**Kindergarten – Day #1**

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**Bible Story:** The Golden Rule: Do Unto Others-Kindness – Matthew 7:12 NIV

Jesus Heals the Lepers (Luke 17:11-17) – Jesus shows kindness by his interaction with lepers when no one else would.

Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16) – Jesus shows kindness by taking time to interact with kids when no one else would.

Jesus and Zachaeus – (Luke 19:1-8) Jesus connects with a tax collector and has a meal with him.

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

**Bottom Line:** Do Kindness! Kindness is showing others they are important by treating them the same way you want to be treated.

**Leader’s Note:**

Even if you haven’t spent much time reading the Bible you have no doubt 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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**CHECK-IN**

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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*Gather the kids around in a circle.*

**Sing it!**

**SUPPLIES:** Microphone, Kindness Tour Bus Poster

**SAY:** Welcome to The Jesus Tour! My name is (name) and this is (name) and we are going to be your leaders on The Jesus Tour! Are you ready to go on tour with Jesus and learn all about the golden rule? (allow response) Does anyone know what the golden rule is? (allow for answers) Yes, it’s all about treating others the way you want to be treated. Our Bible verse says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” As fans of Jesus, we are going to learn to do kindness, respect, compassion, and humility by following the examples of how Jesus treated others in the Bible. Along the way we are going to have lots of fun and make some great friends!

**DO***:*

* Hold up The Jesus Tour Kindness Poster
* Teach the “Do Unto Others” Chant to the kids.

**SAY:**Today on our tour bus we’re going to learn to do kindness! (Point out the word kindness on the poster and find a place to hang it in your room or return to your folder/bin.) I want to teach you a special chant that we are going to use all week long to help us remember “Do Unto Others”. Are you ready? Ok! Let’s go!

*Leader says:*  **I say Do, You say Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:*  **Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:* **Kindness**

*Everyone says this together getting louder each time* **Love everyone, love everyone, love everyone!** (*Make a heart with your hands)*

**SAY:** That was pretty good! We’re also going to do this chant in worship, and I want to make sure we really nail it, so let’s try one more time and really give it our all!

*Leader says:* **I say Do, You say Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:*  **Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:* **Kindness**

*Everyone says this together getting louder each time* **Love everyone, love everyone, love everyone!** (*Make a heart with your hands)*

**How do you duo!**

**SAY:** Awesome! I love your energy! Let’s take some time to go over expectations and get to know our other bandmates! On The Jesus Tour, we expect you to treat others the way you want to be treated. That means listening to your leader and following their directions. It also means being kind, sharing and listening when one of your bandmates is talking. Most of all we want to have FUN!

Let’s get to know each other a little better now! I’m going to pass the microphone around the circle and when you have the microphone it’s your turn to talk. If you don’t have the microphone, it’s your turn to listen! Tell us your name, the school you go to and your favorite song or performer. I’ll go first to get us started!

**DO:**

* + Pass the microphone around the circle and have the kids say:
    - Name, school they go to, favorite song or performer.

**SAY:** We’ve got a great group! I can’t wait to get to know all of you better over the next four days! Before we get started on our opening activity, I want to share with you what we will be doing on tour! Each morning when you come in you will see we will have a special banner like our kindness banner you worked on this morning. When you get here you can get right to work on it. We’ll have the posters on display for your parents and friends to see at our Friday night party. (might omit putting them up on Friday if space doesn’t allow at your location) After our opening activity in our small group, we’ll go to large group worship, sing some songs, and watch our Bible Story video. Next, it’s snack time and on to our rotations. Each day we will go to missions, crafts, or games. Today we’re going to *(rotation).* Then we will come back to our small group for the Bible story review and a game. That’s a lot to get done each day! Let’s get the fun started by playing a round of Would you rather – Tour Edition.

**Opening Activity (Bible Story Intro)**

**Map It!**

**SUPPLIES:** Map & Mountain Icon sticker

**SAY:** Our first stop on The Jesus Tour is going to be in the mountains. Let’s mark the spot on our map where our tour begins. *(Place sticker on map)* This is where Jesus gave an important sermon that we call The Sermon on The Mount and He told us to “Do unto others as we would have done unto us.” Or, as I like to say “DUO!” We call that The Golden Rule, and it means we should treat others the way we want to be treated. And, he didn’t mean just our family, friends, and people like us, He meant EVERYONE! That means people we don’t agree with, people that don’t look like us, people that do things differently than how we would do them. Jesus didn’t just say we should follow The Golden Rule, he ***showed*** us how to do it by treating everyone with kindness.

One of the stories the Bible tells us is about how Jesus healed people with leprosy. People back then didn’t understand it was a disease and they thought lepers, or people who had leprosy, had it because they were bad people who sinned. Another story tells about how the Disciples told the children not to bother Jesus, but He loved the children and wanted them to come to Him. And, then there was Zacheus, a tax collector, that was doing wrong things, and no one liked him, but Zacheus wanted to know Jesus. Did Jesus turn him away? No way! Jesus had dinner with him. These are all great examples of how Jesus told us we should treat each other!

**DO:** Place the sticker on the map.

**SAY:** Now that we know our first tour destination, it’s time to head out to worship!

**DO:** When everyone is lined up say the DUO chant before heading out

*Leader says:*  **I say Do, You say Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:*  **Kindness**

*Leader says:* **Do**

*Kids say:* **Kindness**

*Repeat*

*Everyone says this together getting louder each time* **Love everyone, love everyone, love everyone!** (*Make a heart with your hands)*

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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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**Bible Story Time**

**Jesus Blesses the Children Bible Story Review** Mark 10:13-16

**SUPPLIES:** Jesus Blesses the Children activity page, markers, crayons, or colored pencils

**SAY:** I love the story of Jesus and the children. It reminds me of how important all of you are to Jesus! Let’s make our own storyboard about what happened in today’s true Bible story.

**DO:**

* Give each kid a Jesus and the Children activity page.
* Tell them that you are going to tell a part of the Bible story about Jesus and the Children and then stop. They will draw a picture of that part of the Bible story in the first box.
* Tell the kids the next part of the Bible Story and then stop for them to draw what happened next in the 2nd square. You’ll continue until all the squares are finished.

**SAY:** Our story begins with Jesus. Everyone loved to hear Jesus speak and one day a group of people gathered around to hear him*. (Stop. Encourage them to think about what the most important part of the beginning of the story is-Jesus. Allow kids to draw this scene in the first square.)*

People started bringing their kids up to Jesus so that they could touch Him. They knew Jesus was God’s son and wanted Him to bless their kids. *(Stop. Talk about what’s important in this part of the story-the kids. Allow kids time to draw the next scene in the second square.)*

Jesus’ disciples told the people to stop. They didn’t want the kids to bother Jesus when he was talking to grown-ups. *(Stop. Talk about what’s important in this part of the story-Disciples try to stop the kids. Allow kids time to draw the next scene in the third square.)*

Jesus didn’t want the disciples to stop the kids. He wanted the kids to come to him. Jesus hugged the kids and blessed them. Jesus loved them and He loves you.  *(Allow kids to draw the last scene. Talk about what’s important in this part of the story-Jesus loves them.)*

**DO:**

* Allow kids that would like to share their storyboards time to do so.
* Talk about how Jesus showed kindness to the kids by having them come to him.

**Do Kindness-Web of Kindness!**

**SUPPLIES:** Ball of yarn

**SAY:** “We heard three different stories about how Jesus treated everyone with kindness in our Bible story videos today. Jesus wanted us to see that we should treat others the way we want to be treated through his own acts of kindness. He showed kindness to the lepers, who were outcasts that no one wanted to go near, by healing them. Jesus showed kindness to the children when the Disciples tried to turn them away from Him. Jesus loved the children, just like he loves you and he didn’t want the children to be turned away! He said, “let the little children come to me.” Jesus also showed kindness to Zachaeus, a tax collector that no one liked, by having dinner with him. No one could believe that Jesus would want to dine with a sinner, but Jesus was kind to Zachaeus and because he was Zachaeus gave away half his possessions to the poor and said if he had cheated anyone, he would pay them back 4 times the amount.

Kindness can spread and it can change someone’s life! We’re going to make a kindness web with this ball of yarn, just like a spider web is sticky, we’re going to use our web to catch kind words! Let’s spread some kindness to each other now!

**DO:**

* Gather kids together in a circle, close enough that they can catch a ball of yarn when it’s thrown at them.
* Show them the ball of yarn.
* Explain that they will say something kind to someone in the group and throw the ball to them, while holding on to their piece of yarn.
* Give examples of kind things to say: “I like you” “I like your smile” “You’re a good friend” “You make me laugh” “You’re nice” You’re good at . . .” “You’re special” “I like your style”
* Tell the kids that for our kindness to spread, it’s important not to drop their piece of yarn once they throw the ball of yarn to the next person.
* Keep passing the ball until it’s been thrown to everyone. You should have a “web” of kindness.

**SAY:** Wow! Look at how our kindness spread and made this cool web of yarn! It’s so nice to hear someone say something kind about you and it’s important for us to treat others the way we want to be treated by saying kind things. If we are following Jesus, we need to make the choice to be kind every day! That means we “do kindness” by showing others they are important by. We do that when we treat them the same way we want to be treated. Or, we DUO. (*Do Unto Others.*) Jesus showed kindness to the children, the people with leprosy, and Zachaeus. We just showed kindness to each other by using words that are kind! Can you think of some things that you can do to show kindness? (*allow for responses*) When you say and do things that are kind, that kindness spreads! And, just like the disciples you are following Jesus!

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**Prayer and Take-Home Challenge**

**SUPPLIES:** Mountain icon sticker, Take-home challenge card

**SAY:** Let’s talk about how you can spread kindness at home tonight! Your challenge for today is to do one chore at home without being asked! (*Have kids share ideas of a chore they might do.)* I like the way you think! Tomorrow when you come back, I want to hear all about the chore you did.

It’s also important to help kindness in the world. This week at VBC we are going to collect Play-Doh, crayons and new or gently used books for our partner schools. By collecting and giving supplies to our partner schools we are spreading kindness in the world!

Be sure to show your grown-up the take-home challenge card and ask them about bringing one of those items this week to VBC for partner schools, so that we can spread kindness in the world! You’re also going to get a cool icon sticker, just like the one we put on our map this morning. Find a special place to put it and every time you see it you can remember to “Do Kindness!” All week long at the end of the morning you’ll get a different sticker to collect. Let’s pray together.

**DO:** Give each kid an icon sticker and a take-home challenge card.

*(Let a volunteer pray or use the following prayer.)*

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you for an awesome first day on The Jesus Tour! You are an amazing and good God, and we are thankful for the stories in the Bible that remind us to “Do Kindness.” Help me to be kind and show others they are important by treating them the way I want to be treated. We thank you for all the good things in our lives and pray for those who are hurt or have been treated unkindly. We pray that you place people in their lives that treat them with kindness so that they know they are loved. Amen.

**EXTRA ACTIVITY - Catching Kindness (Life Application)**

**SUPPLIES:** Catching Kindness Game, Game pieces (in game box), Markers

**SAY:** I’ve got a fun game for us to play called “Catching Kindness”. We talked about how to Do Kindness all day and now we get to practice it by playing the “Catching Kindness” game! First, we need to divide into groups and decorate our game pieces.

**DO:**

* + Divide kids up into groups of 3-6 players with one leader.
  + Give each group a Catching Kindness board game.
  + Give each kid a game piece and let them decorate it with markers. Be sure to write their name on the bottom of their game piece.
  + Have each player place their game piece at the start.
  + Take turns letting each child roll the dice and move ahead that many spaces.
  + If they land on a heart space, draw a card, and read what it says.
  + Continue taking turns until everyone playing gets to the heart of kindness.
  + Once everyone reaches the end, open the box of kindness and read the card inside.
  + Return game pieces and cards to the game box. You will be playing Catching Kindness on Days 2-4.