

# Food For Widows

Spring • Lesson 7

## Who?

Jesus' friends, Greek and Hebrew widows, seven helpers

## What?

Jesus' friends showed kindness to Greek widows by choosing helpers to give the women a fair share of food (Acts 6:1-7)

## When & Where?

During the time when the Church had grown to include people of both Greek and Hebrew ancestry, in Jerusalem

## Why?

To help children realize that treating others with kindness helps everyone be friends

### Goals For each child

- 1 **Tell what Jesus' friends did to be kind**
- 2 **Name ways to be kind**
- 3 **Show kindness to others in class**

### Bible Verse

"Be kind to the poor and you will be happy."

(See Proverbs 14:21.)



## Teacher Challenge

Read Acts 6:1-7.

How can this story make a difference in your own life and in the lives of the children you teach?

As more people became Christians, it was discovered that a group of widows were being overlooked, and someone complained to the leaders. The Twelve got together and after discussing the importance of this issue, they decided to turn over the responsibility for making sure that everyone was taken care of to seven godly men who were full of the Holy Spirit. In this way, kindness was shown to all.

- List some kindnesses you have received from others.
- What are some reasons you have for showing kindness to others?

God is our model of kindness. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance. It is *our* kindness that can also lead people to God. Look for simple ways that you can show kindness to those around you throughout the day. Rather than being another thing to add to your to-do list, kind acts should be a natural part of your lifestyle. Your model of kindness will teach the children in your class, and they in turn will begin to display kindness to others.

# Prepare

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## 1 Play to Learn 20 to 30 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children in one or more activities

- ☐ **Dramatic Play Center**  
Pretend to buy food for others and talk about being kind to others  
**Materials:** Bible, toy food, baskets and/or reusable grocery bags
- ☐ **Snack Center**  
Share a snack and talk about how Jesus' friends were kind  
**Materials:** Bible, snack that needs to be cut apart, plastic knives, napkins
- ☐ **Art Center**  
Use watercolors to discover the Bible verse and talk about being kind  
**Materials:** Bible, white crayon, white card stock, newspaper, cups of water, paintbrushes, watercolors
- ☐ **Game Center**  
Play a passing game and talk about being kind by giving things to people in need  
**Materials:** Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, items to donate to a charitable organization, large bag

## 2 Listen to Learn 10 to 15 minutes

One teacher leads this large-group time to guide children in hearing and understanding the Bible story and Bible verse

- ☐ **Come Together**  
**Materials:** Activity Poster 2 from *Visual Resources*
- ☐ **Bible Verse**  
**Materials:** Bible
- ☒ **Prayer**  
**Materials:** None
- ☐ **Song**  
**Materials:** *Preschool Music #1* CD and player
- ☐ **Puppet Time**  
**Materials:** Daffodil puppet, bag of crackers, basket
- ☒ **Bible Story**  
**Materials:** Bible, Figures 33-36 from *Visual Resources*, food item, flannel board

## 3 Talk to Learn 15 minutes

Teachers guide small groups of children to complete *TalkTime* activity page and other activities as time allows

- ☒ **TalkTime Activity Page**  
**Materials:** Bible, Lesson 7 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers
- ☐ **Bible Story Game**  
**Materials:** None



- On *Preschool Music #1* CD, play “Come On In!” (track 1) as children arrive and “Are You Ready?” (track 15) during cleanup time

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Check off one  
or more options for  
each step of the lesson

## Dramatic Play Center

### Collect

Bible, toy food, baskets and/or reusable grocery bags.

### Do

Children set out toy food on shelves to make a store. Children take turns buying and selling food. Children tell who they want to buy food for and pretend to give food to others.

### Teaching Tip

If your classroom does not have toy food available for children to play with, children use blocks as pretend boxes of food.



### Enrichment Idea

Provide a toy cash register and toy money for children to use.

## Snack Center

### Collect

Bible, snack that needs to be cut apart (pan of brownies, unfrosted cake, etc.), plastic knives, napkins.

### Do

Children wash hands. Place snack on table. Children work together to divide snack so that each person in the room can have an equal amount. Children serve snack to each other.

### Teaching Tip

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.



### Talk About

- Today in our Bible story, some women were not getting enough food to eat. They said, "We're hungry. Please give us more food." Jesus' friends were kind. They chose helpers to give food to the women.
- The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." Jesus' friends were kind to the poor. We can obey the Bible and be kind, too.
- Who can you be kind to? What can you do to be kind when you are playing a game?
- The women were glad Jesus' friends were kind. They said, "Thank you for the food." When people are kind, everyone gets along better.

### Kindergarten Challenge

Provide small sheets of paper and markers. Children draw pictures and dictate words to make signs for the store, advertising special sales on their favorite foods.

### Kindergarten Challenge

Children divide up other things in the classroom (blocks, stickers, etc.), figuring out how much each person can have so that everyone ends up with the same amount.



## Art Center

### Collect

Bible, white crayon, white card stock, newspaper, cups of water, paint brushes, watercolors.

### Prepare

For each child, use white crayon to print “Be kind” and draw a happy face on a sheet of white card stock.



### Do

Cover table with newspaper and give children cups of water, paintbrushes and watercolors. Children paint over the white paper you prepared to reveal the message and the happy face. Lead children in reading the words on the paper and repeating Proverbs 14:21.

### Teaching Tips

1. Heavy card stock or other nonabsorbent paper will work best for this activity.
2. Instead of watercolor paints, use watercolor markers.

### Kindergarten Challenge

Prepare papers with words “mom,” “dad,” “brother,” “sister,” etc. As children reveal words, read the words aloud and invite children to tell ways to be kind to the people indicated.

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## Game Center

### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, items (food and/or clothing) to donate to a charitable organization, large bag.

### Do

Children sit in a circle. Place large bag in the center of the circle. **After our class today, I am going to take the things we put in this bag to** [tell the name of organization]. Give an object to a child. While you play music, children pass object around the circle. After a brief time, stop the music. Child holding the object places it in the donation

bag and then chooses another object to pass around the circle. Continue until each child has had a turn to put an item in the bag.



### Talk About

- The Bible says, “Be kind to the poor and you will be happy.”

**One way to be kind is to help people who don’t have enough food or money.**

**Sometimes these people are called poor.**

Briefly tell a way your church or your family has shown kindness to a poor person.

- We can be kind to our friends and the people in our family. We are kind when we make sure each person gets the toys or snack he or she needs. Friends are glad to be together when they are kind.
- Ian, I see that you are making sure everyone gets a turn. You are being kind. Thank you!
- Patrick, what is a way you and your sister are kind to each other?

### Teaching Tip

If your church has an on-site food pantry, take children with you to deliver food items.

### Kindergarten Challenge

Children repeat the words of the Bible verse before adding each item to the bag.

# Listen to Learn

Large-Group Time

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## Collect

Bible, Activity Poster 2 and Figures 33-36 from *Visual Resources, Pre-school Music #1* CD and player, Daffodil puppet, bag of crackers, basket, food item, flannel board; optional—*God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.

## Come Together

Begin this activity as first children come to the area. Show Activity Poster 2. **Put your hand on your head if you can see what someone in this garden is doing.** Ask a child who responds to describe a pictured action. Then invite one or more children to stand up and demonstrate the action. After several actions have been demonstrated, ask, **Who is being kind in this garden? How?** Volunteers respond.



## Kindergarten Challenge

Children take turns pantomiming actions they see on poster for others to guess.

## Bible Verse

Open Bible to Proverbs 14:21. **The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." Being kind is a way to obey God's Word and show we love God.** Repeat Bible verse with children several times, clapping hands in a different way each time (in front, to the side, over head, etc.).



## Kindergarten Challenge

Before class, print each word of Proverbs 14:21 on a separate index card. In class, show the word on each card as you say the verse aloud. Then give volunteers the cards to hold. As children repeat verse with you, volunteers hold the cards up high to correctly match words being said.

## Prayer

Tell ways you have seen children being kind during class today. **It is wonderful to see boys and girls being kind to each other.** Briefly describe a way someone has been kind to you recently. Invite volunteers to tell other ways of being kind to others. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us show Your love by being kind. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Song

Play "Hear the Word" (track 9 on CD) several times, inviting children to sing along with you and do the motions suggested in the song. **Being kind to others is a way to obey God's Word, the Bible.**

## Puppet Time

Use Daffodil puppet, bag of crackers and basket to perform the puppet script on the last page of this lesson.

## Bible Story

Use food item and Figures 33-36 to help tell the Bible story on the next page.

# Listen to Learn

Food for Widows  
Acts 6:1-7

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## Introduction

Show food item. **What is your favorite kind of food to eat?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to hear about a time Jesus' friends were kind to people who did not have enough food.** (Hold Bible open to Acts 6 as you tell the story.)



## A Happy Family

Every day Jesus' friends told more and more people about Jesus. And more and more people learned to love Jesus. And every day, people who loved Jesus were sharing their food and clothing with those who did not have enough food and clothing. Everyone was happy!

## The Problem

But then there was a problem. Some people in God's family were from a different country. Now that wasn't a problem! They were all part of God's family. But some of the women who were from this different country weren't getting enough food every day. And other people seemed to be getting more food than they needed!

## A Plan

The people who were friends of these women could have gotten angry. They could have started a big argument. But they didn't. Instead, they told Jesus' friends about the problem.

Jesus' friends were sorry that these women did not have enough food. They wanted everyone to have enough food! And they wanted these women to know that others cared about them.

Jesus' friends talked to each other. And then they called everyone together. "We have heard about a problem. It is not fair that some people do not get enough food to eat. But we have a plan." The people listened.

## Seven Helpers

"We want you to choose seven special helpers," Jesus' friends said. "These helpers will make sure everyone gets enough food."

The people thought that was a good idea. So they chose one, two, three, four, five, six, seven men to be special helpers. Jesus' friends prayed for these seven men and asked God to help them do their new job.

The special helpers did a good job! They made sure everyone got the food they needed. Now no one thought they'd been forgotten. Everyone had enough food to eat. Jesus' friends were kind and fair. That's how they showed that they loved Jesus!

## Conclusion

**We can show our love for Jesus, too. We can be kind to others, especially to people who don't have the money or food they need. The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy."** (Optional: Review story by using pages 458-460 in *God's Story for Me* Bible storybook.)

## Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

At the beginning of the story, give a paper cup to each child. As you tell about some women not having enough food, distribute a snack to a few children. As you tell about the seven helpers, invite two or more volunteers to help continue to distribute the snack and make sure that everyone ends up with the same amount. At the end of the story, children eat the snack together.



## TalkTime Activity Page

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 7 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

### Do

Distribute *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



### Talk About

- What problem did some women have? What did Jesus' friends do to be kind?
- How do you think the women felt when they were treated kindly?
- The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." It makes us glad to be kind and show God's love to others.
- Who do you like to play with at your babysitter's house? What do you like to play? How can you be kind when you play with the trucks?
- I see that Nathan and John are taking turns with the markers. Taking turns is a way to be kind and to be a good friend.

### Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

## Bible Story Game

### Collect

None.

### Do

Children sit in a circle. **In our Bible story today, Jesus' friends were kind to the women who weren't getting enough food. Seven helpers were chosen. What did the helpers do?** Volunteer tells. **Let's pretend we're the kind helpers.** Each child takes a turn to pretend to hand out an imaginary food item to each child in the group,



naming the food he or she is handing out (bananas, ice cream cones, spaghetti, apples, etc.). After each food item has been handed out, all children pretend to eat the food.

### Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "Hear the Word" (track 9), "Come On In!" (track 1) and/or "Wave Good-Bye" (track 14) on *Preschool Music #1 CD*.

# Puppet Script

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## Daffodil's Basket

(Note: Play both parts, changing your voice for the puppet.  
Or you may have a helper play one of the parts.)

**Prepare:** Hide bag of crackers in classroom. Place DAFFODIL in basket.

**Daffodil:** (Muffled, from inside basket.) Hi, Teacher.

**Leader:** (Looks around to see where voice is coming from and then opens basket and looks in.) Hello, Daffodil! Tell me, why are you inside this basket?

**Daffodil:** (Peeks out of basket.) I'm going to surprise my friend Lula!

**Leader:** How will you surprise her by hiding in the basket?

**Daffodil:** Oh, I'm not going to STAY in the basket! I'm going to USE the basket to make my surprise! (Comes out of basket.)

**Leader:** What are you going to do?

**Daffodil:** Well, I want to fill it with good things to eat.

**Leader:** To give to Lula?

**Daffodil:** Yes.

**Leader:** So, Daffodil, why are you gathering food for Lula?

**Daffodil:** Oh. I forgot to tell you! Lula is sick. She can't leave her nest to go find food. So we are all taking turns to bring her good food and other things that might make her feel better!

**Leader:** That is very kind of you! I'm sure Lula is glad she has friends who bring her food when she is hungry.

**Daffodil:** Yep. I just have to find some good things to put in the basket. (Looks around.) Hmm. What would be good?

**Leader:** Would you like the boys and girls to help you find things for your basket?

**Daffodil:** Oh, that would be great! I know that Lula really likes bugs!

**Leader:** (Makes a face.) Bugs?

**Daffodil:** Sure! What do you eat when YOU'RE hungry?

**Leader:** Well, I can tell you, it is NOT bugs! But maybe there are some other things around here that Lula might like. Boys and girls, let's look around to see if we can find anything that Lula might like to eat. (Leads children to search for hidden bag of crackers and to give them to DAFFODIL to put in basket.)

**Daffodil:** Wow! Lula will love these even more than bugs! This is her very favorite kind of cracker. Thank you so much! It's really fun to be kind and help others, isn't it?

**Leader:** Yes, it is, Daffodil. You are a kind friend!

**Daffodil:** I'd better go now, so I can take this basket to Lula! Bye!

