

GOD MADE ME TO BE KIND

3-4

BIBLE VERSES: Exodus 1 &2, 2 Kings 5, Matthew 8, Luke 7, Romans 2:4.

To think about what it means to be kind.

LEADER'S NOTES

Several times whilst writing this plan, I have found myself saying to my children, "Be kind to one another..." Kindness is something that children of this age will have been asked to do a lot. Nursery education often majors on this idea and parents sometimes feel like they spend their whole lives exhorting their children to be kind.

I love the idea in Romans 2 that it is God's kindness to us that leads us to repentance. The kindness of God is at the heart of the gospel - that certainly gives kindness a much weightier connotation than our "Be kind to your sister" comments. Obviously the theology of Romans is probably a bit beyond the 3-4 year olds in your group(!) so I've focussed on three stories where kindness is displayed and where, hopefully, children will get an idea of what it means to be kind and the long-reaching consequences their actions might have.

Welcome Activities: If this session is being run as a 'Sunday School' session then the idea is that all 3 activities are provided, allowing the children choice. If it is being run as part of a Toddler Group then these activities can be provided as part of the all the other activities on offer. If it is part of a short Toddler and Parent worship session (e.g. Pram Service) then it may only be practical to offer one of the activities.

The idea is that these activities give the children and any parents time to relax and become used to the environment. As the activities will be linked in some way to the theme they will provide a bit of a bridge or introduction to the Bible story.

Story Time: Choose whichever Story Time activity best suits your circumstances. It would be best to use the same area and seating arrangement each time. Probably helpful if it's separate from other distractions. Perhaps with a special chair for the story teller to sit on.

There are three different stories to choose from in this session.

Get Creative: A choice of 3 activities reflecting the Bible Story in some way. If you have lots of time and space then you could offer all 3, but just to offer 1 is fine. Children of this age are exploring their own ideas and ways of creating so may go off on their own tangent e.g. if you ask them to make a sheep they may well turn it into something else – don't be anxious about this – 3 year olds especially are much more interested in the 'doing' than the finished product.

The fourth Get Creative Activity is an optional suggestion for a creative prayer activity. This is specifically for any parents/carers who are staying with their children.

Revisiting The Story: Similar to the three welcome activities and may well include some of those. An opportunity for the children to revisit and retell the story themselves using small world figures, dressing up etc. The idea would be that if you chose a making activity in the Get Creative section then the children could move on to the Revisiting The Story activities when they've finished – there is no need for the whole group to finish together.

The fourth activity “Time To Go Home” in this section suggests a take home activity and also a short prayer or song which you can use if you want to round up the sessions with all the children together again. If you want to you could adopt your own special good bye song.

MAKE ME WELL

GAME | 📖 WELCOME ACTIVITY

Let the children play doctors and patients - either with one another or with the dolls and teddies.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Doctors' kits/uniforms, beds, dolls, teddies.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

BABIES

GAME | 📖 WELCOME ACTIVITY

Let the children play with the baby dolls and their equipment.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Baby dolls and suitable paraphernalia.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

WATER PLAY

ACTIVITY | 📖 WELCOME ACTIVITY

Let the children enjoy the water table.

The Point: A welcome activity.

EQUIPMENT

Water table and toys to explore the water with.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

THE BABY IN THE BASKET

STORY | 📖 STORY TIME

Say to the children that this story is about a baby. Have any of the children got baby brothers or sisters or cousins? What are they like? How do people feel when they have a baby? Usually very happy!

Say that this baby's mum was happy to have had her baby boy but she was also very scared. She lived in Egypt and there was a wicked king who said that all babies should be got rid of. She was very frightened that someone would come and take her baby away. Ask someone to hold the baby doll. So she decided that she would keep the baby a secret. Only the family knew. The baby had a big sister called Miriam and a big brother called Aaron. They had to keep the secret.

But babies are hard to keep secret! They make lots of noise! Ask the children what kinds of noise babies make. When do they cry, laugh, chatter? The baby's mum knew that she couldn't keep the secret for much longer so she took the baby and his big sister (ask the children if they can remember the big sister's name?) down to the river and she made a special basket out of the reeds that grew there. Show the children the basket you have and lay the cloth out to make a river.

Then she put the baby in the basket and floated it on the water. She told Miriam to stay and keep watch. Just then, the king's daughter came down to the river to swim. Put the tiara or crown on someone. She saw the basket and wondered what was in it. She waded into the water and pulled the basket towards her and saw the baby!

The princess had a kind heart and she wanted to look after the baby. She saw Miriam standing close to the river and she asked her to go and find someone to help. Miriam ran to get her mum. The princess asked them if they could look after the baby until he was big enough to go and live at the palace. She didn't realise it was the baby's own mum! So the baby went home with his mum and when he was bigger he went to live at the royal palace. His name was Moses and later on he had a very important job to do to help save all of God's people.

If the princess hadn't had a kind heart, Moses wouldn't have been able to do this important job later on. Say to the children that you never know what might happen because you choose to be kind.

Say that we probably won't find babies in baskets floating in the river but there are lots of other ways we can be kind. Can they think of any?

The Point: To look at a story where kindness led to something very important much later on.

EQUIPMENT

A baby doll and a toy Moses basket or other basket that the doll will fit into, blue fabric, crown or tiara.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

THE KIND GIRL

STORY | STORY TIME

You are going to use the story 'The Girl Who Helped' found on page 248 of The Lion First Bible. Start by giving the children the white circular sticky labels and let them put them on their faces and arms. Now read the story.

When you get to the point when Naaman washed in the river seven times, let the children go into the paddling pool seven times and take their stickers off.

Ask the children who was kind in the story. What happened because the little girl was kind? What might have happened if she hadn't have been kind?

How can we be kind to other people?

The Point: To think about a story where someone's kindness led to healing.

EQUIPMENT

The Lion First Bible (Lion), circular white sticky labels, paddling pool.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

THE KIND SOLDIER

STORY | STORY TIME

Ask the children if they know what a servant does. If they had a servant, what would they want them to do? (The adults present may feel that they are the children's servants!!!) Say that this story is about an important soldier who had a servant who was very poorly. Ask the children to pretend to be very poorly.

Say that most people didn't care about their servants but this soldier was kind and he was very upset that

his servant was so poorly. He did everything he could to help make the servant well but nothing worked. But then, one of the soldiers who worked with him asked if he'd heard about Jesus. The soldier's friend said that Jesus could make anyone well.

The soldier was excited - he ran to see Jesus as fast as he could. "Please can you make my servant well?" he asked. "Of course I can," said Jesus, "I'll come and see him right away!" The soldier felt bad - he didn't want to drag Jesus all the way home when Jesus was so busy and had so many other people to see. "Oh you don't have to do that," he said, "I know that if you just say the word my servant will be well!"

Jesus was surprised - he hadn't met many people who were as sure as this soldier. "Ok," said Jesus, "you go on home - your servant will be completely well because you were so sure that I could make him better." The soldier went home and his servant was completely better just as Jesus said he would be!

The Point: To see how a kind act led to someone being made well.

EQUIPMENT

None.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

KINDNESS LEAVES

DISPLAY PICTURE | 🎨 **GET CREATIVE**

Let the children cut out a leaf and help them to write kind or kindness on them - or get the adults to. They could also try to think of something they could do which would show kindness, and the adults could write this on their leaf.

Add them to your tree display.

The Point: To build a series reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Paper in leaf colours, scissors, pens.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

MOSES IN A BASKET

CRAFT IDEAS | 🎨 **GET CREATIVE**

Start by folding a paper plate in half. You can either decorate both sides or just one, depending on the

attention span of the children. Get the children to paint the outside rim of the plate brown - this is the part with the grooves that run in from the edge for an inch or so.

Now find a picture of a baby and cut it out. Stick it onto the paper plate so that the straight, folded edge is at the top. The plate will now stand and rock on the two curved edges as if it is floating on the water.

The Point: A reminder craft.

EQUIPMENT

Paper plates, photographs of babies from catalogues or the internet, brown paint, brushes, glue, scissors.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

MAKE ME WELL

FOOD AND COOKING | 🙌 **GET CREATIVE**

Let the children decorate their gingerbread man with icing bandages. Enjoy the snack together.

The Point: A story reminder.

EQUIPMENT

Ready-made gingerbread men, white icing (you may find it least messy to get tubes of writing icing, otherwise disposable icing bags with the end cut off can work well).

DURATION: 10 MINS.

IT'S YOUR KINDNESS, LORD

WORSHIP AND REFLECTION | 📖 **WATCHER** | 🙌 **GET CREATIVE**

[📄 Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity is intended for parents/carers (see leader's notes).

Allow adults some time and space with the attached sheet. If you have the recording, play it at this time.

The Point: To respond to God.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment, pens. Optional: recording of 'Kindness' by Chris Tomlin.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

READ WITH ME

STORY | ↻ REVISITING THE STORY

All of today's stories are familiar enough to be found in story Bibles. Make as many versions as you can available for children and parents to read together.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Story books/Bibles containing the story that you told today.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

WATER PLAY

ACTIVITY | ↻ REVISITING THE STORY

Let the children revisit the water table. Two of today's stories had water in so they may revisit the story.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Water table and suitable toys.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

DOCTOR, DOCTOR

GAME | ↻ REVISITING THE STORY

Let the children revisit the doctors' kits. They may choose to bring in elements of today's story.

The Point: To revisit the story.

EQUIPMENT

Doctor's kits, etc.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

KINDNESS LEAF

ACTIVITY |  **WATCHER** |  **TIME TO GO HOME**

 [Download activity worksheet](#)

This activity adds to those in previous weeks. Have the sheet with the instructions for making the tree available for those who missed the first session. Give everyone a kindness leaf to take home, cut out and colour and put on their tree.

The Point: A take home activity.

EQUIPMENT

The attachment - one leaf per child.

DURATION: 5 MINS.
