

CAPTAIN McFINN

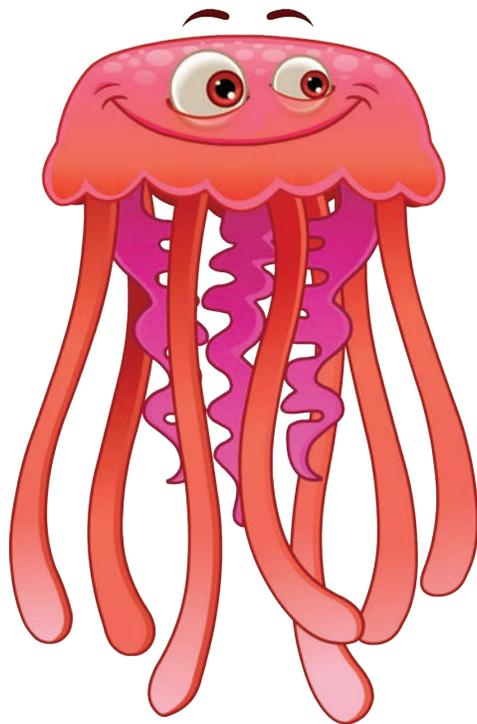
# Explore God's Kindness™



LEADER'S GUIDE

PRE K - 3 • QUARTER 1

*Simple, powerful lessons to help children love God and one another*





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# Welcome!

Welcome to Explore God’s Kindness, where interactive Bible lessons plant seeds that will grow for a lifetime. Here, students can dive into a colorful undersea world filled with fun activities that bring them closer to God and His Word.

Each lesson is designed to be implemented in Pre K - 3 Sunday School or Children’s Church classrooms, with minimal prep and planning. Flexible options give you choices about which activities to choose, based on your class size and reading level. Take-home activity sheets will give students a chance to talk with family members about what they have learned. Each lesson also includes a Bible story script, with creative ways to present it using either plush or printable puppets, props, sound effects, and interactive movement. A Learning Check follows, to make sure children have understood the main idea of each lesson. At the end, they have a chance to earn a sticker badge for completing a class. Each idea builds on the next, as children learn new ways to serve God and be kind to one another.

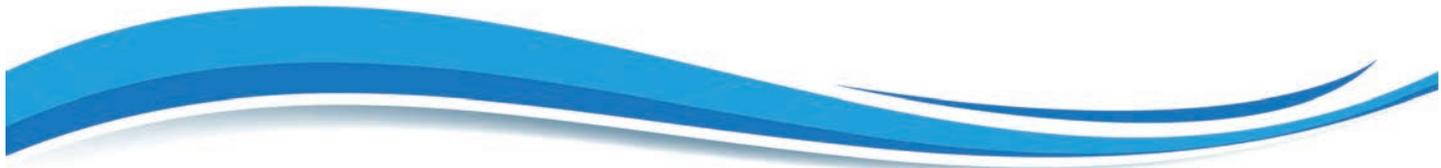
## Our Research

Studies show that an effective social skills curriculum leads to lower aggression, better verbal skills and higher motivation levels. Because of this, our parent company Explore Kindness created a social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for the school classroom. Afterward, we tested it in-class during a two year, fact-based research study.

From this study, Explore Kindness received an A+ from Penn State Behrend PARC (Prevention of Aggression Resource Center) at Penn State Behrend. The class curriculum was also designated by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) as a recommended program for social and emotional learning. With these endorsements, and by popular demand, we created Explore God’s Kindness to adapt our core curriculum to the church classroom.



To learn more about our work, visit [ExploreKindness.com](http://ExploreKindness.com), where you can order extra supplies and access goodies like videos, free printables, and more.



## Quick-Start Guide

Our goal is to bring you powerful lessons that are easy enough for last-minute volunteers to teach with little or no prep. Each activity is flexible and adaptable to a variety of class sizes and time-frames. Here's a look at how each lesson is organized.



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

This section introduces the seed of knowledge that will be planted in the lesson.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

Here we begin to dig into the main message with an opening prayer and talking points that will get children motivated to learn. This section also includes What God Made, an exercise to help busy kids settle in and focus on lesson time.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

Here, children get involved with an interactive Bible story. You may choose to have students or Junior Leaders act out each script, or you may use the printable puppets included at the end of this guide.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

This segment allows Leaders to further discuss the Main Message from the Bible and to spark discussion and creativity among the students.



### • • • CLOSING CIRCLE

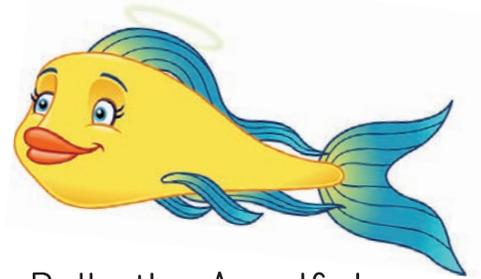
This is the time to review the main idea with a Learning Check and to award badge stickers for participation. Captain McFinn and Friends puppets, available on our website at [www.explorekindness.com](http://www.explorekindness.com), will make this a fun way to end each lesson.

## Meet Your Undersea Guides

Welcome to Sand Dusky Reef, an underwater world where each character has a special role in introducing children to God, Jesus, and the amazing lessons They have to teach us. Each lesson also includes a link to an animated or musical video featuring the characters and their adventures. Printables of characters can be found beginning on page 99. These can be useful for classroom or bulletin board displays.



Captain McFinn



Bella the Angelfish



Three Tooth



Inky



Tox



Stank

## Helpful Tips

- Introduce your students to the curriculum by explaining that they are now Kindness Explorers. That means having good manners, kind words, and a helpful spirit...just as God wants us to have.
- With 12 core lessons, you will probably choose to implement one lesson per week. However, enough material is included to spend two class sessions on each lesson. This option will give students more time to consider and explore the main message.
- Each lesson includes Song Suggestions and a QR code linking to a music video of one suggestion. Each video includes lyrics and a fun representation of the song.
- The plush puppets included in your kit may be used to act out the stories in the God's Word section of each lesson. Printable puppet templates are also included at the end of this Leader's Guide. Alternately, you may choose to have Junior Leaders or upper elementary students read and act out each role. Either way, interactive tips are included to get everyone in class involved.
- Posters related to the lessons may be ordered on our website at [www.explorekindness.com](http://www.explorekindness.com). These posters highlight the key kindness messages presented throughout the lessons, with a focus on social-emotional learning, self-regulation, and good behaviors.
- Badge Stickers for each lesson are also included in your kit, with enough for 30 students per lesson. These can be used to reward students who participate and encourage them to come back to church again. You may choose to have them wear stickers home, display them on a bulletin board, or create Bible Bookmarks, as shown in the instructions on page 85.
- We recommend having a Children's Bible in class. This can be a powerful way to show students where to find God's Word. Verses for each Bible story script are included. Some good choices for children include the New Living Translation (NLT) Hand's On Bible, the New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible for Kids, and the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) Explorer Bible for Kids.



### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS...

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,  
and self-control.*

— GALATIANS 5:22

## Quarter 1 Scope and Sequence

Lesson	Main Message	Bible Story Script	Bible Verses
1: Who Is God?	God is always there to help me and to hear my prayers.	Elijah and God's Whisper	1 Kings 19: 9-18
2: God Loves Me	God and his Son Jesus love me exactly the way I am.	Zacchaeus	Luke 19: 1-10
3: God Knows My Heart	God knows me, and He knows what's in my heart.	The Widow's Coins	Mark 12: 41-44
4: God Is Strength	When I feel worried or scared, God is there to help.	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17: 1-58
5: God Is Joy	Even in hard times, serving God can bring joy to our hearts.	Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16:16-40
6: God Is Forgiveness	Just as He forgives, God wants me to forgive others.	The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18: 21-35
7: God Blesses Me	When I share with others, God will multiply my blessings.	Loaves and Fishes	Matthew 14: 13-21
8: God Teaches Me to Be a Good Friend	Instead of judging others, God wants me to be fair and kind.	The Speck and the Plank	Matthew 7:1-5
9: God Helps Me Make Good Choices	God can help me make good choices, even when things are hard.	Jonah and the Whale	Book of Jonah, Chapters 1 and 2
10: God Hears Me	God watches over me and hears my prayers.	Daniel and the Lions	Daniel, Chapter 6
11: God Has a Plan for Me	God has a plan for me.	Rahab	Joshua, Chapter 2
12: God Is Kindness	God wants me to share His kindness by helping others in need.	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10: 25-37

# Junior Leaders

Motivated church youth can be an invaluable asset to any Bible Class or Children's Church. Below are some tips on how to make the most of using Junior Leaders in your classroom.

- To strengthen peer relationships, ask volunteers to commit to an entire quarter of classes. For the PreK - 3 age group, children who are in grades 6, 7, and 8 can be most effective, as they are still relatable to the younger students. However, older students and teenagers can also be very effective. Aim for at least a 4:1 ratio, which will enhance small group activities and discussion.
- Junior Leaders will learn new things along with the younger students, and the interaction can become a powerful motivation for their own attendance. In turn, the primary students are likely to feel less anxious and more connected if older peers are available to help them.
- The opportunity to serve their church and God can become a great lesson for teens and preteens, helping them to build leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem solving skills.
- Make sure Junior Leaders have one or two simple tasks per class session. Giving them clear instructions on how to help will make them more effective and motivated.
- Having Junior Leaders read or act out the Bible story scripts is an excellent way to get them involved and make class more fun for everyone.
- Create a respectful environment by giving Junior Leaders feedback and encouragement. If possible, plan an outing just for them, to celebrate their hard work and attendance.



## Building a Kinder Classroom

The following lessons include cooperative activities designed to foster kindness and enhance social-emotional skills. The suggestions below will help you create a respectful classroom that builds on the kindness messages.

- Praise students who demonstrate kind behaviors such as sharing, cooperation, and patience. Remind them that these are true signs of living life as a follower of Jesus.
- Advocate for students who are shy or at-risk of being excluded. Give them the chance to share their special skills and talents with others.
- Consider using a simple mat or beanbag as a designated “Friend Spot” or “Prayer Spot.” Encourage students to find this spot if they are struggling, looking for help with an activity, want to pray, or just need encouragement from a buddy. Let them know that recognizing their feelings and reaching out is a sign of strength.
- Praise students who respond to someone sitting in the special spot. This can be an excellent example of the goodwill and compassion that Jesus teaches us to practice.
- Make it clear that unkind behaviors will not be tolerated. Encourage students to look out for one another and support their fellow students by being good friends. Remind them that reporting unkind behaviors is not “tattling,” but a courageous way to help their friends.
- Respect that students have different learning styles. Some may respond better to creative or visual activities, while others prefer verbal learning. There are choices offered within each lesson, so you may present the main message in different ways.
- Help sensitive learners by letting them know what is going to happen next. By setting expectations, you will help them have more peace of mind and confidence.





## Dear Family Members and Caregivers,

Over the next few weeks, our class will work on a program called Explore God's Kindness. This program is designed to help children learn to love God and one another. Each lesson will use puppets, interactive storytelling, and creative worksheets to explain God's Word in a way that works well for their young minds and connects to their daily lives.

Lesson objectives of the program include:

- God is always there to help me and to hear my prayers.
- God and his Son Jesus love me exactly the way I am.
- God knows me, and He knows what's in my heart.
- When I feel worried or scared, God is there to help.
- Even in hard times, serving God can bring joy to our hearts.
- Just as He forgives, God wants me to forgive others.
- When I share with others, God will multiply my blessings.
- Instead of judging others, God wants me to be fair and kind.
- God can help me make good choices, even when things are hard.
- God watches over me and hears my prayers.
- God has a plan for me.
- God wants me to share His kindness by helping others in need.

Take-home worksheets will give family members an opportunity to review each lesson with students. If you have questions about the program or would like to know more, please feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,

# Lesson 1: Who Is God?



## • • • MAIN MESSAGE

Because He loves me, God made our beautiful world and everything in it. He is always there to help me and to hear my prayers.



## • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS (5 minutes)

### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the birds.

Let's be a bird. Let's be an eagle!

Give yourself some space.

Then spread your wings wide.

Swoop down low, over a great ocean.

Soar up high, over a tall mountain.

Fly back to your nest,

and settle into a cozy spot.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- God is the Creator. He made the entire world and everything in it. God wanted to share His love with us, so he gave us everything we need—he filled the world with sunlight, rain, plants, animals, and people.
- God cares so much about us, he made everyone special and different. That’s why we are all one-of-a-kind.
- God sent his Son Jesus to help us in this life. Through words and stories in the Bible, Jesus teaches us many lessons about love, kindness, and friendship.
- In Heaven, God will have all the answers to all the questions we’ve ever had. Until then, we will not see God as a person. But we can find Him and feel his Spirit inside us, if we are still and quiet. Ready to try? Let’s start by hearing a story about Elijah.



### • • • GOD’S STORY

#### *Elijah and God’s Whisper*

This story is found in 1 Kings 19: 9-18.

### *Special Effects Fun (FX)*

Choose volunteers for each Sound Effect in the story:

**WIND:** blowing into cupped hands

**LANDSLIDE:** shake a box with small rocks inside

**EARTHQUAKE:** shake a piece of poster board

**FIRE:** crinkle a piece of wax paper or gift wrap

**GOD’S VOICE:** talking through a paper towel tube



## Lesson 1: Who Is God? *continued*

### CAST

**Elijah** - printable puppet on page 108

**King Ahab** - printable puppet on page 108

**Queen Jezebel** - printable puppet on page 109

Explore Kindness Leader (as God's Voice)

### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

**Elijah:** Hi. My name's Elijah. I'm a prophet of God. That means God speaks to me, and I share His words with other people. I pray every single day, and I always try to obey God.

**King Ahab:** I am King Ahab. And I worship many gods (to himself)...especially the ones that make me rich and powerful. Heh heh.

**Queen Jezebel:** Be warned, Elijah! We got rid of all the other prophets. Unless you bow down and worship the same gods we do, we'll get rid of you too!

**Elijah:** (runs away) I must leave my home, or the Queen will have me killed. Maybe I can hide here...in this cold dark cave.

**God's Voice:** Elijah...Why are you hiding?

**Elijah:** Oh Lord. I am so afraid. I had to leave all my friends. I feel very sad and alone.

**God's Voice:** I understand, my child. Go stand on that nearby mountaintop, and wait for me to pass by.

**Elijah:** I'm so very tired, Lord. But I will do as you ask. I will wait for you.

**Leader:** As Elijah waited, a mighty wind blew across the mountain. Let's make a **WIND** noise now.

**FX:** Students make **WIND** sounds as Elijah tries to stand against the wind.



**Leader:** The wind was so strong, it made giant rocks fall and break apart, all around Elijah. Let's make **LANDSLIDE** noises now.

**FX:** Student makes **LANDSLIDE** noises as Elijah tries to hide from falling rocks.

**Leader:** Elijah was more afraid than ever. But he knew God was not in the wind or the landslide. Next, a powerful earthquake struck the mountain. Let's make **EARTHQUAKE** sounds.

**FX:** Student makes **EARTHQUAKE** sounds as Elijah tries not to fall over.

**Leader:** Elijah was terrified, but he knew that God was not in the earthquake. Then, a great fire rose up on the mountain. Let's make **FIRE** noises.

**FX:** Student makes **FIRE** noises as Elijah shields himself from the fire.

**Leader:** After all these scary things, it became very quiet on the mountain. Elijah listened patiently, and then he heard...

**God's Voice (whisper):** I am with you, Elijah, and I have a plan. You are not alone. I still have thousands of servants who obey me. I will lead you to them, and you will be able to keep doing your good work as a prophet.

**Elijah:** Oh Lord. Thank you! (bows down in prayer)

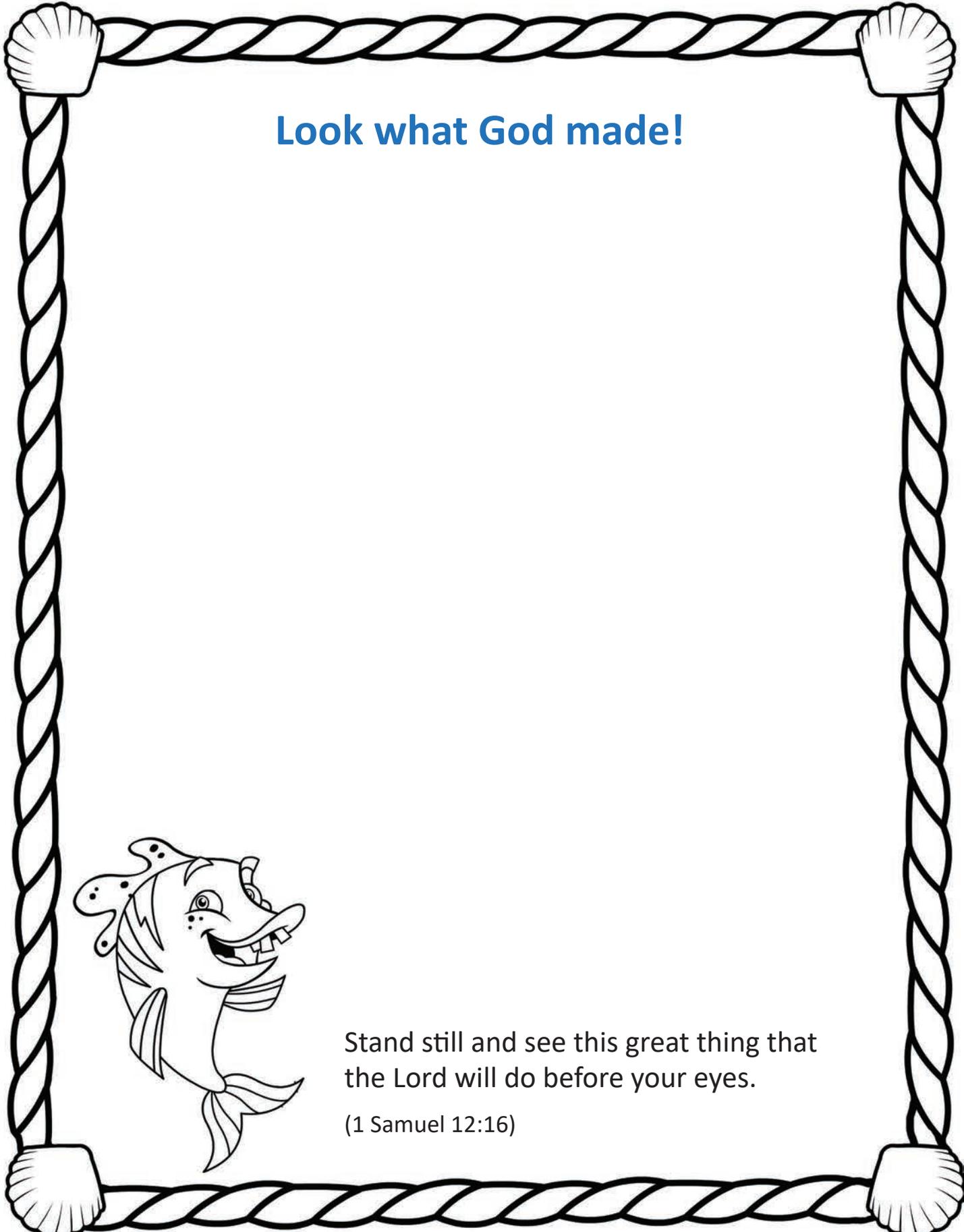
**Leader:** And Elijah went on to do great work for the Lord.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Before he could hear God, Elijah had to be quiet and calm down. What are some ways to calm ourselves down when we hear loud things all around us, or when we feel scared? What can we do? The activities on the next pages will help us learn some ways.





**Look what God made!**



Stand still and see this great thing that  
the Lord will do before your eyes.

(1 Samuel 12:16)

Childhood is a time when many early ideas about God are formed. Help children explore God's love for us and all the beautiful things He has made. Take them outside, and ask them to stand quietly for a few minutes, just as Elijah did. Can they feel God around them? Ask them to find one special thing that God made for us. When you return inside, give them time to draw their one thing on this week's activity sheet.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Three-Tooth has a big game on Monday. He feels scared, and he has a tummy ache. He doesn't want to play. Use the puppets to show some things Three-Tooth can do.

(Another puppet can remind him that God is always with him. He can pray with a friend. He can ask someone to help him practice. He can tell his coach or another grownup how he feels and ask them for help.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to feel your love. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help your Kindness Explorers remember how quiet time and prayer can bring us closer to God.



## Lesson 2: God Loves Me



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

God and his Son Jesus love me just the way I am.



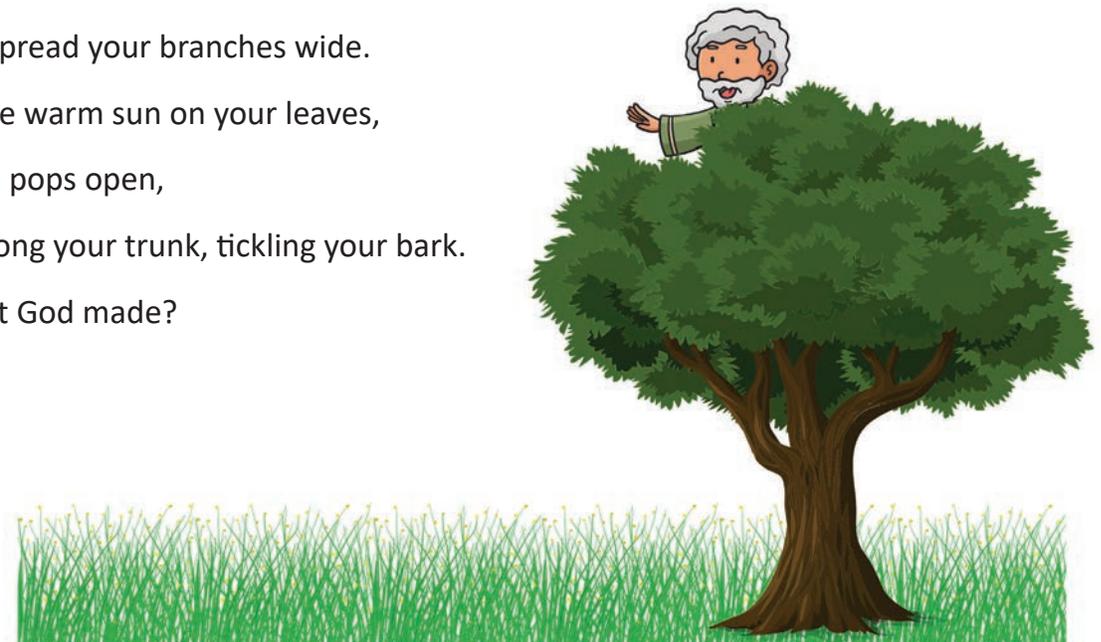
### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

### What God Made

God made the plants. Let's be a plant. Let's be a tree!  
Give yourself space. Spread your branches wide.  
Stretch high to feel the warm sun on your leaves,  
As a new red blossom pops open,  
And a squirrel runs along your trunk, tickling your bark.  
Isn't it amazing...What God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- Let's talk about God's love for you. Does God love you on good days, or when you do good things? What about on bad days, when you get in trouble or make a big mistake?
- God loves you ALL the time, just the way you are. He even loves you when you make bad choices. God knows we can learn from our mistakes and ask for His forgiveness in prayer.
- God sent his only Son Jesus to teach us how to love one another. Jesus is part of God, and He loves us just as much as God the Father.
- The Holy Bible is a book with many stories that teach us about God and Jesus. Let's hear a story from the Bible about a man named Zacchaeus (Zah-KEY-us).



### • • • GOD'S STORY

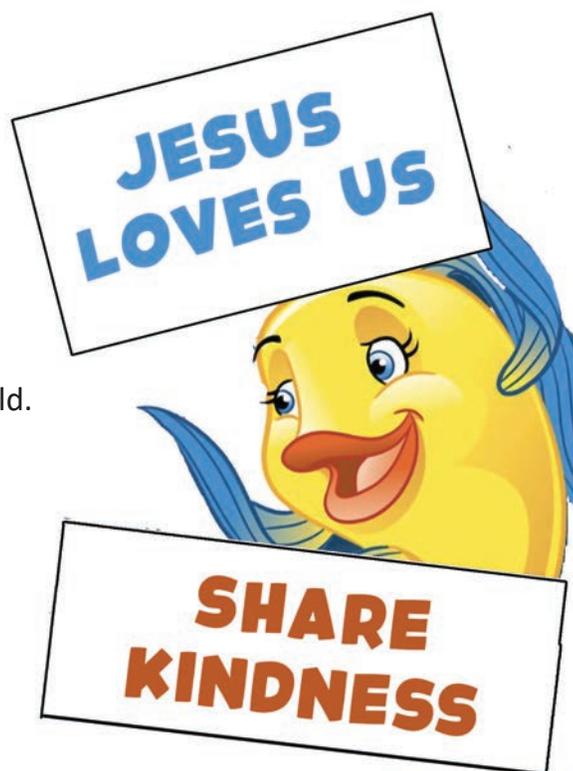
#### *Zacchaeus*

This story is found in Luke 19: 1-10.

### *Fun with Props*

Let students play the "crowd" gathered to hear Jesus. At the right times, they can participate with Crowd cues in the script.

**Optional:** Make or print out simple signs that children can hold. Examples include: Jesus Loves Us, Share God's Love, God is Great, etc. Let children choose signs to hold.



## Lesson 2: God Loves Me *continued*

### **CAST**

**Zacchaeus** - printable puppet on page 109

**Jesus** - printable puppet on page 110

**Shepherd** - printable puppet on page 110

**Crowd of People** (students)

### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Zacchaeus:** You there!

**Shepherd:** (walking by) Me, Sir?

**Zacchaeus:** You owe me tax money. Five gold pieces!

**Shepherd:** But...I only paid two pieces last time. Why do I have to pay five now?

**Zacchaeus:** Because I'm the tax man, and I say so.

**Shepherd:** That's stealing. You should be ashamed, tax man. Don't you know Jesus has come to our village?

**Zacchaeus:** Jesus? The great prophet who preaches love and heals the sick?

**Shepherd:** Yes. Look at the huge crowd that has come to see Him.

**Crowd:** Welcome, Jesus!

**Zacchaeus:** They say Jesus is very wise. He has even performed miracles.

**Shepherd:** I'm going to make sure I have the biggest feast...so I can invite Jesus to MY home!

This is Zacchaeus!



**Zacchaeus:** (to self) It would be an honor to meet Jesus. But with all these people, he won't even notice me. (he tries to jump up and see above the crowds)

**Jesus:** Hello, my children. I have come to invite you all to be part of God's family.

**Crowd:** Thank you, Jesus!

**Zacchaeus:** Aha! I have an idea. (climbs a tree)

**Shepherd:** (whispers) Get out of that tree, Tax Man. How silly you look!

**Jesus:** Zacchaeus, my son. Hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today.

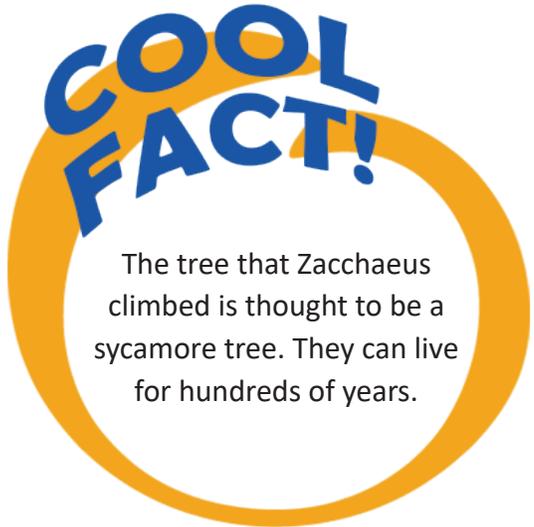
**Shepherd:** Him? But everyone knows he's a selfish thief.

**Jesus:** God's love is for everyone. Besides, he climbed this tree to hear me...even though others laughed at him.

**Zacchaeus:** (climbs down) You are welcome in my home, Lord. You have shown me kindness, when no one else did. Here and now, I will give half of my money to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times the amount.

**Shepherd:** (amazed) Jesus truly can do miracles.

**Crowd:** claps and cheers

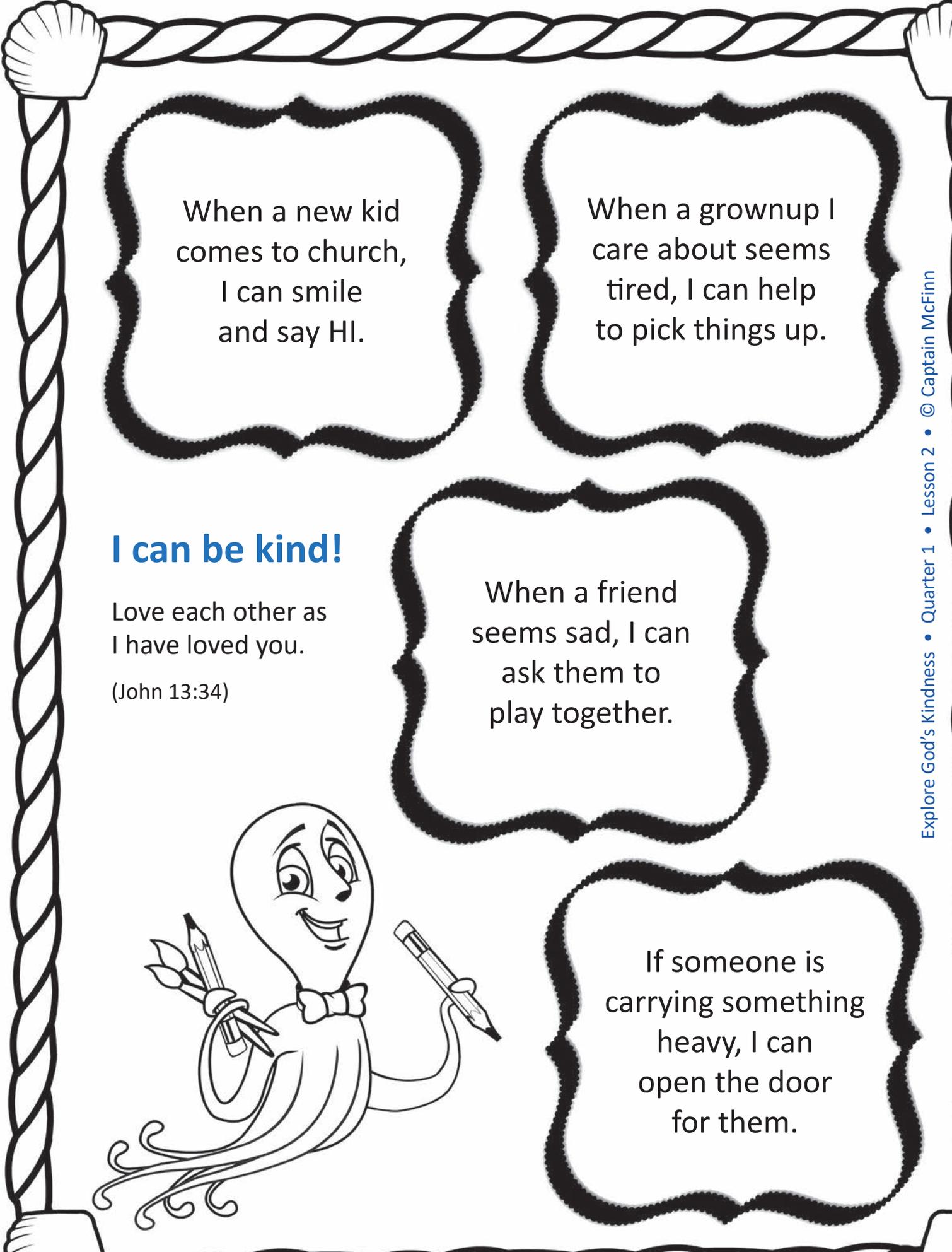


### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Zacchaeus had lots of strong feelings when Jesus came to his town. He was afraid Jesus would not notice him, but Jesus sees and loves each one of us.

The following activity will help students learn more about big feelings and how we can deal with them in healthy ways, just like Zacchaeus did.





When a new kid  
comes to church,  
I can smile  
and say HI.

When a grownup I  
care about seems  
tired, I can help  
to pick things up.

## I can be kind!

Love each other as  
I have loved you.

(John 13:34)

When a friend  
seems sad, I can  
ask them to  
play together.

If someone is  
carrying something  
heavy, I can  
open the door  
for them.



Jesus wants us to show kindness to everyone, not just our friends. The activity opposite will help children find small ways to show kindness. As they color the sheet, talk with them about each example shown. Remind them that small acts of kindness can make a big difference, just like they did with Zacchaeus.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Stank's teacher asks him to make sure no one talks when she leaves the classroom. The other kids make fun of Stank and call him "teacher's pet." Use the puppets to explain how this might make Stank feel and what he can do.

(Stank can remember that Jesus always loves us, even when we feel alone or sad. He can pray to feel closer to God. He can talk to his teacher about how he feels. He can find a friend he trusts in school and show others what a good friend he can be.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to share kindness and love with others. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that God and Jesus always love us.

A graphic for a video break. It features a yellow cartoon fish with blue fins and a halo, smiling. To its right is a large orange circle containing the text "VIDEO BREAK!" in bold blue letters. Below the text is a QR code. Below the QR code is a yellow speech bubble containing the text: "Use the QR code to find the video called 'Mr. Tate's Bad Mood.'"



## Lesson 3: God Knows My Heart



### ••• MAIN MESSAGE

God knows me, and He knows what's in my heart.



### ••• OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the insects. Let's be an insect. Let's be a butterfly!

Give yourself space. Curl up inside your cocoon.

Push through it with your new wings.

They are orange and yellow in the bright sun.

Flap your new wings to test them out.

Then flutter over to a big purple flower.

And drink the raindrops inside.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- We've learned that God is always with us. Do you think He cares about what we look like, or how nice our clothes are? No. God only cares about what's inside us. He cares about what's inside our hearts.
- We all have a real heart that pumps blood through our bodies. Put your hand on your chest now. Can you feel your heart beating?
- We also have a "heart" that we can't see. When people talk about this heart, they're talking about feelings like love, happiness, sadness, and kindness. This heart also includes the way we share our feelings and show them to others. Can you name someone with a good heart?
- To learn more, let's hear a story about Jesus and his a very special widow.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *The Widow's Coins*

This story is found in Mark 12: 41-44.

## Fun with Props

- Two pennies can be used to represent the Widow's coins. When prompted in the script, let a student volunteer drop the coins into a small container.
- Play paper money can be used to show how the men threw money into the offering, hoping to seem important. When prompted, let one or two volunteers add the paper money to the container.



## Lesson 3: God Knows My Heart *continued*

This is the Widow!

### CAST

**Jesus** - printable puppet on page 110

**Widow** - printable puppet on page 111

**Court Man 1** - printable puppet on page 111

**Court Man 2** - printable puppet on page 112



### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

**Court Man 1:** Jesus, you've taught us so much. Please tell us how we can please God.

**Court Man 2:** I had this fancy robe made, so everyone could see that I love God the most!

**Court Man 1:** I said a prayer that lasted a whole hour. I wanted everyone to hear how much I love God.

**Jesus:** My children, service to God is not a contest. He does not care what you wear or how much attention you get with long prayers. He cares about what is in your hearts.

**Jesus:** Let us watch as people enter the temple and give their offerings to God in the collection box.

**Court Man 1:** I have much money to give. [Student adds paper money to the container]

**Court Man 2:** I have even more. [Student adds even more money]

**Jesus:** Hmmmm.

**Widow** hobbles in and drops two small coins into the offering box. [Student drops in two coins]

**Jesus:** Here is the answer to your question. This widow has given more to God than anyone else.

**Court Man 1:** But she only gave two teeny coins. I gave hundreds!

**Court Man 2:** Me too!

**Jesus:** And you have thousands of coins left. But this poor woman gave everything she had to God.

**Court Man 1:** Of course. And God sees what's on the inside.

**Jesus:** God sees who you really are.

**Court Man 2:** He sees what you give from your heart.

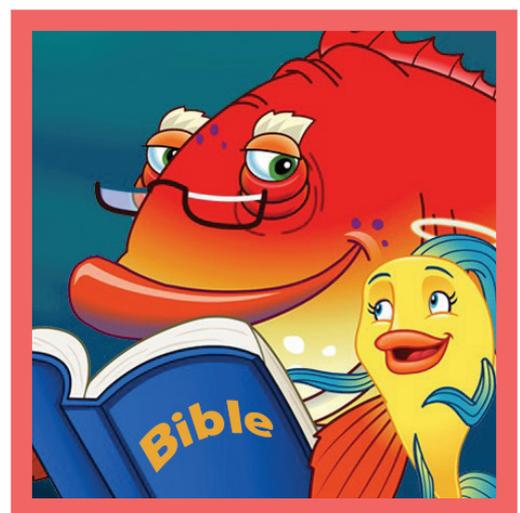
**Jesus:** Exactly! Give God all your heart, and you will be rich with His blessings!



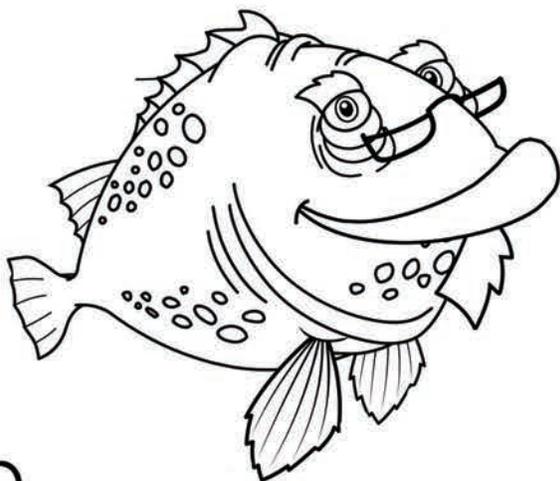
### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Being a Kindness Explorer means looking for ways to serve God and help others. The widow shared all she had with God. What are some ways we can share our kind heart with God and with others?

The following activities will help children learn more about sharing what's in their hearts.



**I love this with all my heart!**



People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

The widow knew that the best things are not always the biggest or fanciest. Ask students to think about things they love with their whole heart. Ask them to choose one thing and draw it on this week's activity sheet. If time allows, encourage them to share what they drew with the class. Remember, God sees what's in our true hearts!



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Captain McFinn gets a bad cold. His friends bring him seashells to cheer him up. Stank brings the biggest and shiniest shell. He says this means he is Captain McFinn's best friend. Use the puppets to show what the other fish say and think about this.

(The other puppets can talk about what it means to be a good friend. It's not about who has the best gift or toy. It's about taking turns, and using kind words, and sharing. Stank can learn this lesson by doing something kind for Captain McFinn.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to share the kindness from our hearts. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that God knows our hearts and all the feelings inside them.



## Lesson 4: God Is Strength



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

When I feel worried or scared, God is there to help.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the animals. Let's be an animal. Let's be a frog!

Give yourself space. Crouch down low on a lily pad.

Let out a big, deep RIBBET. Spot a fly on a nearby leaf.

Open your mouth wide to catch it.

Hop onto another lily pad.

And look at all the juicy bugs nearby.

Isn't it amazing...What God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

Today we're going to talk about scary feelings. We all feel scared or worried sometimes. Even teachers and parents can feel scared.

- Can you think of a time you felt scared? Who would like to share a story about feeling worried or scared? (A leader can also share a story.)
- How does it feel to be scared in our bodies? (tight chest, butterflies, upset tummy, sweaty or shaky hands, headache)
- Even in scary times, we have the power to make good choices. What are some things we can do when we feel scared? (allow ideas to be shared)
- We can trust God and pray for Him to guide us. We can talk to adults we trust and ask them for help. Who are some people we can talk to and pray with? (allow ideas to be shared)
- God is always there, even when we feel scared or worried. God is like a shield that can protect us in scary times. To learn more, let's hear the story of David and Goliath. During the story, whenever I hold up this Shield, you can say: God makes me strong! Let's practice that now.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

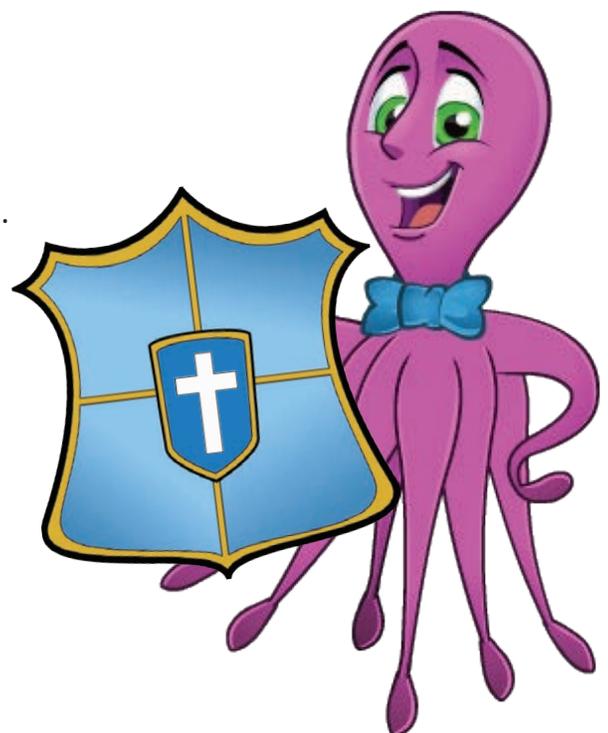
#### *David and Goliath*

This story is found in 1 Samuel 17: 1-58.

### *Fun with Props*

A print-out for making Shields can be found on page 38. Encourage children to personalize them with art supplies. You may want to print them on card stock.

**Optional:** A cardboard loop glued to the back will help students hold their shields.



## Lesson 4: God Is Strength *continued*

### CAST

**King Saul** - printable puppet on page 108

**Goliath** - printable puppet on page 113

**David** - printable puppet on page 114

**Man from Town** - printable puppet on page 118

This is David!



### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

**Man from Town:** Hey, did you hear about the giant warrior? He's 9 feet tall!

**David:** I know. I'm here to defeat him.

**Man from Town:** Ha! You're just a boy, and he's twice your size!

**David:** That does sound scary. But he doesn't have faith in God, like I do.

**Man from Town:** You might have faith, but you don't have armor or a shield.

[Leader and children hold up Shield. Children: God makes me strong!]

**King Saul:** What's going on here? Don't you two know there's a big battle happening?

**David:** Yes, your highness. My name is David, and I'm here to challenge the giant.

**King Saul:** But you're teeny.

**Man from Town:** That's what I said!

**David:** Yes, sir. But I'm also a shepherd. I fight lions and bears to protect my sheep.

**King Saul:** Hmm. Isn't that scary?

**David:** Sometimes. But my faith in God gives me strength. He calms my fears and watches over me.  
[Leader and children hold up Shield. Children: God makes me strong!]

**King Saul:** (looks at Man from Town): Well, it seems like no one is brave enough to fight this giant.

Man slinks away, ashamed.

**King Saul:** Maybe you do have the courage to face this giant. But please, take my shield for protection!

**David:** No, thank you, sir. The Lord will be my shield.  
[Leader and children hold up Shield. Children: God makes me strong!]

**Goliath:** Ha ha ha. You'll need more than that to defeat me!

**David** (stands tall): You come against me with sword and spear, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.

David winds up and makes a throwing motion. (whistling sound) Goliath falls down with a CRASH.

**King Saul:** (gasp) Did you see that? The boy took out the giant with one stone!

**Man from Town:** Wow. I wish I could do that.

David walks back to the king.

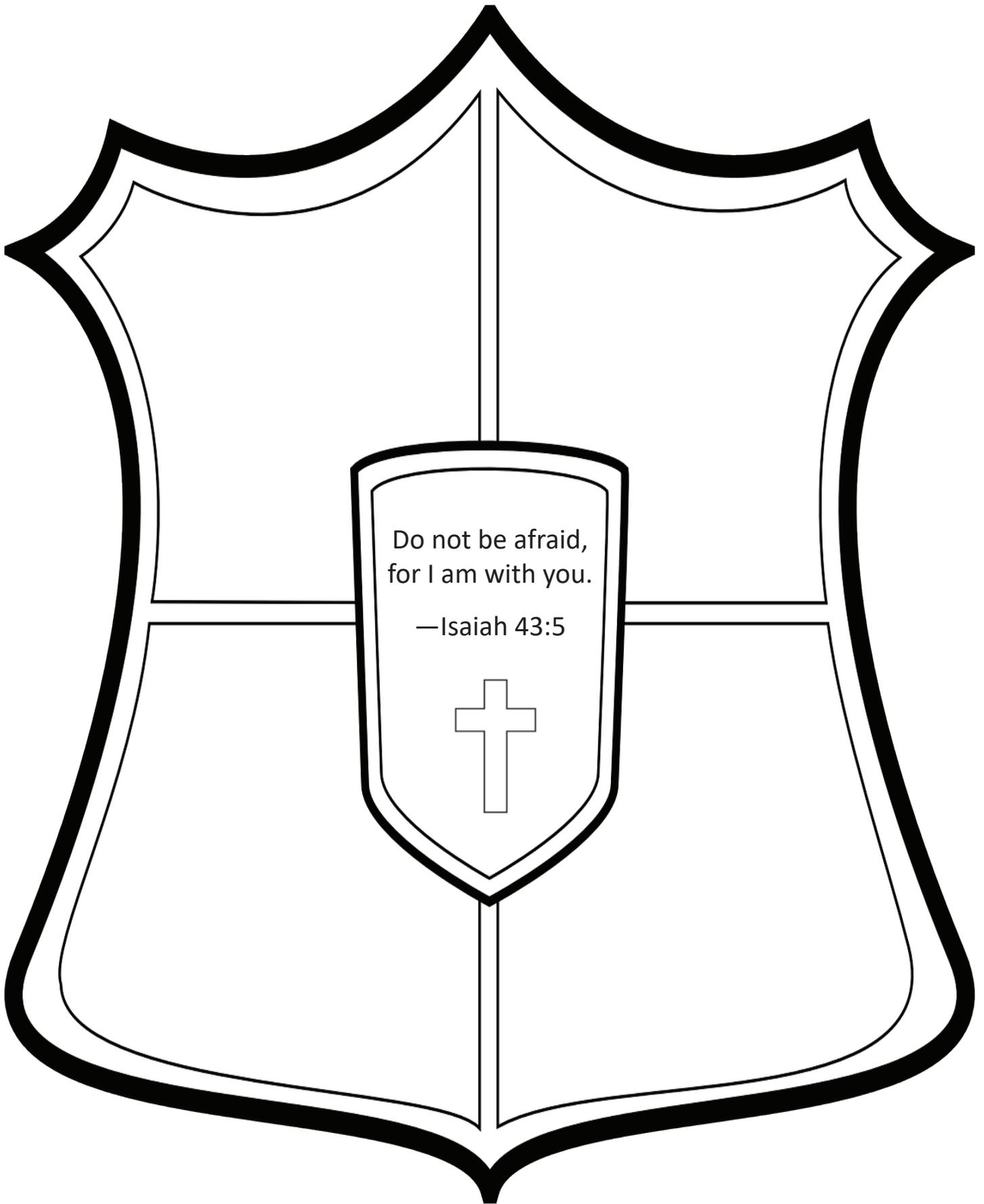
**Man from Town:** That was amazing! (whispers)  
Could you help me learn to pray and have faith in God?

**David:** (whispers back) Sure I can.  
[Leader and children hold up Shield.  
Children: God makes me strong!]



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

When we feel scared, we have choices about how to handle it. Today's activities will help children choose ways that work best for them.



God is like an invisible shield we carry with us everywhere. He gives us comfort and strength when we need it most. Duplicate and provide the activity sheet to students, along with crayons or colored pencils. As they decorate their shields, encourage them to talk about times when God might offer us protection. What a blessing to have Him on our side!



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

A big stingray moves into Sandusky Reef. Tox and Stank feel very afraid of him. Use the puppets to show what they can do to feel stronger.

(The other puppets can remind them that prayer and trust in God gives us strength. They can decide to meet the stingray together and show it kindness, giving it a chance to make new friends.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the peace in our hearts and the chance to share kindness with others. We ask that You walk with us to keep us safe. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that God can help when things get scary.

**VIDEO BREAK!**

Use the QR code to find the video "Three Tooth's Great Discovery."



## Lesson 5: God Is Joy



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

Even in hard times, serving God can bring joy to our hearts.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the skies. Let's be the sky. Let's be a rain cloud!

Give yourself space.

Curve your arms around you like puffs on a cloud.

Feel yourself get heavy with raindrops.

Feel a bolt of lightning strike inside you.

BZZZZ...BOOOOOOM!

Drop and wave your arms as rain falls from you.

Watch the rain drops fall on a beautiful garden below.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- Today we're going to learn about Paul and Silas. They were good friends who wanted to serve God by being kind and helpful. They always tried to obey God and teach people about His love. These are the same ways we can serve God today.
- Some ways to serve God include doing kind works, helping others, reading stories in the Bible, singing songs of praise, learning more about Jesus, and taking time for prayer.
- Serving God isn't always easy. People might tease us for serving God. They might say mean things, or call us names. What should we do if that happens? To find out, let's hear a story about Paul and Silas.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *Paul and Silas in Prison*

This story can be found in Acts 16:16-40.

## Fun With Props

When the Leader holds up the Joy Sign, children can respond with Down in My Heart! A print-out for the Joy Sign is found on page 46. Encourage children to decorate their own signs with art supplies. You can also decorate your own sign with them, then use it during God's Story.

Students can also use construction paper and glue sticks to make chain loops for around their necks. When the doors of the prison open, they can tear the chains off.

## Lesson 5: God Is Joy *continued*

### CAST

**Guard** - printable puppet on page 113

**Silas** - printable puppet on page 114

**Paul** - printable puppet on page 115

**Paul:** Friends, let us tell you the story of God.

**Silas:** He wants everyone to know about His love.

This is Paul!



### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

#### Leader holds up the Joy Sign.

**Leader:** I've got the Joy Joy Joy Joy...

**Children:** Down in my heart!

**Leader:** Huh?

**Children:** Down in my heart!

**Leader:** I've got the Joy Joy Joy Joy...

**Children:** Down in my heart...

**Leader:** Where?

**Children:** Down in my heart to stay!

**Guard:** Hmmmph! I've heard about you two. You keep people from their work by talking about God. And now you're in the way...singing songs about Him? That's not how we do things around here. Into the jail with you two. And to make sure you don't escape, I've been ordered to put you in chains.

**Silas:** What should we do, Paul? How can we teach others about God if we're locked up?

**Paul:** I know things look bad, but God is still with us. Let's say a prayer and ask Him to guide us.

**Guard:** You're still praying to your God...even when you're locked in chains?

**Paul:** God hears our prayers, wherever we are. Even from a prison cell.

**Silas:** Let's sing some songs to tell everyone the good feeling that God gives us.

Leader holds up the Joy Sign.

Repeat song as before.

**Guard:** I've never seen people so excited about serving God.  
(RUMBLE RUMBLE) What's that?

**Paul:** An earthquake. Take cover!

**Silas:** Look! The doors have fallen down. We're free!

**Guard:** Wait! If you leave, I will surely be killed for letting you escape.

**Paul:** Then we will stay, and share the same kindness that God shows to us.

**Guard:** Oh thank you! Please, come to my home for dinner and tell me the whole story of God's love.

**Silas:** We'd be happy to tell you and your family about following God.

Leader holds up the Joy Sign.

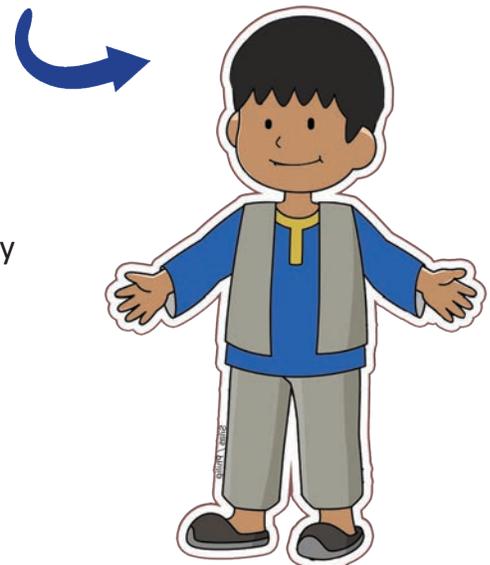
Repeat song as before.



• • • **GROWING IDEAS**

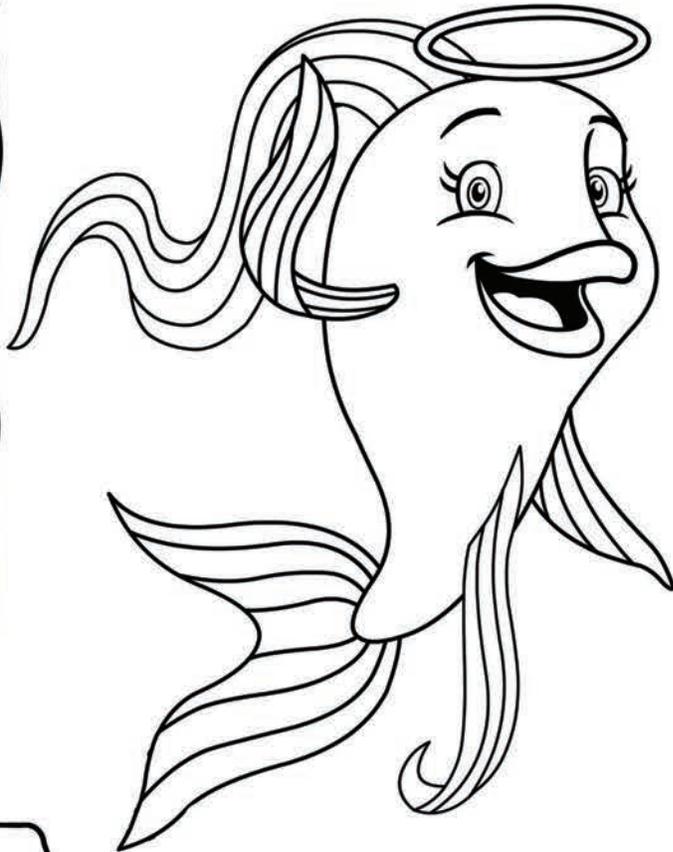
Today's activities will help students explore different ways to serve God and share the joy He brings.

This is Silas!



God is ...

joy!



Sing and make music from  
your hearts to the Lord.

(Ephesians 5:19)



Before students color their sheets, use the QR code at the left to let them hear short samples of different music styles. Ask them to close their eyes and listen. Which ones bring them joy? Which ones do they like best, or not at all? Our musical tastes are part of what make us special and unique.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

### Learning Check

Three-Tooth tells his classmates that God’s love is always with us. They laugh at him and make fun of what he said. Use the puppets to show what Three-Tooth can do or say.

(Three-Tooth can spend time with friends who do not tease him. He can talk with them about how he feels. He might ask them to pray with him or read a Bible verse. He can also talk to a parent or grownup at church that he trusts.)

### Closing Prayer

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to feel the joy that comes from serving You. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

### Kindness Explorer Badge

This week’s badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that serving God through music, prayer, and good works brings us joy.



## Lesson 6: God Is Forgiveness



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

Just as He forgives, God wants me to forgive others.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the the animals. Let's be an animal. Let's be a giraffe!

Give yourself space.

Use your long legs to walk across a meadow of tall grass.

Stretch your neck high and reach a big, juicy leaf.

Chomp at the leaf and chew it with your giant teeth.

Scratch your long neck against the trunk of the tree.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- What does it mean to forgive? (To stop being angry or upset with someone) To forgive doesn't mean we forget the hurt. It means we're able to let go of our anger and hurt. It helps to remember that we ALL hurt others from time to time.
- God knows our mistakes. When we ask for forgiveness, He gives it to us. God also wants us to forgive other people when they hurt us.
- If we have trouble forgiving someone, what are some things we can do to help? (We can pray for God to help us; We can talk to the person and hear his/her side; We can take time to cool off; We can let it go and release it into God's hands.)
- One time, Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive someone? As many as seven times?" To answer, Jesus told a parable about The Unforgiving Servant. A parable is a story that teaches us a lesson. Let's hear the story now.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *The Unforgiving Servant*

This story can be found in Matthew 18: 21-35.

## Story Ice Breaker

Ask each student to take off their right shoe.  
Place all the shoes into a pile.

Tell everyone to grab a random shoe  
from the pile and try to put it on their spare foot.  
Don't force a shoe, if it doesn't fit.

Have them walk carefully around the classroom. How does it  
feel to wear different shoes? (Be careful not to trip!)

Everyone must find the player wearing the shoe  
of their original pair and stand next to them,  
then place their own shoes back on again.



## Lesson 6: God Is Forgiveness *continued*

This is the Servant!



### **CAST**

**King** - printable puppet on page 108

**Servant** - printable puppet on page 115

**Man from Town** - printable puppet on page 118

**Explore Kindness Leader**

### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Servant:** My King, why have you called for me?

**King:** When you were in trouble, I loaned you a lot of money. Now, it is time for you to pay me back.

**Servant:** But...I don't have that much. I can't pay it back.

**King:** Then, you and your wife and children must work as servants. And everything you own will be sold to pay for what you owe. That was our agreement.

**Servant:** Please, no! If you give me more time, I will pay back what I owe. I promise.

**King:** Hmmm. Even working a whole lifetime would not be enough to pay me back. And it IS good to be forgiving. So, I will forgive what you owe, but be sure to share this same kindness with others.

**Servant:** (bows) Oh, thank you! Thank you! (walks away) Whew.

**Man from Town:** (walking by) Morning.

**Servant:** Hey! You owe me that coin you borrowed. Pay me back, now!

**Man from Town:** But I don't have it with me. I will pay you tomorrow.

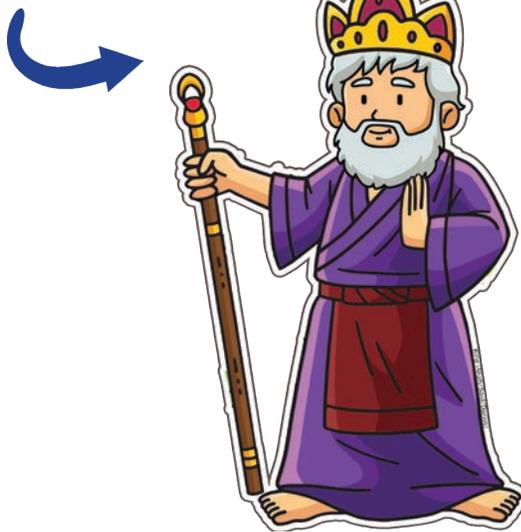
**Servant:** Tomorrow is too late. Guards! Arrest this man! Take him to prison. He owes me money; and he cannot pay it back.

**King** sneaks up to **Servant** and clears his throat. Servant jumps.

**King:** You owed me a huge amount of money, and I forgave you. Will you really send this man to jail over such a small amount? Why won't you show kindness and mercy, as I showed you? Guards...send this man to prison instead.

**Leader:** Jesus told Peter, "God forgives us, just like the King forgave the Servant. But this is how God will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. Not seven times, but seventy-seven." What do you think Jesus meant by this?

This is the King!



**COOL FACT!**

The amount of money the servant owed would be more than a **BILLION** dollars in today's world.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Forgiveness is a trait that we all must practice and work to achieve. Today's activities will help students explore forgiveness and its importance in serving God.

## How do I forgive?

Pray and ask God  
for help.

Breathe and take time  
to calm down.

Remember your own  
mistakes.

Listen to their side  
of the story.

Forgive, as God  
forgives us.

Shake hands,  
hug, or high-five.

Forgive each other,  
just as God forgave  
you in Christ.

(Ephesians 4:32)

Forgiveness can be hard, especially if someone hurts us or makes us very angry. But with God's help, we can practice letting go and forgiving, as He forgives us. Today's activity sheet will help students remember some key tips for practicing forgiveness in their daily lives. Read each one before they color their sheets.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

### Learning Check

Captain McFinn forgets Three-Tooth's birthday. Three-Tooth is hurt and decides not to talk to the Captain. His whole day is ruined because he can't be with his best friend. Use the puppets to show another choice Three-Tooth can make.

(Three-Tooth can remember that we all make mistakes. He can tell Captain McFinn how he feels, even though it might be scary to be honest with him. He can also choose to focus on the good things about his birthday and all the friends he has.)

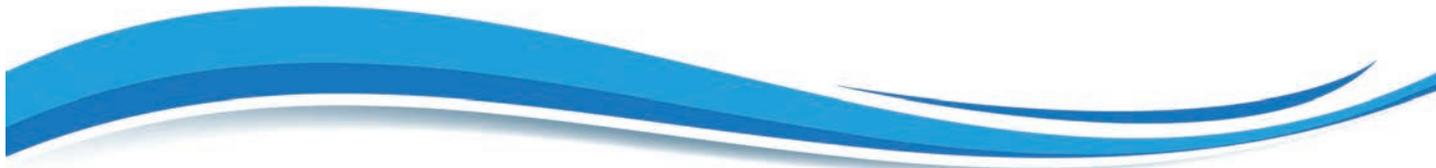
### Goodbye Prayer

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to practice forgiveness. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

### Kindness Explorer Badge

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember to forgive others, just like God forgives us.





## Lesson 7: God Blesses Me



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

When I share with others, God will multiply my blessings.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the skies. Let's be part of the night sky. Let's be a star!

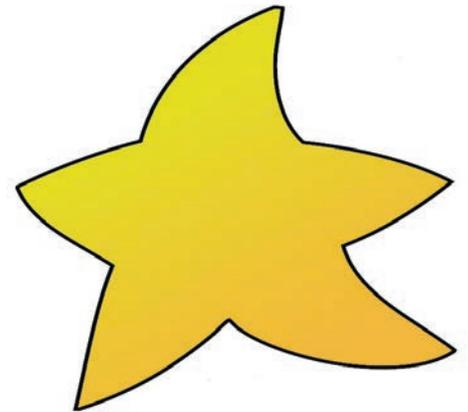
Give yourself space. Stretch out your arms like the rays of a star.

Reach them high. Reach them low. Reach them out to your sides.

Now blink your eyes as you twinkle in the dark night.

Jump high. You're a shooting star blazing through the sky.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- Imagine you're at school. You have a yummy snack to eat. You see that a friend doesn't have a snack. What can you do?
- If you made a choice to share, how do you think it would make your friend feel? How would it make YOU feel?
- Sharing with others is one of the best ways for us to share God's love. When we share, God blesses us in many ways. We feel the joy of giving and knowing that God is pleased with our kind hearts. And we can trust that God will return those blessings to us.
- A blessing is something good that God has given to us. What are some blessings you are thankful for? To learn more, let's hear a story about Jesus and his very hungry followers.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *Loaves and Fishes*

This story can be found in Matthew 14: 13-21.

## Big Numbers

It can be hard to visualize the great number of people who ate the loaves and fishes in today's story. To help, try this activity after presenting the Bible script on the next pages.

Bring a jar of beans to class. (Before class, count the beans as you put them in.) Ask the children to guess how many beans are in the jar. Consider rewarding the student who gets closest to the actual number with a small prize.

Divide 10,000 by the number of beans to find out how many jars represent all the meals, if each bean is one meal. That's a lot of loaves and fishes! God's blessings really are greater than we can count.



## Lesson 7: God Blesses Me *continued*

This is Jesus and the boy!

### CAST

**Jesus** - printable puppet on page 110

**Philip** - printable puppet on page 114

**Andrew** - printable puppet on page 115

**Boy** - printable puppet on page 117

### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

**Andrew:** Wow! So many people have traveled here to see Jesus. There must be more than 5000!

**Philip:** And many more women and children, all very far from their homes.

**Andrew:** It's getting dark soon. How will we feed everyone?

**Jesus:** Have faith, my friends.

**Philip:** But we have no food, my Lord.

**Boy:** Well...I have five loaves of bread in this sack. And two fish.

**Andrew:** That's not nearly enough.

**Jesus:** We will thank God for what we have and share it with everyone.

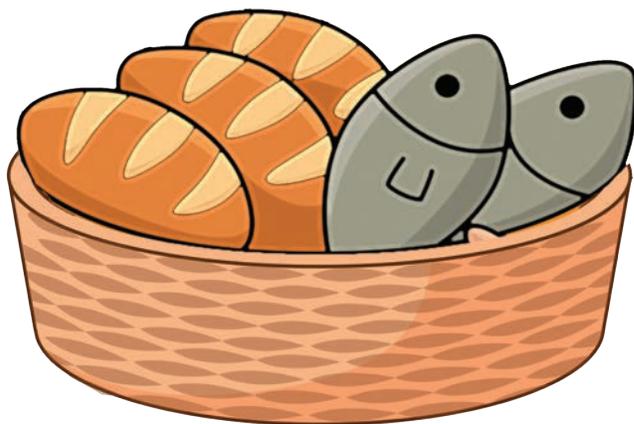


**Jesus:** Dear Father, as we sit together, we thank you for this food. Please help us to remember all your blessings, and to be thankful for them, every day. Amen.

**Boy:** Everyone has plenty to eat!

**Philip:** Yes, we had faith in God, and he blessed us with enough food for everyone.

**Leader:** So, the followers of Jesus shared the bread and fish with every person. With God's blessings, there was enough for everyone, and they all ate until they were full. There were even leftovers to box up for later!



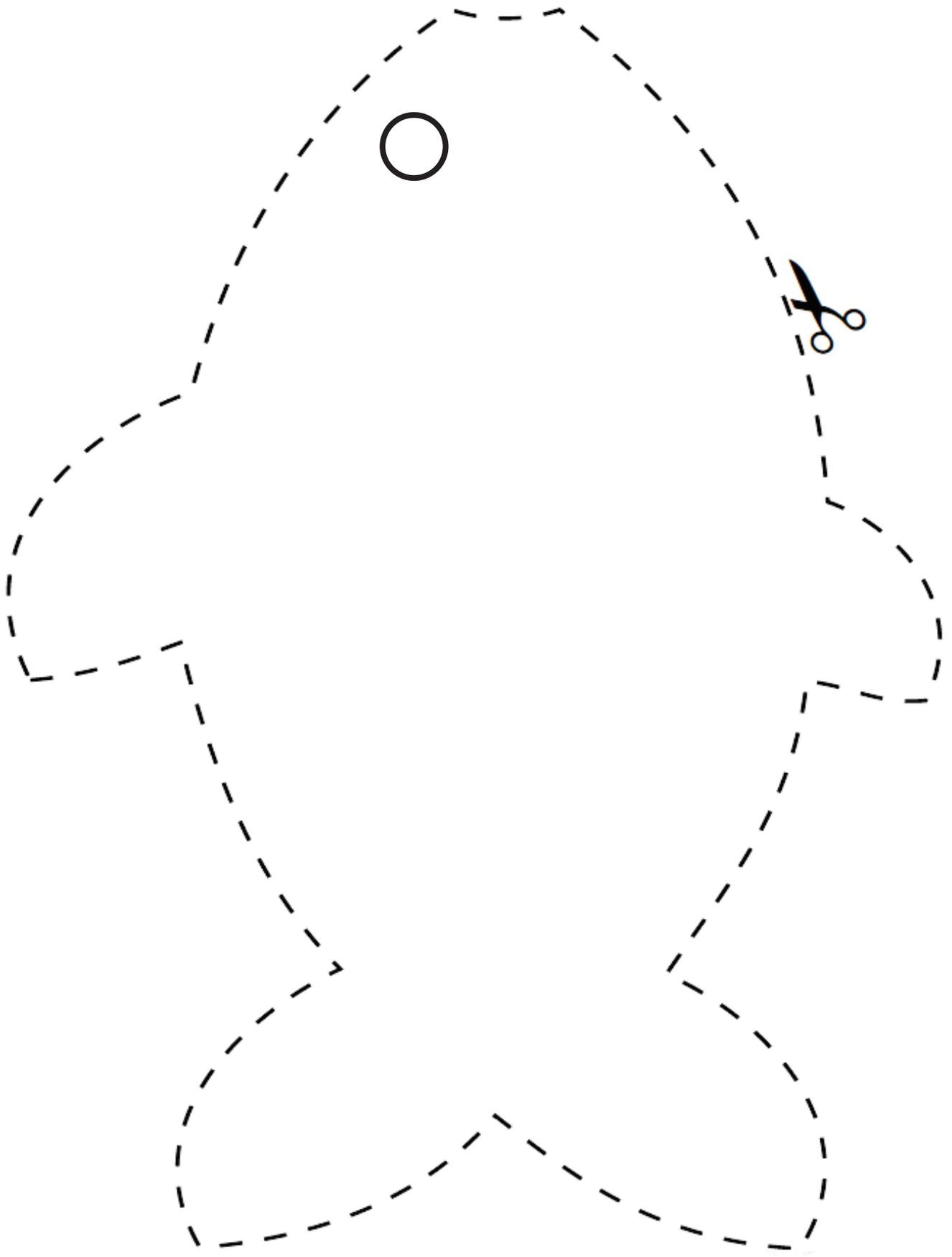
## COOL FACT!

Including women and children, the people fed that day was probably 10,000 or more.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

The activities that follow will help children learn ways to name their blessings and share them with others.



We all have blessings in our lives—from the food we eat, to the beds we sleep in at night. Ask each student to think of a blessing in their life. After they color the fish on the activity sheet, help them by cutting the fish out and writing their blessing on the back. Later, you can use yarn or ribbon to hang each fish from a coat hanger and display it in class.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Three-Tooth has a new ball. He doesn't want to share it with anyone else. Tox asks him to play fetch. Use the puppets to show how Three-Tooth can make a better choice.

(Three-Tooth can be thankful he has a new ball to play with. He can choose to have time alone with his new toy, then ask Tox to play fetch with him. By sharing, Three-Tooth will show the kindness that God wants us to show to our friends.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the many blessings in our lives. We ask that You walk with us and help us to be thankful each day. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember to be grateful and to share with others.



## Lesson 8: God Teaches Me to Be a Good Friend



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

Instead of judging others, God wants me to be fair and kind.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the animals. Let's be an animal in the ocean. Let's be an octopus!

Give yourself space. Wave your arms in the cool water of the sea.

Feel the bubbles that float up around you.

Use your sticky arms to climb a rock.

Feel the warm sun shine down on you,

As you sway in the salty waves.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- We've already learned that God wants us to be kind to others. That's easy to do with our friends, right? But what about people we don't know? Or people who think, talk, or act differently than us? What about people who have hurt our feelings, or even been mean to us?
- God wants us to be kind to EVERYONE around us, not just our friends. He wants us to learn from our mistakes and be fair, instead of always judging others. He doesn't expect us to be perfect, but He does want us to try and do our best.
- With His love for us, God's love teaches us how to love others. To learn more, let's hear a story that Jesus told his followers.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *The Speck and the Plank*

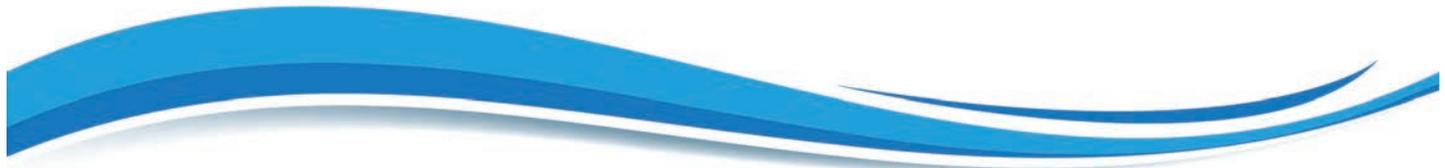
This story can be found in Matthew 7:1-5.

## Sensory Break

How does it feel when someone calls us a name or makes fun of us?

Dim the lights and pass around a nail board or scrap of sandpaper. Let everyone feel it. This is how harsh words and insults can feel in our hearts. Next, pass around a piece of soft cloth or a cotton ball. This is how kind words feel in our hearts. It's important to remember that words affect other people, so we need to choose them wisely.





## Lesson 8: God Teaches Me to Be a Good Friend continued

### **CAST**

**Jesus** - printable puppet on page 110

**Man with Speck** - printable puppet on page 116

**Man with Plank** - printable puppet on page 117

### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Jesus:** Here is my lesson to you, children. Love each other, just like I love you.  
(asks children) Can you do that?

**Students** answer “yes.”

**Jesus:** That’s good. It’s easy to SAY you love. But it’s just as important to SHOW it.

**Man with Plank:** Whoa! You have a huge speck of dust in your eye.

**Man with Speck:** (looks around) Who, me?

**Man with Plank:** It looks awful. Yuck!

**Jesus:** This man is focusing on a tiny speck of dust in his friend’s eye. What is he not seeing?

**Students** call out answers.

**Jesus:** Let’s tell him. (**Students** tell Plank Man to look in his eye.)

**Man with Plank:** What? Me? Is something on my shirt?

**Students** continue to try and explain.

**Man with Plank:** Does my hair look messy?

**Students** continue to try and explain.

**Man with Plank:** Oh gosh. I didn't even notice the plank in my eye. Thank you!

**Jesus:** It's easy to see what's wrong with someone else...without seeing our own problems and mistakes. Don't make fun of a speck of dust in your friend's eye. First, look at yourself. Are you being kind? Are you thinking of others?

**Man with Plank:** Sorry, friend. I didn't know. Let me help you with that dust. (wipes eye of Speck Man)

**Man with Speck:** Thanks, pal!

**Jesus:** God doesn't want us to say mean things or find mistakes in our friends. He wants us to treat other people the way **WE** want to be treated, with respect and kindness.

**Plank Man** and **Speck Man** walk off together.

This is the Man  
with the Plank!



This is the Man  
with the Speck!



### ••• GROWING IDEAS

The activities that follow will help children explore new ways to be kind friends.

**COOL  
FACT!**

Jesus told many stories like this about the Golden Rule: Treat other people the way **YOU** want to be treated.

## A good friend...

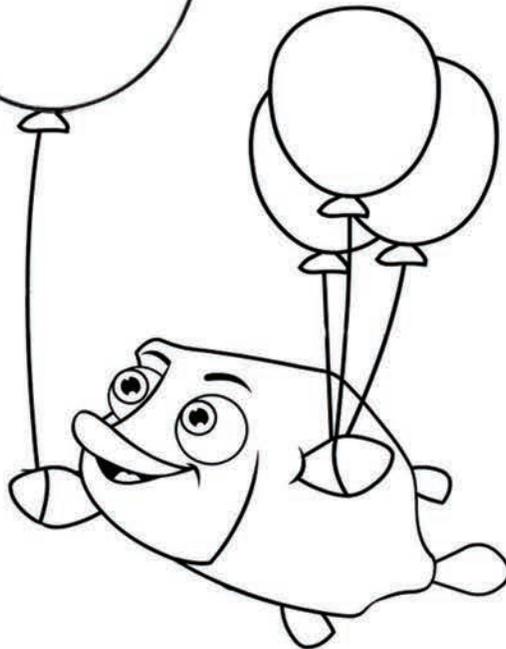
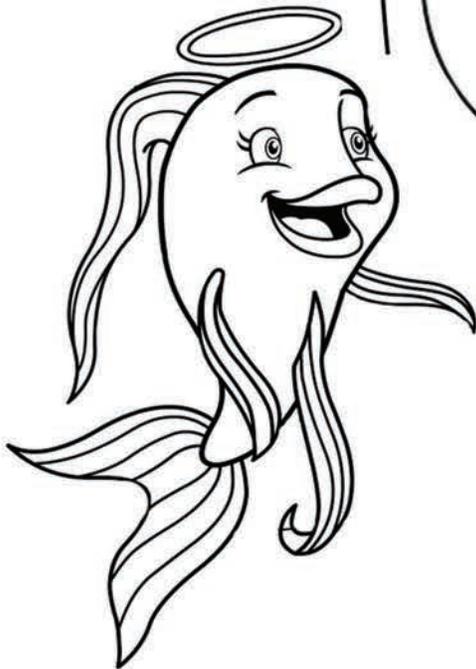
cares

listens

doesn't  
judge

loves as  
Jesus loves

shares



There are many ways to be a good friend. As students to color this week's sheet, ask them to share stories about their most treasured friends. What makes them special? What are some ways we can work to be a good friend to them?



### • • • CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Tox wears a new shirt to school. When Stank sees it, he laughs and calls it “goofy.” Use the puppets to show how they can work things out.

(Stank can think about what he said and how it would feel if someone called him “goofy.” He can apologize to Tox and ask him to do something fun. Stank can tell Tox how he felt when Stank called him a name. He can work to forgive Stank and give him another chance.)

A graphic for a video break. It features a yellow cartoon fish with blue hair and a red mouth, looking towards a QR code. The QR code is inside a white circle with a yellow border. Above the QR code, the words "VIDEO BREAK!" are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the QR code, there is a yellow speech bubble containing the text: "Use the QR code to find the video called 'Say It and Spray It.'"

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to share kindness with our friends. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember to be kind to our friends, instead of judging them.



## Lesson 9: God Helps Me Make Good Choices



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

God can help me make good choices, even when things are hard.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the ocean. Let's be part of the ocean. Let's be a whale!

Give yourself space. Use your fins to glide through the water.

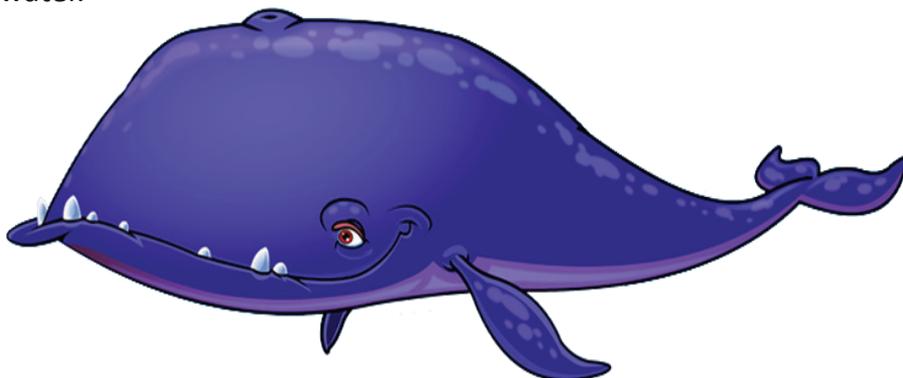
Feel the cool waves splatter on your head.

Swim to the surface and take a big breath of air.

Blow the air out of your blowhole and make a big SPLASH!

Dive down deep into the cool, quiet water.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- Let's talk about choices. You are old enough to choose things like paint colors for a craft or what you will wear to school. As you get older, you will have even more choices.
- One of the most important things we choose is how to act and what to say. No one makes the right choice all the time. (Only Jesus did that.) But each time we make a bad choice, we can ask God for forgiveness and to help us make better choices.
- Today we're going to learn about Jonah. He was a prophet who disobeyed God. To find out what happened, let's hear his story.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *Jonah and the Whale*

This story can be found in the Book of Jonah, Chapters 1 and 2.

## Special Effects Fun

Choose a volunteer for each Sound Effect:

**WIND:** blow to make "whoosh" sounds

**SAILS:** flap an old coat or shirt

**BOAT CREAKING:** rub on a balloon

**THUNDER:** shake a piece of poster board

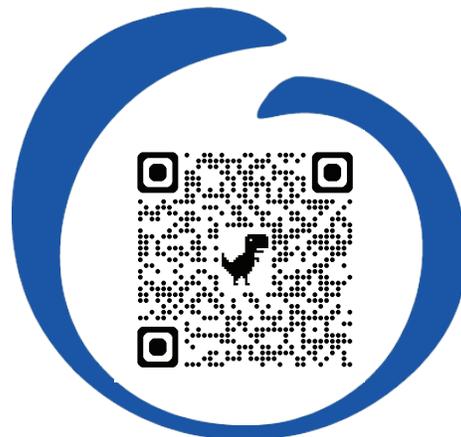
**SNORING:** make snoring noise when Jacob is asleep

**RAIN:** turn a water bottle filled halfway with dry rice



For an added sensory experience (before or after the story) dim the lights and play the sound effect linked to the QR code at the right.

Ask students to think about how it would feel to be swallowed up by a giant fish in the ocean. What could they do in such a scary situation?



## Lesson 9: God Helps Me Make Good Choices *continued*

### **CAST**

**Jonah** - printable puppet on page 108

**Captain** - printable puppet on page 109

**Ship** - printable puppet on page 120

**Whale** - printable puppet on page 121

**Sailors** - students

This is Jonah!



### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Jonah:** Hi, I'm Jonah! I'm one of God's prophets. I hear His Word and share it with other people. God asked me to go to Nineveh (NIN-uh-vuh), where people are doing bad things.

**Jonah:** I don't want to disobey God, but I'm scared to go there. It's a big city with dangerous people. Hmmm. Here's a boat going the other way. I think I'll take that one!

**Captain:** I am the Captain of this ship. Pay me a fare, and you can sail with us.

**Jonah:** No problem!

**Leader:** After the ship sailed, God caused a huge storm to blow up.

**FX:** Cue wind, rain, creaking ship, flapping sails

**Captain:** This is the worst storm we've ever seen. Soon our ship will break apart. Where is Jonah?

**Sailor:** I think he's sleeping down below.

**FX:** Cue snoring

**Captain:** Who could sleep through this? Wake him! If he prays to his God, maybe this storm will stop.

**Jonah:** (enters) Good sailors, I am the reason for this storm. I follow God, but I have disobeyed him. Throw me into the sea, and you will be safe.

**Captain:** We can't do that. You will surely drown! We will row as hard as we can to escape the storm.

**FX:** Storm sounds continue

**Captain:** Hmm, on second thought...Please forgive us, God.

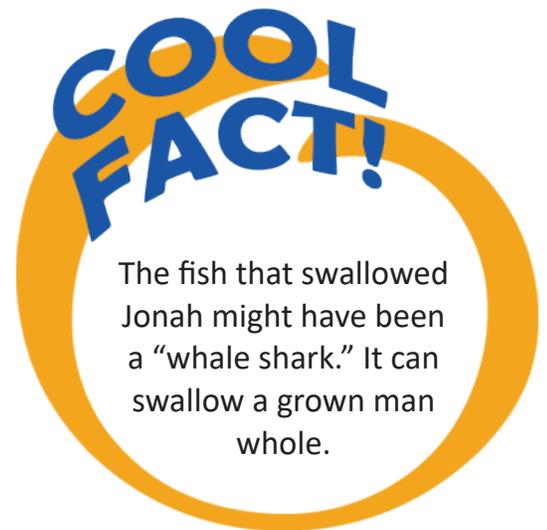
**Leader:** They throw Jonah overboard, and right away, the storm stops.

**Captain:** Thank you, God! From now on, we will always serve you.

**Leader:** Jonah did not drown. Instead, God sent a great fish to swallow him whole. He was inside the fish's great belly for 3 days and nights. All that time, he prayed to God.

**Jonah:** God, please forgive me for running away from you. I am thankful for all you have done for me. And I am sorry for my mistakes.

**Leader:** With this, God told the fish to spit Jonah out. He sent him on a new mission, forgiving his mistakes, and keeping watch over him.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

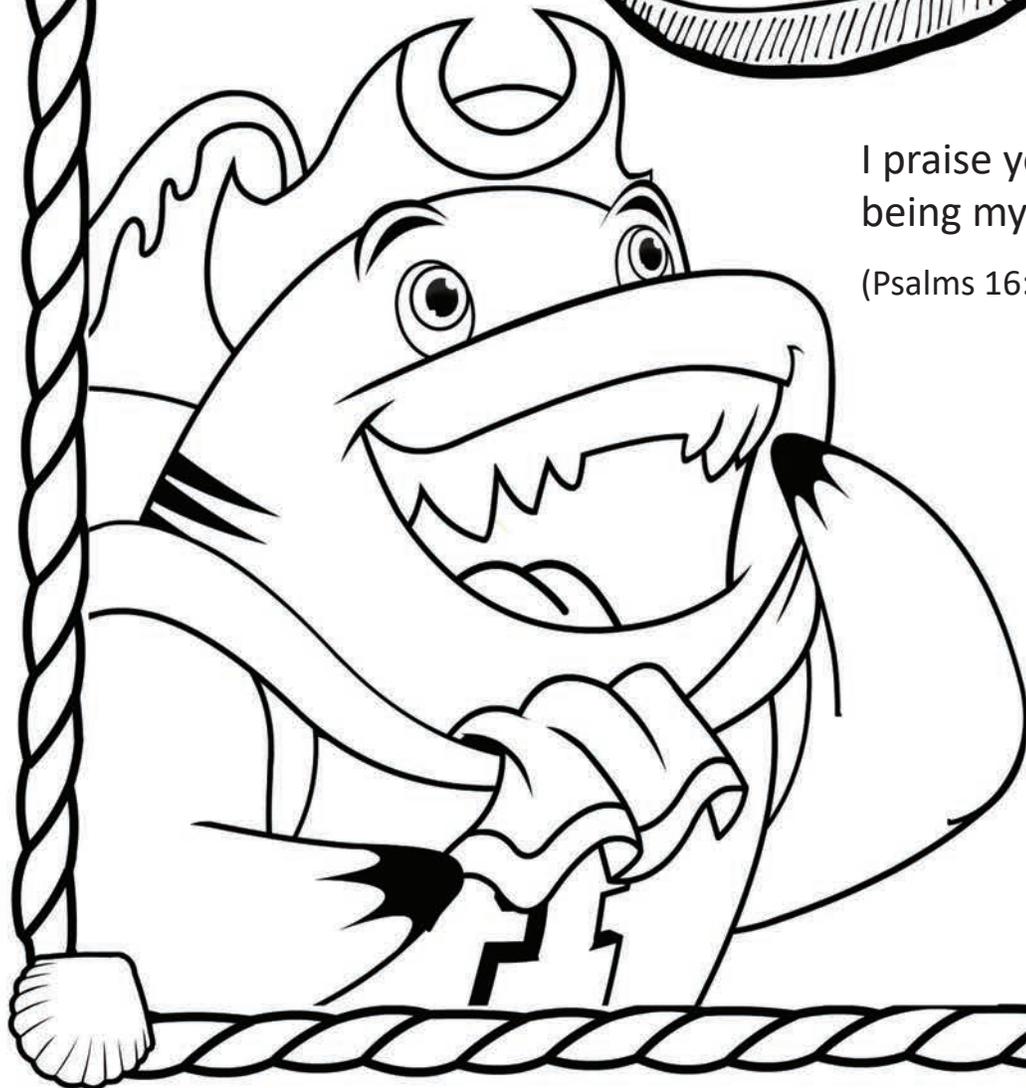
The activities that follow will help children learn how God can guide their choices.

God is my compass!



I praise you, Lord, for  
being my guide.

(Psalms 16:7)



When things get tough, God is there to guide us. If we ask for His help and do our best, He will be there to get us through any storm. Today's coloring sheet will remind us that God has set out a path for us, and we can walk it by praying and following His Word.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

### *Learning Check*

Captain McFinn asks Three-Tooth to help him clean up the S.S. Friendship, but Three-Tooth wants to sleep instead. Use the puppets to show how Three-Tooth's choice affects Captain McFinn and how they can work it out.

(By sleeping, Three-Tooth will make it harder on Captain McFinn to do the work by himself. Another friend might offer to help, showing Three-Tooth the value in helping others and doing a good job. He might apologize to Captain McFinn and decide to help out. He might even find that working with his friends and doing a good job was more fun than sleeping all day.)

### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to study Your Word and follow the path You have for us. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember to trust God and ask for His help when the seas get rough.

A graphic for a video break. It features a yellow cartoon fish with blue fins and a smiling face. To the right of the fish is a large orange circle containing the text "VIDEO BREAK!" in bold blue letters. Below the text is a QR code. Below the QR code is a yellow speech bubble containing the text: "Use the QR code to find the video 'The Legend of Captain McFinn.'"



## Lesson 10: God Hears Me



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

God watches over me and hears my prayers.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the animals. Let's be an animal. Let's be a lion!

Give yourself space. Stand on all four paws.

Hold your head high. You're the king of the jungle.

Shake your fluffy mane from side to side.

Let out a great ROAR to let everyone know you're awake.

Now settle into a soft patch of grass,

And let out a relaxed GROWL.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- We've talked about how good it is to pray. But how do we know that God is listening? We can't actually see God or hear His voice. Instead, we have faith in God and trust that He is with us.
- Think about someone who loves you very much, like a parent, or grandparent, or someone else who cares for you. After they tuck you into bed, you feel safe knowing they are nearby. Even when you can't see them, you know that they will protect and care for you.
- It's the same with God and His love for us. To learn more, let's hear a story about Daniel and some very hungry lions.



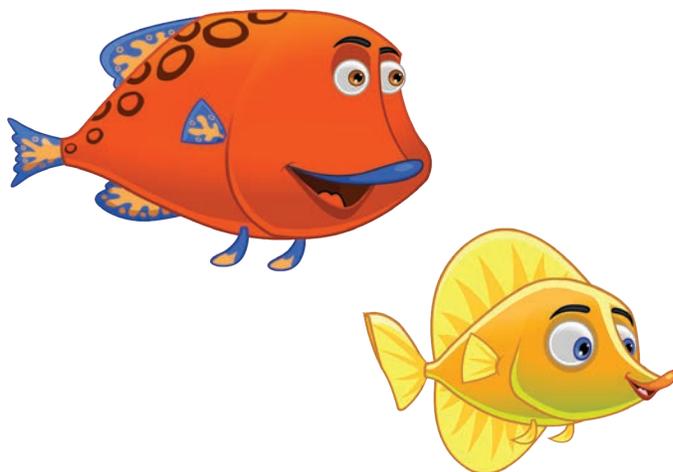
### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *Daniel and the Lions*

This story can be found in the book of Daniel, Chapter 6.

## Audience Participation

Before the story, use the QR code to play the sound of lions roaring. How would it feel to be in the dark and hear this sound? With the cue in the story, let children play the role of the hungry lions by adding their own roars.



## Lesson 10: God Hears Me *continued*

### CAST

**King Darius** - printable puppet on page 108

**Daniel** - printable puppet on page 111

**Court Man 1** - printable puppet on page 111

**Court Man 2** - printable puppet on page 112

This is Daniell!



### BIBLE STORY SCRIPT

**Daniel:** Hi, I'm Daniel. I love God very much. I pray to Him three times a day, no matter what. I share all my problems and feelings with God. It's good to know He's there for me.

**King Darius:** Ah, Daniel! You have been a loyal friend and served me for many years. Because I trust you so much, I'm giving you power over the entire kingdom.

**Daniel:** Wow. Thanks, your highness. I will not let you down.

**Court Man 1:** Did you hear about Daniel? The king put him in charge of everything!

**Court Man 2:** Just wait until he makes a mistake. Then we'll turn the king against him.

**Court Man 1:** He'll never make a mistake. He's too good for that. But I have an idea!

**Court Man 1:** (to King) Your majesty, we would like to pass a new law in the land. Everyone should pray to you, the King, and only to you.

**Court Man 2:** Anyone who breaks this law should be thrown into the lions' den.

**King Darius:** Pray only to me? Hmm, that sounds good. The law is passed!

**Leader:** Meanwhile, Daniel bowed and prayed to God, like always.

**Court Guy 1:** Ah ha!! You have broken the law.

**Daniel:** But...I have always prayed to God this way. I'm not hurting anyone.

**Court Guy 2:** That doesn't matter. The law is the law. Into the lions' den!

**King Darius:** Daniel, you are my trusted friend, but I must uphold the law. I only hope your God will rescue you.

**Court Guy 1:** Seal it shut!

**King Darius:** I won't be able to sleep or eat tonight...thinking about my friend trapped in there with hungry lions.

**Leader:** The next morning, the king rushed to the lions den.

**King Darius:** Open the den. Daniel! Are you still alive?

**Daniel:** Long live the king! God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. I am safe!

**King Darius:** If God saves a man like Daniel, he must be a loving and just God. I ask all the people of the land to pray to God. And as for you two...into the lions' den with you both!

**Court Guys:** Ahhhhhh!



### ••• GROWING IDEAS

The activities that follow will remind children that God is always listening to their prayers.



## How do I pray?

I thank God  
for my  
blessings.

I ask for  
forgiveness  
when I do  
wrong.

I ask for  
help with  
hard things.

I pray for  
others who  
need help.

The Lord is close to everyone  
who prays to him.

(Psalms 145:18)

As we learn to pray, it helps to have some guidance. Today's coloring sheet can provide children with a starting point for their prayers. Have them decorate it with colored pencils or crayons. Encourage them to take the sheets home and display them in their rooms, where they can be reminded of ways to pray to God and be closer to Him.



### • • • CLOSING CIRCLE

### *Learning Check*

Tox hears some things about a friend getting into trouble. He really wants to tell Stank what he heard, but he isn't sure it's true. Use the puppets to show what Tox can do.

(Tox can say a prayer, asking God to guide him and help him to be a better fish. He can make a choice not to tell Stank, but instead, to ask the other friend if everything is okay.)

### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to bring everything to You in prayer. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that God is always listening to us.

**VIDEO BREAK!**

Use the QR code to find the video "Because of You."



## Lesson 11: God Has a Plan for Me



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

God has a plan for me.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the animals. Let's be an animal. Let's be a bear!

Give yourself space. Move on all fours and slowly explore a forest.

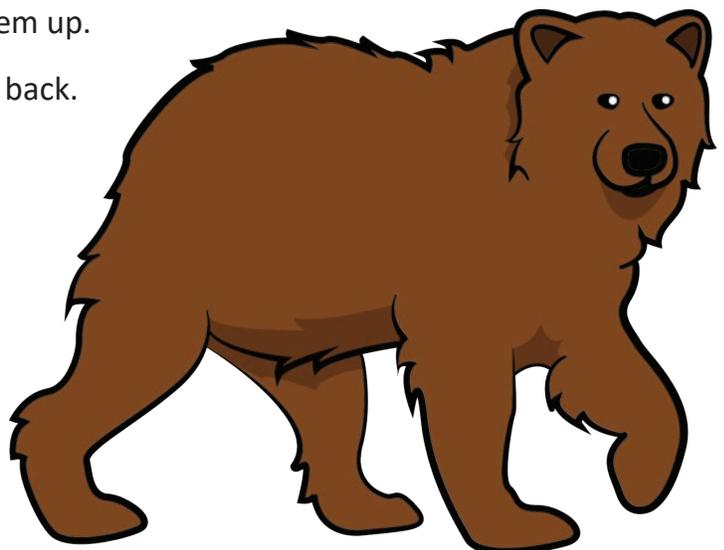
Sniff around and find some juicy berries. Gobble them up.

Lie down and roll in some soft grass to scratch your back.

Rise up on your strong back legs,

And let out a long, deep GRRRRRROWL.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- Let's talk about mistakes. We all make them, and they can be hard. But every mistake is a chance to learn and grow and do things better next time.
- God understands our mistakes. When we make a bad choice, God still loves us, and He wants to help. But we have to do some work. Let's say you borrow a friend's favorite toy. But you're not careful, and the toy breaks into lots of pieces. What are some good choices you can make?
- We can pray to thank God for his forgiveness and to ask Him to guide us. We can think about what happened and make a plan for what to do next. We can say we're sorry, offer to fix the toy, or help to clean up the mess.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### **Rahab**

This story can be found in Chapter 2 of the book of Joshua.

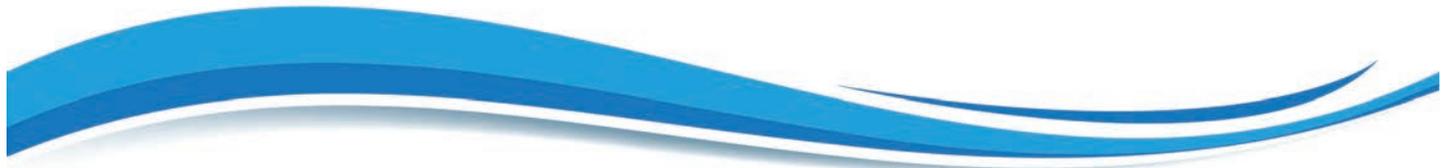
### **Fun with Props**

Using a spool of red ribbon, cut a length for each student to hold during the story. You may want to tie each ribbon around their wrists, or simply let them wave it when cued.

Have a ribbon of your own, to signal that it's time to show their own ribbons. This will connect them with Rahab, and remind them that God also has a plan for their lives.

This is Rahab!





## Lesson 11: God Has a Plan for Me continued

### **CAST**

**Guard** - printable puppet on page 108

**Explorer 1** - printable puppet on page 115

**Rahab** - printable puppet on page 116

**Explorer 2** - printable puppet on page 118

### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Leader:** This is Rahab. She lived in the city of Jericho. She made some bad mistakes in the past.

**Rahab:** It's true. I made some bad choices in the past.

**Leader:** But God had a plan for Rahab. He knew that her heart was good.

**Students:** (wave their red ribbons) God has a plan for me!

**Leader:** God had promised his people a safe place to live. And to get to this Promised Land, they would have to travel through Rahab's town, called Jericho. So two of God's people went into Jericho to search the city and find the best way through.

**Explorer 1:** It's getting late. We need a place to hide for the night.

**Rahab:** You are the people of God. I have heard about His great love and how He protects His people. You may hide in my home.

**Students:** (wave their red ribbons) God has a plan for me!

**Explorers:** Thank you.

**Leader:** Now, the King of Jericho heard that God’s men were in his city. He sent his men to find them.

**Guard:** Knock knock. We heard there might be some spies hiding in the city. Anyone who hides them will be sent to jail. Have you seen them?

**Rahab:** (shaking with fear) Yes, they were here. But they left a few minutes ago. If you go that way, you can still catch them!

**Leader:** Rahab gave God’s men a chance to escape from the city.

**Explorer 1:** You trusted God, and you were brave when it wasn’t easy.

**Students:** (wave their red ribbons) God has a plan for me!

**Explorer 2:** Tie this red rope to your window. This will remind our people not to harm you or your family when we come back.

**Leader:** And that’s exactly what happened. God protected Rahab when the city of Jericho was invaded. She and her family were safe. God turned her past mistakes into something good by giving her a chance to trust Him and follow His word.

**Students:** (wave their red ribbons) God has a plan for me!



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Even though Rahab made mistakes in the past, God knew her heart. He had a plan for her, and he guided her to safety and a meaningful life. Today’s activities will help us see how we can overcome our own mistakes and fulfill God’s plan for us.



# God helps me learn from my mistakes!

If you hide your mistakes, you will not succeed. If you confess and reject them, you will receive mercy.

(Proverbs 28:13)



Everyone else is better than me.

I can ask God for patience and strength.

Practice will help me learn.

I should just quit.

I'll never get better.

How can I get better?

This is hard, but I'll keep trying.

I can try a new way.

Rahab made some big mistakes in the past. But God had a plan for her. He knew that she could take those mistakes, and turn them into something good. For today's activity, read each bubble to students. Which ones can help us move on from our mistakes and become better in God's eyes? Color those bubbles. Which ones will not help? Put an X over those bubbles.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

#### *Learning Check*

Three-Tooth worked all summer delivering pizzas. He saved his money to buy a guitar, but before he could buy it, some fish stole his money. Now, Three-Tooth feels like he will never have a guitar. Use the puppets to show what might happen if Three-Tooth remembers to trust God.

(Three-Tooth could ask a friend for advice or help. He and the friend could pray for God to help him work through what happened and make a new plan.)

#### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to learn about Your Word and trust in Your plan for us. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

#### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember that God can help us turn our mistakes into something good.



## Lesson 12: God is Kindness



### • • • MAIN MESSAGE

God wants me to share His kindness by helping others in need.



### • • • OPENING CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

#### *Opening Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time to learn more about God the Father. We ask that You open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, so that we may get to know and understand Him better. In Your Name we pray – Amen.

## What God Made

God made the oceans. Let's be an animal in the ocean. Let's be a shark!

Give yourself space.

Glide through the water with your powerful fins.

Slide the fin on your back through the waves.

Feel tiny fish brush against your sides and back,

Tickling you and keeping your skin shiny and clean.

Breathe deep through your gills,

And swim off to a new adventure.

Isn't it amazing...what God made?



## Talking Points for Leaders

- God showed us loving kindness by sending his only Son, Jesus, to save us. With the teachings of Jesus, we can learn to show that same kindness to others. But how?
- First, we need to use our eyes and ears to find people who might need help. If you see someone struggling to carry a heavy box through a doorway, what can you do to help? (Open the door.) If you see someone trying to study, and you're being loud, what can you do? (Say you're sorry and quiet down.)
- What are some other kind things we can do to help people? (allow answers to be shared) To learn more, let's hear the story of The Good Samaritan.



### • • • GOD'S STORY

#### *The Good Samaritan*

This story is found in Luke 10: 25-37.

## Casting Call

Instead of using puppets, our final lesson will give students a chance to play the roles of the Good Samaritan, the Traveling Man, his donkey, the robbers, the Priest, and the Levite.

Select volunteers, and remind them to take their roles seriously. After all, this is a story told by Jesus to his followers, and it carries a very important message.

This is the Good Samaritan!





## Lesson 12: God is Kindness continued

### **CAST**

**Traveler**  
**Good Samaritan**  
**Donkey**  
**Robbers**  
**Priest**  
**Levite**  
**Wise Man**  
**Jesus**

### **BIBLE STORY SCRIPT**

**Wise Man:** Jesus, is it true that we will please God if we love him with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves?

**Jesus:** That is true, my friend.

**Wise Man:** But who is my neighbor? Do I need to love the people who live next door to me? Or on my street? Or all of the people in my town?

**Jesus:** Let me share a story that might help. One day, a Jewish man was walking home on a very long road. Sometimes, robbers would hide along this road, waiting to attack people.

**Traveler** and **Donkey** walk together on a dangerous road, looking nervous.

**Wise Man:** Sounds dangerous.

**Jesus:** Oh, it was. In fact, the man was attacked by robbers. They took his money and beat him. Then they left him on the road with many cuts and bruises.

**Robbers** jump out and scare the **Traveling Man**. From a safe distance they can pretend to raise their fists at him and take his money.

**Wise Man:** What happened then, Lord?

**Jesus:** A **Priest** soon walked by and saw the Jewish man, who cried out, “Please, help me.” But the Priest crossed the road and pretended not to notice the man.

**Priest** crosses the road and ignores the hurt **Traveler**.

**Wise Man:** Wasn’t the Priest supposed to be a man of God?

**Jesus:** Yes, and the next person who walked by was a Levite, a leader in the church. But he would not even look at the man. By now, the Traveler was too weak to call for help.

**Levite** walks past, not even looking at the hurt **Traveler**.

**Wise Man:** (looks down and shakes head) How sad.

**Samaritan** walks by and sees the **Traveler**.

**Jesus:** As the sun began to set, a man from Samaria walked by. Now, Samaritans and Jews were not friendly. In fact, they were sworn enemies. But the Samaritan did not think of that. Instead, he treated the man’s cuts and helped him onto his donkey.

**Samaritan** helps to dress the **Traveler’s** wounds and leads him and the **Donkey** to safety.

**Leader:** Then he took him to an Inn and made sure he was safe before leaving him. The Samaritan showed the man kindness, and loved him, even though he had been taught to hate him.

**Wise Man:** So God wants us to love everyone, not just our neighbors.

**Jesus:** Exactly. Now, go into the world, and show the same kindness to all the people you meet.



### • • • GROWING IDEAS

Being a Kindness Explorer means looking out for ways to help others. Today’s sheets will teach children to use their imaginations and look for out for those who need some kindness.



# My Acts of Kindness



Being a Kindness Explorer means looking out for people who need a little help. For today's sheet, ask them to walk around class and meet another student. Have them think of one kind thing to say to the student. Give them time to color Three-Tooth and one shell. When they take the sheets home, they can color another shell for each kind thing they do or say.



### ••• CLOSING CIRCLE

### *Learning Check*

Three-Tooth is late for school. He swims past Tox, whose fin is caught on a rock. Three-Tooth doesn't want to be late, but he knows Tox needs help. Use the puppets to show what happens.

(Three-Tooth can stop to help, then explain what happened to his teacher. He can remind Tox that friends help other friends in trouble. This can be a good lesson to Tox, who sometimes forgets to help others.)

### *Goodbye Prayer*

Thank You Lord Jesus, for this time with our friends and leaders. As we go, we thank You for the chance to share kindness and love with others. We ask that You walk with us and help us to live by Your beautiful example. In Your Holy Name we pray – Amen.

### *Kindness Explorer Badge*

This week's badge will help Kindness Explorers remember to help those in need.



## How to Make the Printable Puppets



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

**Step 1:** Glue an 8" popsicle stick to a piece of poster board or card stock, about 10" tall by 8" wide. Leave 2" to 3" of the stick unglued and off the paper at the bottom.

**Step 2:** Print a puppet from the templates provided. There is no need to cut out the puppet completely at this stage. Apply a glue stick to the back of the printout, making sure to include the edges of the puppet. (Liquid glue may cause the inks in the printout to run.) Glue the puppet printout to the popsicle stick.

**Step 3:** Cut out the puppet and the card stock together using the lines provided. Each puppet is labeled with the roles it will play in the God's Story scripts.

(Note that some puppets are designated to play more than one role.)



# How to Use the Sticker Badges

The stickers are a fun way to reward students for participating in each lesson. You may choose to have them wear the stickers home. Another idea is to cut out 2" by 12" bookmarks and add the stickers to it, six to a side. Encourage them to use the bookmark to remember favorite verses in the Bible.

You may also want to create a bulletin board or wall display with placards for each student. Once all the stickers are added, they can keep the placard, or even wear it home. There, it can serve as a reminder of the lessons they studied.

Stickers and other replacements can be ordered at [www.explorekindess.com](http://www.explorekindess.com) on our Shop page.



2 ½ inches

12 inches



# Printable Puppets: Elijah/Jonah, King Ahab, King Saul, King Darius



# Printable Puppets: Queen Jezebel, Zacchaeus, Captain



# Printable Puppets: Jesus, Shepherd



# Printable Puppets: Widow, Daniel, Court Man 1



# Printable Puppets: Court Man 2



# Printable Puppets: Goliath, Guard



# Printable Puppets: David, Silas, Philip



# Printable Puppets: Servant, Explorer 1, Paul, Andrew



# Printable Puppets: Man with Speck, Rahab



# Printable Puppets: Man with Plank, Boy



## Printable Puppets: Man from Town, Explorer 2



Printable: Ship



Printable: Whale



Printable: Bella



## Printable: Three - Tooth



Printable: Captain McFinn



Printable: Inky







