

Bible Point

# God wants us to be kind to others.

## Bible Verse

“Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else” (Mark 9:35b).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Students will
- experience being kind to others,
  - learn about passing on God’s kindness to others, and
  - practice specific ways they can show kindness.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ David is kind to Mephibosheth.

#### 2 Samuel 9:1-13



After David became king of Israel, he solidified his kingdom. He made Jerusalem his residence and capital city and named it the City of David. He also brought the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem.

David’s forces continued to conquer surrounding nations so that Israel was no longer oppressed by the people who had remained when the Hebrews first entered the Promised Land. He became famous for his military prowess, and God gave him victory wherever he went (2 Samuel 8:13-14). And we are told that David “was fair to everyone” (2 Samuel 8:15).

It is against this backdrop that the story of Mephibosheth unfolded. David was now able to remember his old friend Jonathan, and he wanted to help Jonathan’s descendants. Most kings of that time would have sought out any descendants of the former king and executed them so that they would never be a threat to the throne. But that was not David’s concern. Instead, he wanted to honor the friend who had saved his life.

Mephibosheth was crippled as a child when he fled with his nurse after the deaths of Saul and Jonathan. When King David summoned him, he bowed before David, probably fearing for his life. But David offered kindness and honor by giving Mephibosheth the land that had belonged to Saul and a seat of honor at the king’s table.

David’s kindness demonstrated his integrity and the importance of showing love and mercy.

### Prayer

- Read Romans 12:10.
- Consider whether there are some around you who you do not feel are worthy of your honor and kindness. Are there children in your class whom you see in a different light than others?
- Pray: God, without your help, I know I can’t fulfill the command you make in Romans 12:10. Help me see each person through your eyes—worthy of my kindness and affection. Let the children recognize the importance of being kind to others.
- Pray for each child by name.

## Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Hands-On Fun at Home” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your students.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

|   | What Students Will Do  | Classroom Supplies   | Learning Lab Supplies   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Attention Grabber</b>  | <b>Catch Some Kindness</b> —Play a game to be kind to classmates, read 1 John 4:11-12, and discuss showing love to one another.                      | Bible  |    |
| <b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>  | <b>David’s Kindness</b> —Explore 2 Samuel 9:1-13 and Mark 9:35b, and discuss how different people felt about David’s kindness.                       | Bibles, pencils, paper                                     |   |
|   | <b>Kindness: Pass It On</b> —Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15, pantomime acts of kindness, and think about how they can pass on God’s kindnesses to others. | Bible  |   |
|   | <b>A Little Kindness</b> —Participate in a play about kindness, and think of ways to show kindness during the week.                                  |  |  |
| <b>Closing</b><br> | <b>Kindness Coupons</b> —Listen to Ephesians 4:32, make “kindness-coupon collectors,” and commit to acts of kindness.                                | Bible, tape, scissors, pencils, “Kindness Coupons” (p. 57) |   |

## Welcome

As kids arrive, ask them how they applied last week’s lesson to their lives. Ask questions such as, “When was it most difficult to praise God?” and “How did you thank and praise God last week?”



Tell kids that whenever you shake the *noisemaker*, they are to stop talking, raise their hands, and focus on you. Explain that it’s important to respond to this signal quickly so the class can do as many fun activities as possible. Practice the signal two or three times.

## Attention Grabber

### ■ Catch Some Kindness

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Have kids spread out around the room. Tell kids that they're going to play a game to practice kindness. Explain that the goal of the game is to stay standing on one leg only. Then explain that you'll be kind and help kids stand on two feet. To do that, you'll call two students' names and use the *pop-and-catch game* to pop two balls to the students. Those kids may put both feet down, catch the balls, run to you to get the *pop-and-catch game*, call two other students' names, and pop the balls to them. Then those two students will repeat the process. Emphasize the importance of going quickly so that as many kids as possible can be treated kindly. Once kids have had their names called and have caught the balls, they can keep two feet down until all children have had a chance to catch the balls.

Say: **Let's see how fast we can help everyone stand on two feet again. Ready?** Have kids stand on one leg, and then call two students' names to begin play.

After everyone is standing on two feet, ask:

- **How did it feel when someone was kind to you by popping the ball to you?** (I was relieved because my leg was really tired; I could stand a long time so it wasn't a problem for me.)
- **How was helping one another stand on two feet a way of showing kindness to one another?** (Some kids were having trouble; I wanted to help them so they wouldn't have to sit out.)
- **How is that like showing kindness to one another in real life?** (In real life, it is harder to be kind because it's harder to know what kids need; helping kids is easy 'cause I like to do it.)

Ask a volunteer to read aloud **1 John 4:11-12**.

- **What does this Scripture say about how we should treat one another?** (We should love one another; we should follow God's example.)
- **Why should we love one another?** (Because God loves us so much; because we would want to be treated the same way.)

Say: ► ***God wants us to be kind to others* so we can share his love. Let's find out how King David shared God's love by being kind to someone.**



As you teach third- and fourth-graders, keep in mind the following aspects of their mental development:

- They can read well.
- They like to be challenged but don't like to fail.
- They need to feel independent and don't always want help from teachers.
- They understand cause and effect and like to arrange and organize information.



## Bible Exploration & Application

### ■ David's Kindness

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, pencils, paper

Say: **Before David was a king, his best friend was Saul's son Jonathan. Jonathan and David promised to be friends forever, and they even promised that their children and their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren would be friends, too** (1 Samuel 20:42).

**After David became king, he remembered his promise to his friend Jonathan. He asked if Jonathan had any children, and he learned that**



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

**Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. Isn't that a great name? Let's say it together slowly: Mephibosheth (me-FIB-o-sheth). Now let's try saying Mephibosheth five times fast.**

Have the kids say *Mephibosheth* five times fast, and then say: **Now let's find out what David did for Mephibosheth.**

Have kids number off by threes. Have the Ones, Twos, and Threes gather in separate groups. Have kids open their Bibles to **2 Samuel 4**. Give each student a pencil and a piece of paper. Have each group choose a Reader, a Reporter, and a Recorder. Assign the other kids the roles of Encouragers. Assign characters to the groups as follows: the Ones will have Ziba (ZY-buh); the Twos, Mephibosheth; and the Threes, David.

Then say: **The Readers in each group will read 2 Samuel 4:1-13 aloud. Then each group will work together to tell the story from its character's point of view. Be sure to include what your character might have thought and felt. For example, the Ones will start their story with "My name is Ziba" and then tell the story as if Ziba were speaking. The Recorders will write down the group's stories. The Encouragers will keep ideas flowing in the group by asking questions such as, "What do you think they felt?" or "Why do you think that happened?" Then the Reporters will share their group's story with the class.**

Circulate among groups as they work. If they need help, encourage them to include these ideas:

- Ziba felt sad when King Saul was killed; he was surprised that King David wanted to see him; he was glad that David was kind to Mephibosheth.
- Mephibosheth was scared when King David asked for him; he wanted to serve King David; he was surprised that David wanted to be kind to him; he was excited about coming to live in the king's house.
- David wondered what had happened to Saul's family; he was happy that Jonathan had a son; he loved Mephibosheth; he was glad to do something kind for Mephibosheth.

Give kids about five minutes to create their stories. Then shake the *noisemaker*, wait for kids to respond, and gather kids into one group. Have the Reporters share their stories. Applaud each group's good work, and then ask:

• **Why do you think everyone was surprised when David was kind to Mephibosheth?** (Mephibosheth was crippled; Mephibosheth was the grandson of the first king and really was in line to become the king, so David should get rid of him.)

• **What happened to Ziba because he helped David do something kind?** (He got to farm the land; he could serve Mephibosheth.)

### BIBLE VERSE ►

Ask a volunteer to read ► **Mark 4:35b** aloud. Say: **These are the words of Jesus. Jesus understood that one of the greatest ways to show kindness is to have the attitude of a servant toward others.**

Ask: • **How did David show kindness by serving someone else?** (David gave Mephibosheth land and let him eat at David's table.)

• **How can you show kindness by having the attitude of a servant toward someone else?** (I can help my parents with the yardwork; I can help my brother clean his room.)



### BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► ***God wants us to be kind to others.* Mephibosheth was afraid that David would not like him because he was Saul's grandson. David was the king. He was great. But David decided to have the attitude of a servant**

toward Mephibosheth and be kind, even though Mephibosheth was the grandson of his enemy. In the same way, we can show God's kindness to others through our actions.

## HANDS-ON BIBLE

Say: **Let's make a plan right now to show kindness to someone else. Open your *Hands-On Bible* to 2 Samuel 9. Read through and complete the "Kindness Caper" activity.** (Kids will identify someone they know who needs to receive an act of kindness and make a plan to reach out to that person.)



When kids finish, ask them how they plan to show kindness to the person whose name they wrote. Next week, have kids open their *Hands-On Bibles* again to the same activity and record the act of kindness they completed.

## Kindness: Pass It On

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Set out the *bloom ball*, *inflatable baseball bat*, *noisemaker*, *fabric*, *snapper hand*, *gotcha grabber*, *stripe sticks*, *super skrunch*, *balancing bird*, *giant comb*, *baby soda bottle*, *energy beads*, and *smiley face bouncy ball*.

Have kids form pairs. Have a volunteer read aloud **1 Thessalonians 5:15**. Say: **With your partner, think of a way God shows kindness to us. For example, you have a home, food to eat, and warm sunshine. In a few minutes, each pair will pantomime its example of God's kindness to us, using one of the**

**gizmos I've set out. The rest of the group will try to guess what you're acting out.** Give kids a few minutes to plan their pantomimes, and then call everyone back together. Kids could pretend to be eating a delicious meal, sleeping in a warm bed, or playing with toys. Before the first pair performs its pantomime, say: **Pay close attention to the kindness this pair acts out because we'll talk about how to pass along that kindness to other people.**

After the first pair has performed, have the class guess the act of kindness. Then discuss how to pass that kindness on to others, using the following questions as a guide.

- **What act of God's kindness is this pantomime showing us?** (Giving us food to eat; giving a helping hand.)
- **How can we pass on this example of God's kindness in our actions to others?** (We can help feed hungry people; we can talk to kids who get picked on.)
- **How can we pass on this example of God's kindness to others in this class?** (We can make new people feel welcome; we can reach out to kids we don't normally hang out with.)



Third- and fourth-graders know what it's like to experience both cruelty and kindness. Although parents and teachers encourage children to treat others with kindness, third- and fourth-graders often go along with the group and can say and do cruel things. Use this lesson to teach children that God expects them to be kind so they will reflect his love to others at all times.

Have the second pair pantomime the act of kindness they thought of. After the group has guessed the act of kindness, ask the above questions again.

Repeat this process until each pair has had a chance to pantomime an act of kindness.



Say: **The most amazing way God was kind to us was by sending his Son to save us. Jesus had to leave heaven and suffer very awful things for us here on earth so that we could be saved.**

Ask: • **How is sending Jesus an act of kindness?**  
(Because that was the only way we can go to heaven; because we wouldn't know God without Jesus showing us.)

• **How can we show this act of God's kindness to others at school? at home? at church?** (We can tell others about Jesus; we can ask others to come to church with us.)

Say: **Just as each pair passed on God's kindness by imitating it, we can pass on God's kindness to others by telling them about Jesus.**

Ask: • **What did this activity teach you about passing on God's kindness?**  
(It's not that hard to do; God wants us to do it.)

• **Why do you think it's important for us to pass on God's kindness to others?** (Some people don't get a lot of kindness anywhere else; what if no one else ever tells them about Jesus? That would be sad.)

Say: ► ***God wants us to be kind to others* so we can pass on his kindness and share his love with others.**

Return all the items to the Learning Lab box for use in later lessons.



### BIBLE POINT

## ■ A Little Kindness

**SUPPLIES:** none



Assign each of the following characters and corresponding actions to different children. Children who don't get specific parts will be the baseball team.

Each time the child's assigned character is named in the story, he or she should reply with the following activity or motions. Allow everyone to practice his or her part before you begin.

**Dave:** Spread arms out in welcome.

**John:** Wave in a friendly manner.

**Seth:** Sit in a chair, and pantomime wheel movement on each side.

**Zach:** Swing the *inflatable baseball bat*.

**Baseball Team:** Pretend to throw baseballs around the room to each other.

Say: **Dave and John were good friends. They loved to play baseball and were on the same *baseball team*. Zach was the captain of their *baseball team*.**

**Dave and John were such good friends that they promised to be friends forever.**



### teacher tips

If you have a small group, assign more than one part to each child.

One day, after an exciting baseball game, *John* told *Dave* that he was going away to summer camp. *Dave* was sad to see *John* go.

“Who can we get to be on the *baseball team* when you’re gone?” *Dave* asked.

*Zach* wanted an answer to that question, too.

*John* asked *Dave* to let his brother, *Seth*, play on the team. *Dave* agreed, and the whole *baseball team* was anxious to meet *John’s* brother.

The next day, *Seth* showed up to play baseball. Everyone on the *baseball team* was surprised to see that *Seth* was in a wheelchair. *Seth* looked at the team nervously.

*Dave* walked over to greet *Seth*. “Don’t worry, *Seth*,” *Dave* told him. “Your brother *John* and I are good friends. I will show you kindness, just as I showed kindness to him. You can always play on my *baseball team*.”

“When *Seth* hits the baseball, *Zach* will run around the bases for him,” *Dave* told the *baseball team*.

Everyone agreed.

“But why would you want to have someone like me on your *baseball team*?” *Seth* asked.

“Because God made everyone special, and he wants us to treat one another with kindness,” *Dave* explained.

When it was time for the baseball game, *Seth* entered the batter’s box, with *Zach* beside him. He swung at the first pitch and missed. But the *baseball team* cheered him on. Once again the pitcher threw the ball, and *Seth* swung and missed.

“Don’t worry!” *Dave* called to him. “You can do it!”

At the third pitch, *Seth* swung the baseball bat, and the ball soared high into the air. *Zach* took off running and safely made it to first base. The *team* cheered! From that day on, *Seth* was an official member of the *baseball team*.

**You can get a hit by being on God’s team every time you show kindness to others. Let’s each take a turn at bat by naming someone we can show kindness to.**

Have kids form a circle, and ask the children to think of a way they can show kindness to someone. Hand the *inflatable baseball bat* to someone who has thought of a way to show kindness. Ask the child with the *inflatable baseball bat* to say how he or she will show kindness. Have kids pass the *inflatable baseball bat* around the circle until everyone has had a chance to share.

## Closing



### Kindness Coupons

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Kindness Coupons” (p. 57), tape, scissors, pencils

Before class, photocopy a “Kindness Coupons” handout for each student.

Say: **Because God has been kind and loving and forgiving to us, God asks us to be kind and loving and forgiving to others.**

Gather kids in a circle. Have a volunteer read **Ephesians 4:32**.

Ask: • **How has God been kind to you, your family, or your friends?** (He helped my friend’s dad get a job; he healed my grandma.)

Distribute pencils, scissors, tape, and “Kindness Coupons” handouts.

Say: **To celebrate God’s kindness to us and to remind us to be kind to others, we’ll each make a “kindness-coupon collector” that will help us do kind things. Cut out the collector and the kindness coupons. Think of different acts of kindness that you can do for people in your family or neighbors or friends this week, and write each idea on a coupon. You might write, “I’ll help you with one chore,” or “I’ll make you a special treat.” Fold your coupon collector on the dotted line, and tape the bottom and sides to make a pocket. Put your kindness coupons in your collector. Take the collector home, and let someone pull out one kindness coupon each day. Then do that kind act for that person.**

After kids finish, shake the *noisemaker*, and wait for them to respond. Have kids stand in a circle.

Say: ► ***God wants us to be kind to others*, just as David was kind to Mephibosheth. We’ve practiced being kind to one another during this class, and we’ve pretended in the play. Let’s huddle together like a team and ask God to help us be kind this week.**

Have kids lean into a huddle, and ask them to close their eyes. Pray: **Lord, help us this week as we do our acts of kindness. Cheer us on every day to be kind and loving Christians. Help us remember to live out our verse, Mark 9:35b, ► “Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.” In Jesus’ name, amen.**



#### BIBLE POINT ►

#### BIBLE VERSE ►

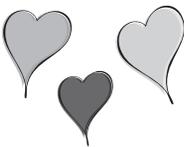
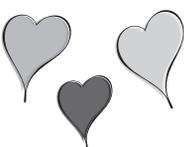
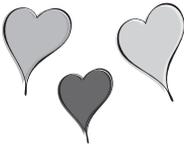
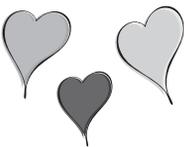
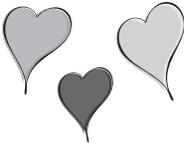
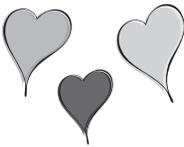
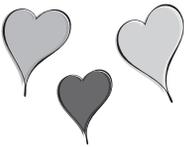


### Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Hands-On Fun at Home” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your kids. Encourage kids and parents to use the handout to spark meaningful discussion on this week’s topic.

# Kindness Coupons

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# Hands-On Fun at Home

LESSON 4



## God wants us to be kind to others.

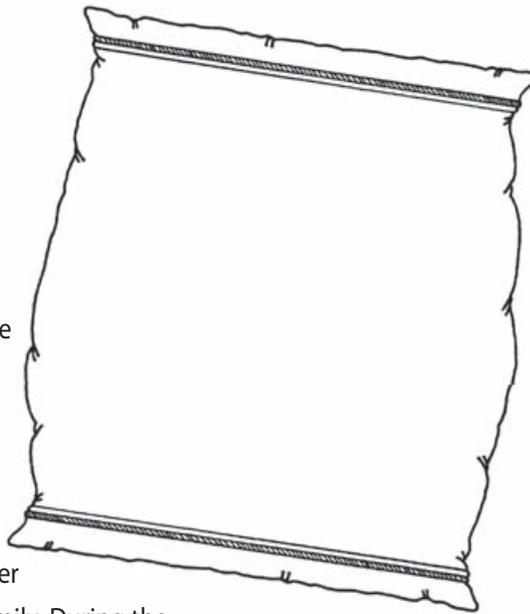


### Bible Verse:

“Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else” (Mark 9:35b).

### Notables

Since being kind is like being a servant, decorate this picture of a towel with a few kind words, cut it out, and give it to someone special.



### Faith Walk

Cut out several construction-paper hearts for each person in your family. During the week, have each family member secretly write a thank you note on a heart for an act of kindness that someone else in the family has done. Place the heart on that person’s pillow without telling anyone. If your family includes young children who can’t read or write, use pictures instead.

### Etc.Etc.Etc.

Being kind means not only showing kindness toward people but showing kindness toward animals and the earth, too. See if you can do some of the following acts of kindness this week:

- Pick up litter.
- Spend some time with your pet or a neighbor’s pet.
- Help by recycling at school or home.
- Save energy by turning off lights and the TV when you aren’t using them.

### Check It Out

**Read Proverbs 15:1.**

How can changing the tone of your voice make the same answer different?

**Read 1 Corinthians 13:4.**

Think of a time when your family did something kind for someone. Talk about how that time helped your family.

**Read Proverbs 3:27-28.**

Who’s one person who could use a little kindness?



### Fun Food

Serve someone in your family breakfast in bed. Toast an English muffin, spread honey on it, and sprinkle it with cinnamon. Serve it with fruit juice. When you bring the breakfast tray in, tell the person one reason why you appreciate him or her. For example, you might say, “I made breakfast for you to show you that I appreciate it when you help me with my homework.”