LESSON 8: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—KINDNESS AND GOODNESS

AIM: To show the children that when Jesus is ‘boss’ of our lives, He gives the Holy Spirit so that we can live good lives and be kind to others.

DEFINITIONS: Kindness: sincere desire for the happiness of others. Goodness: the outworking of the attitude into actions.

Kindness causes us to be sensitive to the needs of others. Goodness is kindness in action, both in word and deed. It is also important that the children understand that we should not expect anything in return for our kindness to others. It is the natural expression of a servant’s heart. Kindness usually shows itself in the little things.

GAME:
Equipment: a large rubber ball
How to play:
1. The children stand in a circle
2. Assign a different number to each child.
3. “It” stands in the middle of the circle and throws the ball up in the air. As he throws the ball, he calls out one of the numbers.
4. The child with that number runs to catch the ball on the first bounce.
5. The child who catches the ball must say something kind and positive about “It”.
6. That child then becomes “It”.

Encourage the children to say things like, “I like the way you smile” or “You draw really good drawings” or “I appreciate you playing with me”, etc.

MEMORY VERSE: “… whenever we can we should be kind to everyone…” (Galatians 6:10)
STORY: DAVID SHOWS KINDNESS (2 Samuel 9)

David had a wonderful friend whose name was Jonathan. They shared many happy times together. Jonathan was a true friend to David. He kept David’s secrets and protected David from danger. They shared the good times and the bad times and never let each other down.

(Ask the children if they have a friend like that or more importantly, whether they themselves are that kind of friend to others.)

Even though Jonathan was dead, David did not stop loving him; and because love ALWAYS shows itself in kind actions, David wanted to help Jonathan’s family.

One of Jonathan’s sons was named Mephibosheth, or “Mephi”. He was lame in both feet. When David heard about this son, he called him to the palace. Mephi was frightened. He thought that King David might be angry with him. So when he arrived at the palace, he fell on his face in fear. Just like you probably would if, say, Queen Elizabeth called you to Buckingham palace!

King David told Mephi not to be afraid, that he only wanted to show him kindness. David gave Mephi all the land and houses and servants that once belonged to his grandfather (King Saul, Jonathan’s father). He was allowed to live in the palace as though he were the king’s own son.

LIFE APPLICATION:
Encourage the children to give a kind word or do a kind deed to someone else. If they receive a lolly, sticker or prize during the lesson, encourage them to give it to someone else (after the lesson), rather than keep it for themselves.
David and Jonathan were best friends. How did David show kindness to Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, and why?

DEFINITION OF …..

- KINDNESS: a sincere desire for the happiness of others.
- GOODNESS: the outworking of the attitude into actions.
David had a wonderful friend whose name was ______. They shared many ______ times together. Jonathan was a ______ friend to David. He kept David’s secrets and protected David from danger. They shared the good times and the ______ times and never let each other down.

Even though Jonathan had died, David did not stop loving his friend. David wanted to help Jonathan’s ______ because love always shows itself in kindness ______.  

One of Jonathan’s sons was named M ______ (or “Mephi”). He was lame in both ______. When David heard about this son of Jonathan’s, he called him to the royal ______. Mephi was frightened. He thought that King David might be ______ with him. So when he arrived at the palace, he fell on his face in ______. 

King David told Mephi not to be afraid, that he only wanted to show him ______. David gave Mephi all the land and house and servants that once belonged to his grandfather, King Saul (Jonathan’s father). He was allowed to live in the palace as though he were the king’s own ______.

David had shown ______ and kindness, the ______ of the Holy ______.
A LAME BOY at the KING'S TABLE

2 Samuel 9

When David became king he asked if there were any members of Saul's family still living. He was told that Mephibosheth, Jonathan's lame son, was still living. David sent for Mephibosheth, who came and bowed down before the king.

Follow the maze of letters to find out what David said to Mephibosheth.

START

Add or subtract the number of letters written under each line.

David also told Mephibosheth, “You shall \( \frac{D+1}{W-3} \cdot \frac{C-2}{B-1} \cdot \frac{R+2}{A+1} \) like one of my \( \frac{Q+2}{J+2} \cdot \frac{P-1}{H-3} \cdot \frac{M+1}{V-3} \).”