

**Focus:** Be Kind to Others

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD-Toddlers 20 Favorite Bible Songs  
Bible: In Lesson plan  
Foam Heart  
Book: No Matter What-Debi Gliori

**Gathering** ((have children sit on the floor-“Criss-Cross Applesauce”)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked how Jesus wants us to love others. Today we are going to hear Jesus tell us again that we should be kind to others and carry love in our hearts.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Loving God, help us to follow Jesus and be kind to others. In the name of Jesus we pray.  
Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Isn't He Wonderful?* track: 9, from Toddler 20 Favorite Bible Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. )

Isn't He wonderful, wonderful,  
wonderful!  
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!  
Eyes have seen, ears have heard

It's recorded in God's Word  
Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful!  
Repeat all

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*Good people have good in their hearts.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

*Say: Everything we do, every choice we make trains our hearts to be good or not so good. If we are always selfish, mean and unkind, our heart will learn that and that is what we will be. But, if we do kind things for others and show others we love them, like Jesus teaches us. We will have good hearts. We will do good things without even thinking. The good in our hearts will keep us making good choices.*

**Gospel Story**

*Say: Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

**Read:** *n/a*, pp. *n/a*, *n/a*

Jesus asked a question to the crowd:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

Can a blind person lead another blind person?

[Cover your eyes and pretend to look around the room]

Won't they both fall into a pit?

[Pretend to stumble]

Jesus said:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

“A good tree does not produce bad fruit,

[Shake your head no]

and a rotten tree does not bear good fruit.

[Shake your head no]

Each tree will produce its own fruit.

[Pretend to pick fruit from a tree]

You do not pick figs from a thorn bush or grapes from prickles.”

[Shake your head no]

Jesus said:

[Chatty hand, thumb against fingers]

“Good people have good things in their heart to help others.

[Smile and put your hands on your heart]

Evil people bring bad things out of the evil stored in their hearts.

[Frown and make an 'x' in the air with your fingers]

What you do and say is what is in your heart.”

[Make a heart with your hand]

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Why do you think Jesus asked the question about the blind person?*
- *Would it be easy for the blind to lead the blind?*
- *What kind of fruit does a healthy tree have?*
- *What kind of fruit does a rotten tree have?*
- *What kind of heart does Jesus want us to have?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*Jesus had a lot to say about fruit and trees. He told his followers that they were to bear fruit. I don't think he was talking about apples, oranges, and bananas. What do you think Jesus meant when told his followers to bear fruit for him? [Give the children time to answer]. When Jesus says that good people produce good fruit, he doesn't mean the kind of fruit that we eat. He means that if we are following him, we will want to do the things that make God happy. We will do good things,*

*we will help people, we will share what we have with others, and we will treat other people with respect.*

*Jesus said, "A tree is identified by its fruit. A good person produces good things from a good heart, but an evil person will produce bad things from an evil heart. What kind of fruit tree do you want to be?"*

### **Gospel Activity**

#### Activity 1:

#### **Love Go-Round Game**

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

There's plenty of love to go around,  
The more and more we share.  
Where is the love that goes around?  
Where is the love, O where?

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to be kind to others.

(You can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know, Jesus loves the little children, This little light of mine; instead of the verse.)

Repeat as time allows.

#### Activity 2:

"God Loves us Always.

Read the story No Matter What, Debi Gliori.

Explain that just as 'Large' loved 'Small' no matter what. God loves us no matter what.

Let's pray: Heavenly God, when we make a mistake, help us to ask for forgiveness and try to make it right so that our hearts can be filled with your grace. Help us also to forgive people that hurt us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who wants us to be kind to others?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us about God's love?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us show the love in our hearts to others?*

**Sending Forth**

*Say: When we go back to church remember to take a quiet moment to say a thank you prayer to God for loving us so much.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play “*Father, We Thank Thee*” track 13 from Toddler 20 Favorite Songs while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.