**Upper Elementary Day 1**

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**Today’s Story:** The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)

**Bottom Line:** Do Kindness

**Life App:** Kindness-Showing Others they are important by treating them the same way you want to be treated.

**Camp Verse:** “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Matthew 7:12 NIV

**Leader’s Note:**

Even if one hasn’t spent much time reading the Bible they no doubt have heard the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Jesus shared this golden rule as part of a long message he gave to his followers called the Sermon on the Mount. The golden rule seems like such a simple guideline, yet we often fall short and think of ourselves way more than we think of others. This week at camp we’ll focus on 4 specific character qualities that will help us do unto others. We begin by exploring kindness, we’ll see the kindness of Jesus in action and challenge the campers to leave camp today “doing” more kindness. You’ll notice there is not one specific Bible story focusing on Kindness, instead you’ll have to the chance to briefly explore a few times Jesus showed kindness during his ministry on earth.

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As campers arrive, they will check in at the front table and a volunteer will take them through the dinner line and to their class table(s). Make sure all of your campers sit at your table(s). If you have 2 tables, have one leader at each table. Make sure to introduce yourselves, discuss the theme for the day and to help the campers get to know each other. You will also have a card game that is similar to apples to apples that you can play.

Make sure to have your class binder at the table with you so you can check kids off as they come in. Make sure to give each camper a nametag either at the dinner table or when you get into the classroom.

If your whole group finishes before 6:00, you can take them to your small group space to start your activities.

\*\*\*Make sure to encourage manners, have them clean up their plates, drinks and any mess they made at the table.

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**Welcome Your Kids Today:**

As your campers arrive make the kids feel welcomed! Dr. Laura Riffel a member of Resurrection and an expert in the field of education has suggested the acronym of **T.U.M.S.** as a way to be a welcoming leader.

T-Touch: Give the campers a high five or fist bumps as they arrive. (If kids are sensitive to touch do an air high five.

U-Use their name in a positive way. Say “Hello” and call them by name. Don’t just use their name when you need them to do something or stop something,

M-Make Eye Contact. Eye contact is so powerful in today’s world.

S-Smile. Let the campers know you are glad they are here!

**Getting Started:**

As VBC campers arrive and you’ve been a leader with T.U.M.S. introduce yourself and ask the following would you rather question with your group.

Would you rather see a concert in a football stadium or in a theatre? (allow responses, this is also a good time to take attendance in your group if needed)

**Share with your group the 3 rules for the Jesus Tour this week:**

* **Treat others the way you want to be treated.**
* **Take Part in Camp.**
* **Have Fun.**

**Say:** We are going to have a great time on the Jesus Tour this week! Please try your best to follow these 3 rules of camp. If there are problems we will chat with you and of course you can always chat with us if you need to.

**Opening Activity: How Hard Is It?**

**What you need:** blue tape, paper, markers

**What you do:**

Make the numbers 1, 5, 10 out of blue tape on the floor, (If that is too hard just write the numbers on a piece of paper and tape them to the floor)

Put 5-6 feet between each number so there is room for campers to stand on and in between the numbers.

Read the scenarios below.

After you finish reading the scenario campers will stand on or near a number depending on how hard they think the scenario is to complete. The scale is 1-10. 1 is the easiest while 10 is the hardest. There should be space between your numbers so campers can answer a 7.5 or 2.5, for example.

1. Making a 3-point shot in basketball but only having 3 tries.
2. Stand on 1 foot for 1 minute.
3. Eating a plate full of broccoli with no Ranch dressing.
4. Teach a puppy a new trick.
5. Go 1 week without watching any YouTube videos.
6. Wear your shoes on the wrong feet for an entire day.
7. Be kind to a friend.
8. Be kind to someone who is not your friend.
9. Brush your teeth after every meal.
10. Treat everyone the way you want to be treated.

**Say:** Thanks for answering these questions. As we begin the Jesus tour, we are going to learn about the Golden Rule that Jesus talked about in the book of Matthew which is in the New Testament of the Bible. The golden rule tells us to treat others the way we want to be treated. I don’t know about you but for me this can be difficult sometimes.

**Intro The Bible Story: Kindness Road Sign**

**What you need:** “traffic sign” activity pages, markers, colored pencils

**What you do:**

* Pass out 1 traffic sign activity page to each camper.
* Make sure each camper has access to a variety of markers/colored pencils.
* **Say:** As we begin the Jesus Tour, we’ll be traveling to the Mountains to hear what Jesus said about kindness. When traveling on the road you’ll find lots of signs pointing you in the right direction or telling you how to stay safe.
* Campers will have 5 minutes to create a road sign that has another word for kindness or a word they think defines kindness.
* Before kids begin, read our definition of kindness: Showing Others they are important by treating them the same way you want to be treated.
* Give kids 5 minutes to work on sign. Be sure to keep time on your cell phone and give 2- and 1-minute warnings.
* Call time and allow kids to show off their signs.
* If you are in a space with walls feel free to tape them up for the day.
* Say: The first stop on the Jesus tour is all about kindness. Let’s hear what Jesus said and did to show us that kindness is important.

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*Take your group to the sanctuary.*

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Check your schedule to see which rotation you have today.

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**Explore The Bible Story: Skit Time!**

**What you need:** bible story skit cards, Jesus tour map

**What you do:**

* Show kids where on the provided map today’s story took place.
* Divide your group into 4 groups.
* Give each group 1 skit card.
* Groups will read over the card and then prepare a short skit for the group.
* Groups have 6 minutes to put together a skit.
* Guidelines for skit are:
* Can only say 8 words in the skit.
* Skit has to be 45 seconds to 1:30 long.
* Props are allowed.
* Everyone must have a role.

Once groups have prepared a skit have each skit performed for the group, At the end of each skit congratulate the campers on a wonderful skit and ask the following questions:

#1-What Bible story was this?

#2-Where is kindness in this skit?

#3-Do you think it was easy for Jesus to be kind in this situation?

#4-Why is kindness important?

#5-What does it mean to treat others the way they want to be treated?

**Say:** Jesus not only told people to be kind, but he was also very kind himself. Kindness is showing others they are important by treating them the same way you want to be treated. Followers of Jesus are supposed to be kind.

**Bible Story Wrap-Up**

**What you need:** index cards and pens

**What you do:**

* Hand out 1 index card and 1 pen to each camper.
* Have them divide the card into 4 sections with the pen.
* Have them number each section “1,2,3,4”
* In box 1 have them write the name of someone they want to be more card to
* In box 2 have them write where they see this person
* In box 3 have them write one way they are going to try and be kind
* In box 4 have then write “The Golden Rule”

**Closing Activities: DUO Card Game**

**What you need:** “Do unto Others” playing cards

**What you do:**

* Play a game similar to *“Apples and to Apples.”* Directions are below.
* Divide into groups of 6 or less.
* Each player needs 5 or 6 red playing cards.
* Pick a judge for the first round.
* The judge picks one green card for the middle/category card and lays it in the middle of the group.
* The judge closes his/her eyes.
* Everyone else in the group lays down one red card face down that they think matches the category the best.
* Once all the players have laid down 1 card the judge can open their eyes.
* The judge reads all the submissions and selects his/her favorite.
* The card that the judge picks get a point for that round.
* Play 3-4 more rounds with different judges as time allows.
* As you play work in some intentional conversations about our theme for the week.

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**Prayer and Take-Home Challenge**

**Supplies Needed:** Daily Challenge Cards

**What you do:**

* Hand out daily challenge cards.
* Encourage kids to do the challenge of the day at home tonight.
* Close in prayer. You can pray, have a camper pray, or read the prayer below.

Dear Jesus,

We are so excited to be on the Jesus Tour this week! Help us to show kindness to everyone, not just our friends or the people we live with but to everyone we see this week. In Jesus Name Amen,

*If you have extra time review the verse of the week:*

*“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Matthew 7:12*