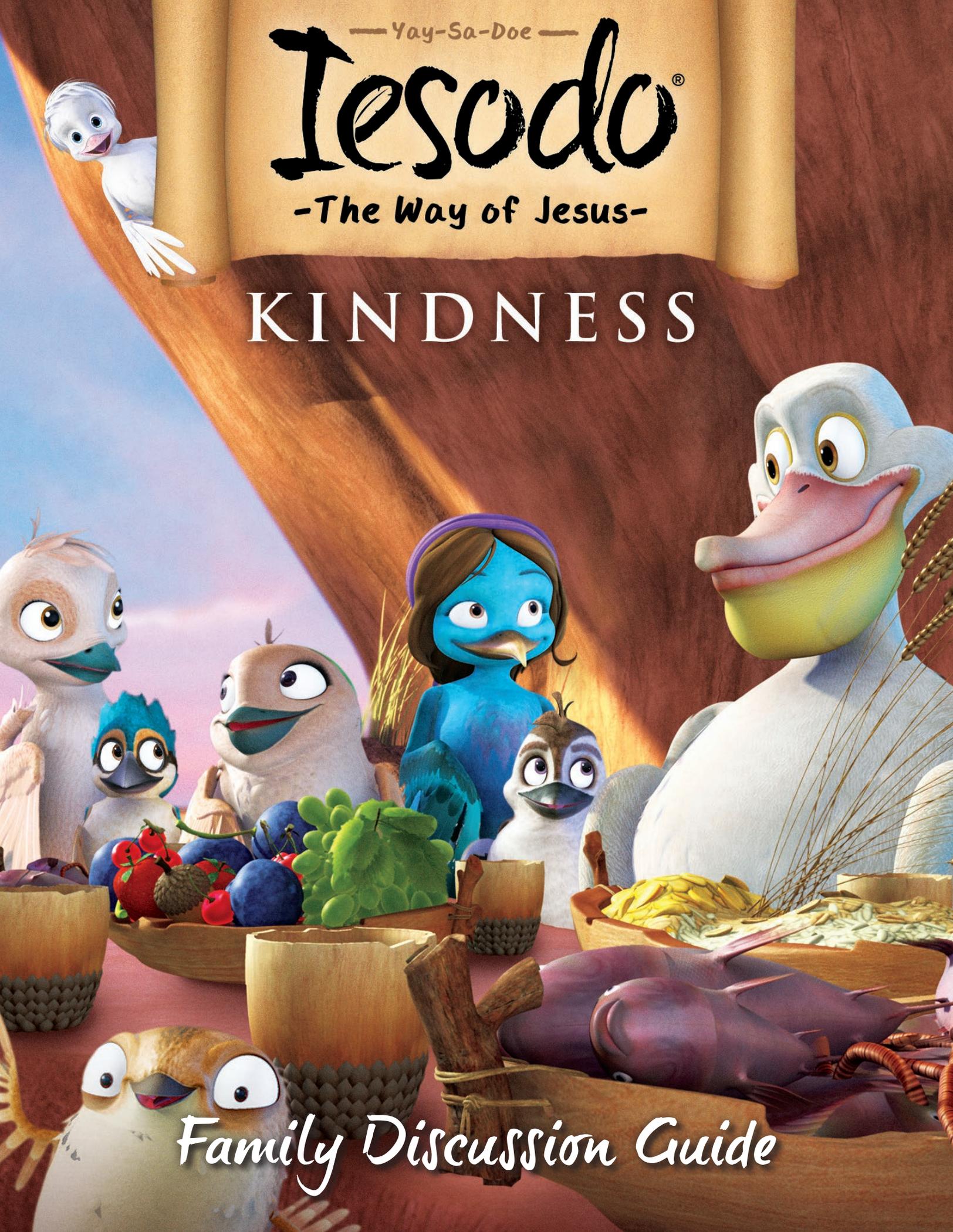


— Yay-Sa-Doe —
Iesodo[®]

-The Way of Jesus-

KINDNESS



Family Discussion Guide

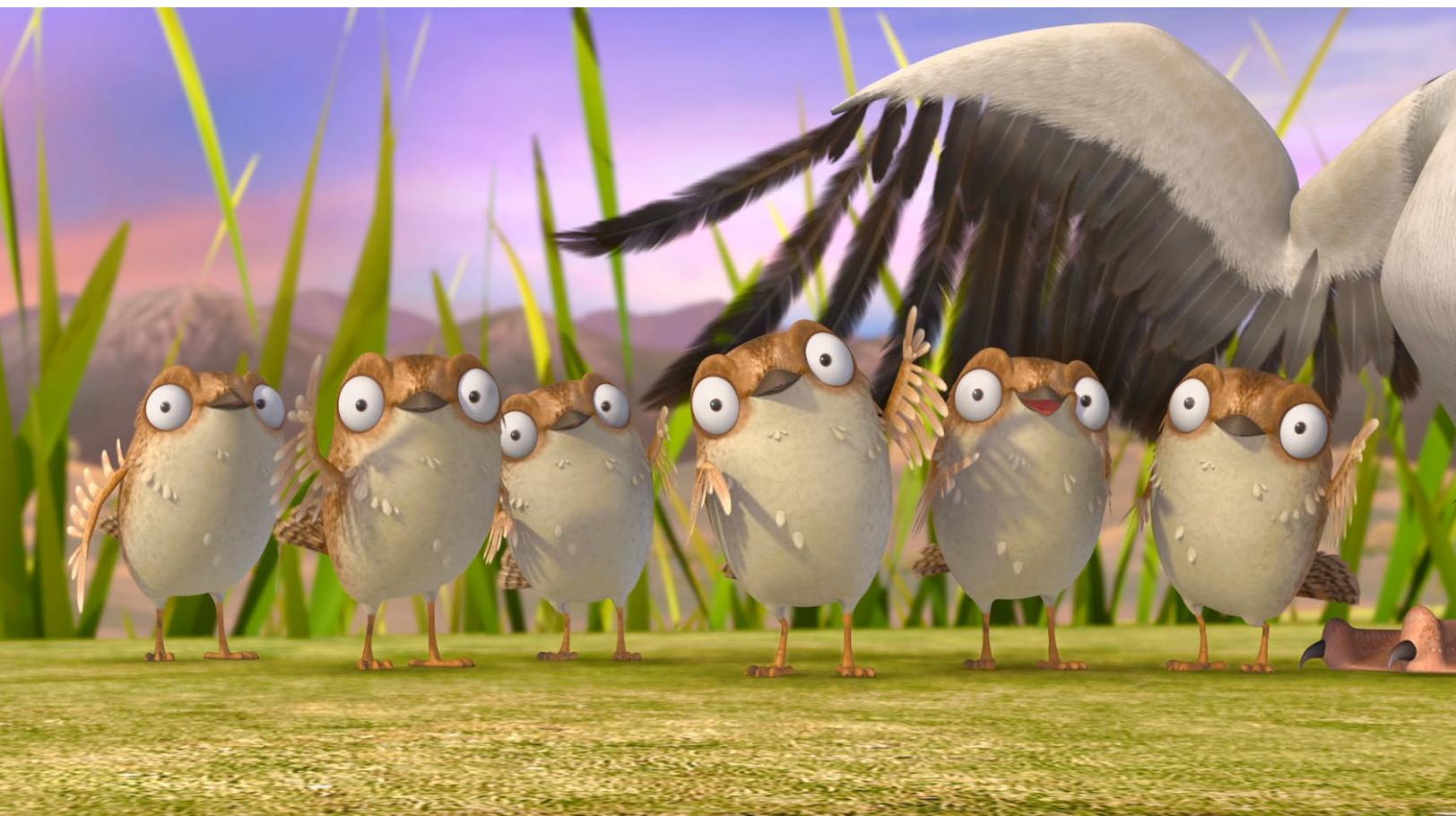
KINDNESS

Introduction

We describe a person who is kind with words like friendly, generous, caring and loving. These are all true, but did you know that kindness is actually a choice? It begins in our hearts and is one way others will know that we are close to God. In these two adventures, Lesodo and his friends teach us that we should always choose kind words and actions because:

- When we treat each other with kindness, we are giving our best to others and to God.
- When kindness is given freely, it is also received.

So invite your family to join you as we watch and learn how a kind heart can make us soar.





The Greatest is the Least

THE STORY

Iesodo and his friends are invited to dinner with Mary and Martha, the doves that live in the big oak tree. Martha is cooking and cleaning as fast as she can so that everything is perfect for the guests. Mary is less focused on the chores, which frustrates Martha. But Iesodo assures her that the environment is welcoming and she should focus on the good things, like enjoying each other's company.

Meanwhile, Jacob and Jack are quarreling over who will claim a seat at the "grown-up" table and who will have to sit at the kids' table. Both think that they deserve the place of honor. Iesodo tells them that, in order to be welcome, they should be humble – not expecting anything in return for actions or deeds – with a trusting, kind and faithful heart like a child (or the young birds in our story).

BIBLE READING

Luke 10:40-42

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha where Martha is keeping busy cooking and cleaning so that everything in the house looks perfect. As she works frantically, she becomes angry because she feels her sister, Mary, is leaving all the work to her. She asks Jesus to tell Mary to help, but Jesus responds that Mary has made the right choice by focusing her attention on Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. When guests visit our home, it's natural to want to create a welcoming environment for them by cleaning and decorating. But Jesus reminds us that it's even more important to have a welcoming heart. What are some ways that we can prepare our hearts for others?

.....

#2. Mary approaches her work with a positive attitude and love in her heart. How would your jobs at school or around the house be different (maybe even easier) if you completed them with an attitude like Mary's?

.....

#3. Jesus commends Mary for choosing to keep her attention on Him rather than the chores. What are some ways we can be more like Mary by keeping focused on Jesus?

.....

BIBLE READING

Matthew 18:1-9

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

The disciples want Jesus to tell them who is – or who will be – the most important person in God's Kingdom. Jesus answers by calling a young child forward. He explains that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, everyone needs to adopt the heart of a child – one that is humble, trusting, forgiving and loving. Likewise, when they meet a person who possesses these qualities, they are to embrace them, for in those times they are not only welcoming the person, but also welcoming Him.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. Talk about a time when you felt that you really deserved something (a reward, a special privilege, etc.) but didn't get it. How did you feel?

.....

.....

How would that situation have been different if you went into it NOT expecting the reward or privilege?

#2. Now give an example of a time when you were humble, trusting, forgiving and/or loving.

.....

.....

#3. Iesodo tells the birds to "Let the children come to me." Jesus calls a young child forward and shows His disciples that children are valuable in the Kingdom of God. Let's talk about ways that we can show others how valuable they are to us and to God.

.....

.....

.....

LET'S LIVE IT OUT

Iesodo encourages Martha to focus on the good things, like the guests in her home. One of the ways that we can focus on our guests is to ask them questions about themselves. Create a conversation jar with questions you would like to ask family and friends when they visit. Write the questions on strips of paper and place them in a jar or a bowl. The next time someone visits, pull out one of the questions to ask and keep the focus on your guests!





The Good Pigeon

THE STORY

Jacob and Jack are complaining about the seagulls, flamingoes and pigeons who are “taking over the lake” during vacation season. Rocky is unsure how to handle the situation, so he looks for lesodo. When he finds him, lesodo asks Rocky who he thinks that he is. Rocky tells lesodo that he believes lesodo is the bird that everyone was told would come – the one who would make things right in the world.

lesodo and Rocky return to the Cypress Tree to help Jacob and Jack deal with their frustration about the visiting birds. lesodo shares a story to help them understand that all birds are their neighbors and that they are called to treat everyone with kindness. After hearing the story, Jacob and Jack realize that they have not treated the visitors very well, so they offer apologies to the pigeons and welcome them as neighbors.

BIBLE READING

Matthew 7:12, Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-38

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

Jesus was often challenged by experts of the law to reveal the greatest commandment. Each of these three Bible passages reveals His answer to the question. The greatest commandment is to love God and treat others with the kindness that you want given to you.

#1. Jesus tells us that we should treat others the way we want to be treated. Let's make a list of ways we like to be treated – things that others do for us that show kindness and make us feel loved. How can we use the actions on this list when we are with others?

#2. How does treating others with the same kindness we want to receive help us understand the love that Jesus has for people?

#3. As a part of the great commandment, Jesus tells us to love God first. Why is this important? What are some ways that we love (or show kindness to) God?

*LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**BIBLE READING***Mark 8:27-30***LET'S TALK ABOUT IT*

Jesus asks the disciples an important question. He wants to know who the people say that He is. The disciples reply that there is confusion among the people. Some say He is John the Baptist. Some say He is Elijah. Some say He is a prophet. Jesus then asks the disciples who they think He is. Peter responds that Jesus is the Messiah. He is the Son of God who was sent to earth to save all of us.

#1. Have you ever known something to be true about someone else that others didn't believe?

.....

How did you know to believe that those things were true even when others didn't?

.....

#2. When Jesus asked the disciples who they think He is, Peter is confident in his response that Jesus is the Son of God. Why is he so sure of his answer?

.....

.....

*BIBLE READING***Luke 10:30-37***LET'S TALK ABOUT IT*

Jesus tells the story about a man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Along the way, he was attacked by robbers, badly beaten and left for dead. A priest passed the man on the road, but did nothing to help. A Levite passed the man on the road, but did nothing to help. A Samaritan – a despised man – passed the man on the road. But he stopped. He realized the man needed help and did what he could to help him. He treated his wounds and took him to a place where he could rest and heal. Jesus asks which of the three men was a true neighbor to the injured man. “The one who helped him,” the listeners respond. So Jesus encouraged everyone to treat others in the same way.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. Jesus uses this story to answer the question about who our neighbors are. So, based on this, whom does Jesus consider our neighbors?

.....
.....

#2. Jesus says that we are called to be a neighbor and to be kind to everyone – even if it is someone who we think doesn’t deserve it. Talk about a time when you showed kindness to someone who you felt didn’t deserve it. How do you think it made that person feel?

.....
.....

How did it make you feel?

#3. Let’s name some ways that we can help others. Give an example of how you’ve helped someone this week.

.....

LET'S LIVE IT OUT

Maggie, Barry and Tom sing “Share if you care” as a way to help Jacob and Jack deal with their selfish feelings about the other birds. This week, find a way that you can share something that means a lot to you (like a special toy, game or book) with someone else, without expecting anything in return.

CONCLUSION

Jesus showed kindness to everyone. Our efforts to imitate His actions are one way that we can show others how much we love Him. Kindness to others – especially to those who we feel don’t deserve it – is a good way to show others that Jesus loves them. Jesus loves us without the expectation of anything in return. That’s why we should always choose a kind and loving heart, with actions that match.

For a full list of Scriptures and more Bible teaching check out the Bonus Features on the IESODO: KINDNESS DVD.



© 2015 Zaya Toonz LLC. All rights reserved.
Kindness Discussion Guide Written by Melissa Hucal

