

Listen. Talk. Go.
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Week of October 1

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Micah 6:8 with your family. Then read from your Bible or a children's Bible, the story of friends lowering a hurt friend through the roof (Mark 2:1-5, 12).

Have you ever wondered if you could help someone else out? Sometimes we feel like we don't have enough strength, energy, knowledge, or money to help someone out. Sometimes we let our thoughts and feelings get in the way of helping someone else out. That's normal.

In today's story, there were some really good friends. They all had a friend who had never walked before. He was born where his legs just didn't work the same way as their own legs. The friends had heard about Jesus and knew that Jesus sometimes healed people. They decided to take their friend to Jesus to see if Jesus could help him walk.

When they got to the house they couldn't get inside. There were so many people there that they were standing all around. They hit a major road block. But the friends didn't give up. They came up with a new plan. They decided to carry their friend to the roof, and then lower him down into the house, right in front of Jesus! Carefully they worked together to do this.

(Houses were also built differently back when Jesus walked on the earth. The roof of a house was often flat and made of hay or leaves. They could safely climb up there with a ladder and pull back the hay or leaves to be able to lower their friend to Jesus.)

When Jesus saw the man that couldn't walk, and saw all that the friends did just to get their disabled friend to Jesus, he healed him. Right then and there he was able to stand, pick up his mat, and walk home!

In the Bible, in Micah 6:8, we are told to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. These good friends knew what it meant to do justice. They didn't give up on helping their friend. They wanted a better life for their friend, so they brought him to Jesus.

We can be a good friend and we can do justice by helping those around us have a better life. We can help people around us who are sick, lonely, ignored, or who need help of any kind.

Talk.

- I wonder how the disabled man felt as he was being lowered through the roof.
- I wonder how Jesus felt when he saw the disabled man and his friends.
- How can you help someone in your community who is in need of help?

Dear God, help us to look for ways to do justice by helping those in need. Help us to keep our eye open to those around us. Fill our hearts with compassion that we are moved to action to do justice and help all that we meet this week. Amen.

Go.

Preschool-Early Elementary: Find a baby doll or stuffed toy. Lay down a blanket or towel. Together carry the doll or toy around the house just like the friends carried the disabled man to Jesus.

Older Elementary: Pick out someone you can help this week. Write the person's name down. Decide what action you can do to help them (bring them food, mow their lawn, make them a card, help them study for a test, sit with them at lunch, etc.). Decide what day this week you are going to carry out this action to help. Pray and ask God to give you the courage you need to help those around you.

Week of October 8

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Micah 6:8 with your family. Then read from your Bible or a children's Bible, the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

What do you think it means to be kind? The dictionary says that kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

In this week's story we see three different people act differently when they passed the hurt man on the road. The first two people ignored the hurt man. The third person, the Samaritan, showed kindness to the hurt man by stopping to help take care of him.

Talk.

- I wonder why Jesus told this story.
- I wonder it was difficult for the Samaritan to help the hurt man? Why or why not?
- Tell about a time when someone was kind to you. What did they do? How did you feel?
- Why does Jesus want us to be kind?
- Who does Jesus want us to be kind to?

Dear God, thank you for giving us the ability to be kind to other people. Sometimes we know it's hard to be kind to others, especially others we don't know or don't like. Help us to show kindness the way the Samaritan did. Thank you for all the people who are kind to us.

Go.

Make your house a place of random acts of kindness this week! Have everyone come up with a different way to show kindness to each person in your household this week. Some ideas: Help

grown-ups cook a meal for the family. Clean up toys for someone else. Make someone else's bed. Help a sibling with homework. Make a card for someone in your family, and lay it on their pillow to find when they get home.

Week of October 15

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Micah 6:8 with your family. Then read from your Bible or a children's Bible, the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:1-23).

In Micah 6:8, the Bible tells us to walk humbly with God. This means to try to each day to live the way God has taught us – loving God and loving others.

In the story about Daniel, we see how Daniel humbly follows God. He prays to God and worships the one true God three times a day. Even when the king was tricked into making a law that no one could pray to God for 30 days, Daniel still only prayed to God.

Because Daniel was faithful to God, God sent someone to protect Daniel.

Talk.

- I wonder how God felt when Daniel kept praying to God.
- I wonder how Daniel felt when he was thrown into the lion's den.
- Who has God put in your life that protects you?

Dear God, thank you for protecting Daniel when he was in the lion's den. Thank you for sending people to protect us. Help us to follow you each day. Amen.

Go.

Using sidewalk chalk, go outside. Name the people in your lives that God has provided you that protects you in one way or another. Write their names on the sidewalk or driveway. As you write down their name, together say, "Thank you God for _____."

Week of October 22

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Micah 6:8 and Judges 7:1-7, 15-22 with your family.

Have you ever felt like God asked you to do something that was impossible and too hard? What did you do when you felt something was too hard?

Our Bible story this week is about Gideon. Gideon was originally a farmer. And he was also scared. Gideon was scared of a group of people from a place called Midian. They were a bunch

of bullies. In fact, Gideon was so scared of them that when he was harvesting wheat, he did it while hiding out in a cave so that they wouldn't find him and take the wheat.

Gideon wasn't someone you would think was strong or brave. But God had a big plan for Gideon.

God told Gideon that he would lead an army of soldiers to defeat the Midianites once and for all. Gideon didn't believe God had the right person for the job, but after asking God again, God was sure that Gideon was the right person for the job.

Gideon probably thought he would get a large army of trained soldiers who knew how to fight to be able to take on the army bullies from Midian, but that's not what happened. God only gave Gideon 300 men, who were not trained soldiers, to take on the Midian army.

Gideon had a choice to make. Gideon could have ignored God and walked away when the task God was asking him to do was too hard. Or Gideon could choose to follow God and trust in God's plan.

Gideon ended up choosing to follow God's plan and not give up. Gideon, with 300 men and with the help of God, defeated the Midian army.

Talk.

- I wonder why God chose Gideon to defeat an army?
- I wonder if it was hard for Gideon to follow God's plan?
- How did Gideon humbly walk with God and follow God?
- Is following God easy? What could make it easier for you to follow God?

Dear God, thank you for being with us and guiding us just like you did with Gideon. Give us your courage to follow you even when it's hard. Amen.

Go.

Interview someone in your church family about why they chose to follow God. Ask them if there was ever a time that was hard to follow God and what they did.

Week of October 29

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Micah 6:8 with your family.

I like to know what is expected of me. I often ask questions to make sure I know exactly what I'm supposed to do. The scripture we've been reading all month is in response to God's people asking what God wanted them to do.

At this time, God's people had made some bad choices. Instead of choosing God's way they chose their own way and disobeyed God. God's people wanted to know what they had to do to please God. They thought they might be able to give God some gifts in order to please God.

Instead of gifts God said that all we need to do is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Doing justice means caring for the people around you, no matter who they are, and helping people especially people who aren't treated fairly.

Loving kindness means to always make the choice that is caring and compassionate to others.

Walking humbly with God means choosing each day to love God and live the way that Jesus showed us to live.

Isn't it great that we don't have to guess what we are supposed to do?!

Talk.

- Where in the Bible do you see examples of people doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God?
- Who in your life have you seen do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God?
- Do you think it's easy to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God? Why or why not?

Dear God, thank you for telling us what is expected of us. Thank you for loving us. Help us to love others and follow you each day. Amen.

Go.

Using a dry erase marker write on a bathroom mirror or window the following phrase. Let it remind you each day what the Lord requires of you.

“Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly.”