

big faith

SESSION 11

Unit 3: Recipe for Love

Faith Focus: Jesus teaches us to love and welcome others.

Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. (John 13:34)

GROW IN FAITH

One Part Kindness—Mark 10:13-16

In today's Bible story, Jesus blesses little children. The disciples try to keep the children from Jesus, but Jesus is not having it! He reprimands the disciples for keeping the children away and makes a clear statement that access to him and to God's love is for everyone. Jesus also uses this as an example to teach the disciples about the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven can be a difficult concept for children (and adults) to understand. Some people refer to the coming kingdom of heaven, alluding to a time in the future. However, Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven can be a present reality. By blessing the children, Jesus showed the time is now to welcome all into the kingdom.

Children can relate to being told not to do something or maybe feeling too small to be included. Teaching this story is an opportunity to affirm children as an integral part of God's family. A kind and generous kingdom is a kingdom for even those who are small.

- Explore the idea of the kingdom of heaven.
- Discuss who is kept from God's love.
- Identify strengths and abilities of kids.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

Kindness Coupons (Craft)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

FUN WITH FAITH

Cards for Kindness (Service/Craft)

Kindness Journal (Journaling)

Kindness Story (Storytelling)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

SUPPLIES

scissors

stapler

CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

crayons

construction paper

markers

stickers

pencils

kitchen utensil

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with the supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Spring Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the sticker of children on the Session 11 space.

SAY: We are learning about the recipe to love and welcome others. One important ingredient is kindness.

Faith Focus—Jesus Teaches Us to Love and Welcome Others

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Jesus showed kindness by welcoming children to be with him as he taught.

ASK: Is there anyone in your life who makes you feel welcome? What do they do?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

Kindness Coupons

Supplies: Activity Sheets, scissors, stapler

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Kindness Coupons" (Session 11 Activity Sheet) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the activity sheet.

SAY: We can help others feel loved and welcomed by finding opportunities to be kind.

- Have the children follow directions for the "Kindness Coupons" activity sheet.

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: *CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read the story of Jesus welcoming the children (Mark 10:13–16) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: How do you think the children who were welcomed by Jesus felt?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: *Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device*

- Watch the Session 11 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, as small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: *All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) and Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) if you haven't already.*

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you: "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other" (John 13:34).

SAY: Jesus cares about all people. Jesus is kind to everyone.

ASK: How do you show kindness?

SAY: Jesus showed kindness by inviting the children to be close to him. We can be kind in lots of ways.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write one way he or she might be kind this week. Let the children stick the notes on the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Cards for Kindness

Supplies: construction paper, markers, stickers

Prepare Ahead: Contact a local children's hospital or ER and arrange to drop off cards for kids who are in the hospital.

SAY: Sometimes people need extra kindness. When we are sick or sad, people send cards to show kindness and concern. We are going to make get-well cards for kids who are sick at the hospital.

- Have the children create cards for sick kids. Collect the cards so you can take them to the hospital or ER you contacted beforehand.

Kindness Journal

Supplies: pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible "Kindness Journal" (Leader Guide—p. 76).

- Give each child a copy of the reproducible.

SAY: Kindness sometimes requires planning and thoughtfulness. Let's take some time to think about kindness.

- Have the children follow the instructions for "Kindness Journal."

Kindness Story

Supplies: kitchen utensil

SAY: Kindness can be fun. Let's work together to tell a story about kindness.

- Have the children sit in a circle.
- Begin by holding a kitchen utensil and starting the story with the phrase "Once there was a very kind child who wanted to spread kindness to others."
- Pass the utensil to the child beside you. Have the child holding the kitchen utensil say one sentence to add to the story and then pass the utensil.
- The next child adds one more sentence and passes the utensil. Each sentence should build on the one before it to tell a story about someone being kind.
- Continue until everyone has had a chance to add to the story.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Jesus

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Spring Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21).

Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) as needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: Kindness helps us love and welcome others. It is an essential ingredient.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Have each child share one word to describe how she or he feels when someone is kind to her or him.
- Invite the children to pray with you.

PRAY: Lord, we are grateful that you teach us to be kind. Help us to show kindness to others. Amen.

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received it yet.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session.

REPRODUCIBLE
SESSION 11
Kindness Journal

Respond to the journaling questions below about kindness.

How has someone
shown you kindness?

How do you feel when
someone is kind?

How could you be kind to someone?