



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

One More Time
Go the Extra Mile
Matthew 5:41

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be kinder than you have to be.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.
Colossians 3:12, NIV

MONTHLY 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.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("This Little Light" from *Living Inside Out* and "Trust You with My Heart" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Carry the Load
Application Activity: Megaphone Mileage
Memory Verse Activity: Beanbag Retriever
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give kids ideas and opportunities to do more than they have to do. Pray that kids would recognize the chances they have to be kind and do something even kinder. Pray for kids to have hearts that are always looking to do as much as possible to show others how valuable they are.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, map app

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be kinder than you have to be.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offering in the container.
- Gather kids in a roomy area and space them out.
- Ask them to think of the farthest place they can think of from their current location.
 - It can be a country, a city, a landmark, a grocery store, etc.
- For each location named, look up the distance from your current location and tell each kid how many miles away their location is.
- Help the group line up in order of how far away their chosen locations are.

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Go or Stay" Activity Pages and cardstock OR floor dots; and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the dots or tape down the pages in a line across the room with #1 closest to the kids and #10 farthest

away.

- Tell kids you're going to think of a number between one and ten, and they'll try to guess which number it is.
- Instruct them to stand on the number they think you have in your head.
- Multiple kids can choose the same number, but try to encourage them to space themselves out.
- Once kids make their choice, "reveal" the number you were thinking, but choose a number that's far away from where the majority of the kids are standing.
 - For example: If a large amount of the group is close to #2, choose #9 or #10.
 - If a majority of the group is around #9, choose #1 or #2.
- Instruct kids to go over to the "correct" number, while keeping a bit of space between themselves.
- Continue this way, always choosing a number that is far away from most of the kids—making them go the "extra mile."

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow. I bet you're tired from all that walking between numbers. **[Transition]** **Let's head to Large Group and hear a Bible Story about how we should go a little farther than we want to go."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



*** 1. CARRY THE LOAD**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Medium-sized cardboard boxes and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide kids into three to five teams (the more teams you have, the fewer kids will be sitting and more will participate at one time).
- Place each team in a single-file line behind their team’s stack of boxes (two or three for each team) and tape a line in front of the boxes to mark a starting area.
- Stand a good distance from the kids (20 feet, if your environment allows).
- The first kid in each group picks up their team’s stack of boxes and carries their load to where you stand.
- When the kids reach you with their boxes, give them an “assignment” and prompt them to come up with one way they could “go the extra mile” in that situation.
- The kids holding the boxes can confer with each other and come up with an “extra mile” solution together.
- They will then carry their load back to their group and the next kid will go until everyone has had a turn.
- Below are some examples:
 - I have to make my bed . . . but I can make my sister’s bed, too.
 - I have to do my homework . . . but I can do it without complaining and tell the adult helping me, “Thank you.”
 - I have to brush my teeth . . . but I can do it without being asked.
 - I have to sweep the floors . . . but I can vacuum the carpet, too.
 - I have to play with my younger sibling . . . but I can make sure to play his favorite game.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“You guys named a lot of things that you HAVE to do or are asked to do. It’s not always fun to have to do things we don’t want to do. In our Bible Story today, the Jewish people were required under Roman law to carry HEAVY loads of Roman soldiers’ gear. That doesn’t sound like something I would want to do. But Jesus told everyone to not just do it without grumbling or complaining, but to go even farther than they were required or asked to go. There are so many ways you can **be kinder than you have to be**, and you guys are doing a great job of thinking of ways to do that.”



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



2. MEGAPHONE MILEAGE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Megaphone Mileage" Activity Page, scissors, crayons, markers, colored pencils, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Megaphone Mileage" Activity Page and allow them to color and decorate their megaphone.
- Encourage them to draw or write one way they can be kinder than they have to be.
- Remind the group that we can always go the extra mile by being kinder than we have to be.
 - When they see something that is wrong, they can go the extra mile and speak up.
 - When a teacher needs help carrying something, they can help AND enlist a friend to help, too.
 - When a neighbor falls off his bike, they can help him up AND go find an adult to help.
- Make sure each kid writes their name on their megaphone.
- Guide kids to cut out and tape their megaphone together.
- Once everyone is finished decorating and assembling their megaphones, instruct the kids to stand around the room (as far away from each other as possible).
- Tell one kid to say to another kid, "You are kind!" then go the extra mile and say something else kind to that kid.
- Continue doing this until each kid has had something kind said about them.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys are SO loud, but also so insanely KIND! The things you said about one another blew me away. Sometimes, it can be hard to go the extra mile or think of something we can physically do for others, but something we can ALWAYS do is go the extra mile with our words. That is one way you can all **be kinder than you have to be.**

[Make it Personal] (Tell kids about a time when someone went the extra mile with their words. Maybe a coach or teacher told you what they saw in you and that helped you reach your full potential. Something that they didn't HAVE to do, but they did it anyway.)

"Sometimes, all it takes is a kind word—someone pointing out something they see in you and saying it. Our actions are just as important as our words, and you can ALWAYS **be kinder than you have to be** with your words. When we make that choice, it can turn someone's entire day around, and it shows them how much God loves them."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



3. BEANBAG RETRIEVER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Beanbag Retriever" Activity Pages, Bibles, wall tape, baskets or boxes, and beanbags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids look up and read (or follow along as you read)

Colossians 3:12.

- Reread the last two sentences, "Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." (NirV)
 - Explain how it can be really easy to be proud and put yourself ahead of others.
 - It is so much harder to be patient, gentle, and kind. But that's what God asks us to do.
- Divide the group into three or four teams and instruct each team to stand in a single file line.
- Place one full set of "Beanbag Retriever" Pages in each team's basket or box and place the box at least six feet away from each team.
- Give a beanbag to the first kid on each team.
- When you say, "Go," they'll toss their beanbag, aiming to land it in the box.
- Once they get the beanbag in the box, they run to it and pick out one piece of paper from the box and bring it back to their team.
- If, after three tries, a kid doesn't get the beanbag in the box, they go to the end of their team's line and wait for another turn.
- Once a team has retrieved all the memory verse pages, they try to tape them on the wall in order.
- Then they read the verse out loud together.
- The first team to retrieve all the words, tape them on the wall in order, and say the verse out loud, wins!

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Two weeks ago, we learned that we are chosen by God. Last week, we learned that we can choose to put on tender mercy and kindness like clothes. This week, we're learning that we need to be gentle and patient, not proud by putting ourselves ahead of others. What are some ways we can choose to be gentle and patient instead of proud? (*not arguing with your sibling because you HAVE to be right; waiting patiently for your mom when she is busy instead of yelling at her; etc.*) What are some ways you have seen someone else be gentle and patient? (*a sibling or parent helping you with your homework; your grandma teaching you how to bake cookies; etc.*)

"Sometimes, it can be hard to **be kinder than you have to be**, but just because it is hard doesn't mean we shouldn't always give it our best effort."



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Megaphones from "Megaphone Mileage" Activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Let each kid hold their megaphone.
- Remind them that they can be kinder than they have to be.
- Lead them to give some examples of what that could look like.
- Pray for God to use each kid in the lives of the people around them to show His kindness.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You can **be kinder than you have to be**. Our megaphones can remind us to cheer each other on and do the unexpected, kind thing. That could be doing a chore when someone asks you to, even if it isn't your chore to do. I know I used to argue with my mom about it not being my job, but that definitely wasn't me being kinder than I needed to be. It could be sending a note to someone who isn't expecting it. Or it could be just saying an unexpectedly kind thing.

"I'm so proud of each of you and the ways we have talked about going the extra mile today. It's not always easy, but we can ask God to help us remember to go the extra mile and do the unexpected, kind thing. Let's pray.

"Dear God, we are so thankful for stories and Scripture where You teach us how to be kind. We know You were kinder to us than You had to be when You sent us Jesus, and that encourages us to do the same for others. Please help us think of ways that we can do an unexpected, kind thing for someone else. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show their family their megaphones and to **be kinder than you have to be**.

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WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP

K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cell phone with a map app
- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print "Go or Stay" Activity Pages on cardstock; one set per small group OR ten floor dots and a marker
 - Write numbers 1-10 on the floor dots.
- Floor tape

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

* 1. CARRY THE LOAD

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Medium-sized cardboard boxes; eight or ten
- Floor tape

2. MEGAPHONE MILEAGE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Megaphone Mileage" Activity Page on cardstock; one for each kid
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Scissors
- Clear tape

3. BEANBAG RETRIEVER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Beanbag Retriever" Activity Pages on cardstock; four sets for each small group
- Three or four baskets or boxes
- Three or four beanbags
- Bibles
- Wall tape

4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Megaphones from "Megaphone Mileage" Activity

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.