind

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is crying.

Say: Hamilton, what's wrong? Why are you crying? **Hamilton shakes his head.** I'll try to help you. What's going on? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, Hamilton, I am sorry your friend wasn't kind to you. **Hamilton whispers to you.** You want to hit them? You want to take their toy? Ooh, that's tough. Let's listen to our story from the Bible. Jesus is going to talk about that.

Read the story below from the Bible.

Jesus was talking to His friends.

He said: Here is what I tell you.

- Love your enemies.
 - Who are our enemies? People who are mean to us. How can we love them? Let's listen to this next part:
- Pray for those who hurt you.
 - Pray? Can we pray for other people who are mean to us? Let's stop and pray right now. "Dear Jesus, please help the people who are mean to us learn about you and start being kind."
- Then you will be children of your Father who is in Heaven.
- He causes His sun to shine on evil people and good people.
 - Where's the sun? Yes, the sun shines on everyone.
- He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't. When it rains, it rains on everyone.
- If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that. If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that.
 - How can we show love to everyone? Can we greet everyone? Sure, we can say 'hi' to everyone. Let's stop for a minute and say 'hi' to everyone. (Encourage kids to give each other a high five.)
- So be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect. We can only be perfect and do what God wants us to, when we ask God for His help.

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that “Jesus is Kind.” (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Say: Do you have a friend who is not kind to you? We can pray for them. Let’s pray right now. “Dear Jesus, help our friends know about you so they can be kind.” We have been talking about being kind like Jesus. Are you kind? Do you sometimes do wrong things? Yes, we all do that. Let’s ask Jesus to help us be kind. “Dear Jesus, remind us to be kind, even when someone else isn’t kind first.” Amen.

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Say: Friends, as you remember that Jesus is kind, ask Him to help you be kind too. And pray for friends who are not kind.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

PLAY: Kind or Unkind?

Supplies: none

Directions: I’m going to do something and you tell me if it is Kind, or Unkind.

- Make a mean face. Kind or Unkind? Encourage kids to answer. Yes, a mean face is unkind.
- Smile. Kind or Unkind?
- Say: “I’m sorry.” Kind or Unkind?

- Pile up a few blocks and then knock them down. Kind or Unkind?
- Make prayer hands, like you will pray. Kind or Unkind?
- Shake hands with one of the kids. Kind or Unkind?
- Give someone a high five. Kind or Unkind.

You are very good at knowing if people are kind or unkind. Let's remember to ask Jesus to help us be kind.

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"