

Family Devotion

(For Preschool & Elementary Children)

"Dress Up"

THE BIG IDEA

"I Will Care About Others and Treat Them Right, Every Single Day and Night!"



POWER VERSE

"Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." - *Ephesians 4:32*

Before the devotion, write the words "compassion" and "kindness" on individual pieces of paper or Post-It notes for each of your kids. Tape or pin these pieces of paper onto one of their extra shirts. Then bring your kids in and show them the shirts. Talk about the following questions:

- What does "kindness" mean?
- What does "compassion" mean? (it means feeling sorry for someone who is suffering and wanting to help them get rid of what's causing them to suffer)
- Can you give some examples of kindness?
- Can you give some examples of compassion?

Then tell your kids to put on the shirts. Don't help them unless they really can't put the shirts on by themselves. Tell them that the Bible says that we're supposed to dress ourselves with compassion and kindness. Ask:

- When I told you to put on the shirt, did you do it by yourself?
- When someone looks at you now, what do they see?
- How would someone know if you were compassionate or kind if you didn't have the signs on you?
- Who are some people you know who need compassion or kindness right now?

Tell your kids that when the Bible says to dress ourselves, it means it's our choice to put on compassion and kindness. Nobody's going to do it for us—in fact, some people will act in ways that will make us want to be mean, not kind. But we have to choose to dress ourselves in ways that make us look more like God, and that includes being kind and compassionate.

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Family Devotion

(For 6th grade & older)

"What Not To Wear"

Think about the following brands of clothes and what you think about the people who wear each brand: Hollister, Juicy Couture, Old Navy, Abercrombie & Fitch, Aeropostale, Ed Hardy, and Forever XXI. Talk about the following questions as you think about these brands or other brands you know of:

- Why do people choose to wear each of these brands?
- What kinds of people wear each of these brands?
- Would you ever wear that brand?
- How conscious are you of the label on your clothes? That is, if the pants or shirt you're wearing didn't show the brand on them somewhere, would you wear it?

Just like we choose which brand of clothing to wear (if we can afford it), we choose what spiritual clothes we wear and people recognize it. For example, we can choose to be compassionate and kind or we can choose to be mean and ignore the needs of other people. It's our choice—no one ever forces us to wear any kind of spiritual clothes that we don't want to.

How easy is it for you to wear compassion and kindness? Do they fit well? Are they comfortable on you, like your favorite pair of jeans? Or do they feel weird because you haven't worn them very much? If people saw you being kind and compassionate, would they notice because it's unusual, or would they say that's how you always act?

Asking yourself these questions is a good way to give yourself a fashion check-up. If you think your friends would be surprised to see you act compassionately, it might be time to ask God for a new wardrobe. He's got an unlimited shopping budget and is always willing to update your spiritual wardrobe!

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