## LOW-ENERGY GAME
### Help for the Shoeless

**[10 min]**

**Supplies**

- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

**Find My Shoes**

Say: **Jesus told a story about a Samaritan man who helped someone who really needed help. Let's play a game where we help our friends with something *they* need.**

- Form pairs. Have one child from each pair go to one side of the room while the other child stands on the opposite side of the room.
- Have the kids on one side of the room take off their shoes and put them in a pile in the center of the room.
- The kids who still have their shoes on will try to find their partners' shoes. The kids without shoes can describe their shoes to help their partners find them in the pile.
- If a child brings back the right pair, he or she will help with putting the shoes back on his or her partner. If the wrong shoes are brought back, the shoes are returned to the pile and the shoeless child will give more descriptions of the correct shoes so the partner can try again.
- When kids in the shoeless group all have their shoes back on, have kids switch roles and play again.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

**Talk About It**

Say: **You did a great job helping each other find your shoes. God loves it when we help each other. That's a way to be a good neighbor. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit, so when we help someone, we're showing God's goodness, just like the Samaritan man did.**

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## TALK-ABOUT VIDEO
### A Good Guy

**[10 min]**

**Supplies**

- “A Good Guy” teaching video

**Discuss and Watch “A Good Guy”**

Say: **We’re learning that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. In our Bible story, Jesus told about a guy who showed goodness. Let’s see what happened from the point of view of the guy who received the goodness.**

Watch “A Good Guy.”

Ask: **• How did it change your perspective to hear the story from the victim’s view?**

**• What do you think of the priest and the temple assistant who walked right on by?**

**• When have you *needed* someone to show you goodness? What happened?**

**• How was your story like what happened to the man who was robbed and beaten? How is it different?**

Say: **In Jesus’ story, an unexpected person was the one to show goodness. We all have times we need someone to show us goodness, and we can be on the lookout for people who need us to show them God’s goodness. Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

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## DEEPER BIBLE
### To Help or Not

**[15 min]**

**Supplies**

- Bible

**Easy Prep**

- Ask an adult or teen helper to choose not to help in the final scenario with the pushing child. Have the helper wait until all the kids have chosen so they don't all follow the helper.

**Decide Whether to Help**

Say: **Today we're learning that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. Sometimes it's hard to be good neighbors. That's why we need God to put *his* goodness in our hearts. In Jesus' story, there were some people who didn't want to help the hurt man. Let's play a game and decide whether *we* want to help.**

Stand in the middle of the room facing one wall. Have kids and at least one adult or teen helper line up on both sides of you so you're all facing the same wall.

Say: **First, let's think about our families, who we love so much. If someone in your family fell and hurt a knee, would you want to help? If you would want to help, take three giant hops forward. If you would *not* want to help, take three giant hops backward.** Encourage kids and the helper to hop one way or the other.

Say: **It's pretty easy to help someone we love and who's nice to us. Everyone hop back to me, and let's think about someone else.** Bring kids back to the original line.

Say: **Think of one of your favorite friends. Is your friend nice to play with? Show me with your thumbs.** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

Say: **If your friend fell and needed help, would you want to help? Take three hops forward for yes or three hops back for no.** Give kids a chance to move forward or backward.

Have kids return to the original line. Say: **Think of someone who isn't always a good friend to you.** Pause. **If that person fell and got hurt, would you want to help?** Encourage kids to hop forward or backward.

Have kids return to the original line. Say: **What if someone pushed you down on the playground? If *that* person fell and scraped a knee, would you want to help?** Encourage kids to move forward or backward. The adult or teen helper will wait until the children make their choices and then move backward for this scenario. Invite your helper to share that it can be hard to help someone who isn't nice to you. If some kids moved backward, allow them to share why they did.

**Talk About It**

Say: **It's hard to be good and kind to people who aren't kind to us. Sometimes we want to be unkind right back.**

Share about someone who has been unkind to *you* without naming names and how you responded. Someone may have cut you off in traffic and you honked at that person, or someone may have yelled at you so you yelled back.

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Ask: • **Tell about a time someone wasn't good or kind to *you*.** Tell kids to share without naming names. Kids may say someone said something unkind to them, a friend took a toy from them, or a sibling hit them. Encourage kids to share if they responded by being kind or unkind.

Say: **Today we heard about a Samaritan man who was a good neighbor even though the hurt man and his friends weren't normally very nice to him. The Bible says God loves when we're good neighbors, even to people who aren't kind to us.** Read Matthew 5:44 aloud. **The good news is God helps us! Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.**

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## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP
### God, Help Us Be Good Neighbors

**[5 min]**

**Supplies**

- Show Goodness" pictures

**Easy Prep**

- Ensure your "Show Goodness" pictures are hanging around your room.

**Look**

Say: **Today we learned that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. We heard Jesus' story about a good neighbor, and we practiced being good neighbors to some people who needed help.** Point to the pictures hanging around the room.

Say: **Let's visit each person again and pray for people who need help in the same way.** Lead kids to the child on the playground who is hurt. **We can be good to friends who get hurt on the playground or anywhere else. Let's pray that God would help us be good neighbors and help the hurt people feel better.** Lead kids in a brief prayer. Invite preschoolers to mention any people they know who are sick or injured.

Lead kids to the lonely child. Say: **We can be good friends to people who are lonely. Let's pray that God would help us notice and be good neighbors to lonely people.** Lead kids in a brief prayer. Invite preschoolers to mention any people they know who are lonely.

Lead kids to the hungry child. Say: **We can be good friends to people who are hungry. Let's pray that God would help us be good sharers to neighbors who are hungry. We can also ask God to take care of these neighbors so they always have enough to eat.** Lead kids in a brief prayer. Invite preschoolers to mention any people they know who need more food at home.

Lead kids to the lost child. Say: **We can be good friends to people who are lost or scared. Let's ask God to help us know what to do when we meet someone who is lost or scared.** Lead kids in a brief prayer. Invite preschoolers to mention anyone who is scared or possibly lost.

**Pray**

Say: **Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit, so when we're friends with God, he'll help us be good neighbors. We want to be good neighbors!**

Share about someone *you* can be a good neighbor to today.

Ask: **• Tell about someone *you* can be a good neighbor to today.**

Lead kids in a prayer for the people kids shared about.

Say: **Thanks for coming to church, and please come back and visit all your friends here again soon!**

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## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT
### Oh Goodness!

**[10 min]**

**Supplies**

- “Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness” Coloring Page
- envelopes
- crayons

**Older Kids: Do an Activity Page**

Say: **Today we’re learning about the fruit of goodness. When we love Jesus, he helps us do good things. Jesus talked about a man—a Samaritan who helped an injured man get to safety. Let’s think about goodness as we try to do what the good Samaritan did.**

Distribute the activity pages. Kids will rip up the page, then reassemble it like a jigsaw puzzle. When they finish, provide envelopes so they can take the puzzle home.

Ask: **• First you had to rip the page apart. What not-so-good things do people do that make others feel torn up or hurt on the inside?**

**• Then you put the page back together. What good things can we do to help when others are hurting?**

Say: **Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s good to do the right thing, show kindness, and share God’s love. Rather than tearing people down, we build them back up!**

**Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page**

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Today we learned that goodness is a fruit of the Spirit. Jesus gave an example of someone who’s good: someone who stops to help people in need. Let’s color that.**

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.

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