

# Building Towers

KINDNESS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM™  
SMALL GROUP • OPTION 1 • INCLUSIVENESS

**Lesson Timeframe**  
25-30 mins

**Materials**

- Straws
- Marshmallows
- Inclusiveness poster (optional)



## Share

Define inclusiveness: **INCLUSIVENESS IS INCLUDING OTHERS, INVITING THEM IN, AND WELCOMING THEM WITH OPEN ARMS.** (Show the Inclusiveness poster if desired.) Discuss that inclusiveness is a long word that means we invite others to join us! When we work together and use teamwork, we naturally practice inclusiveness. We all deserve to be included, no matter what. Our kind words invite others to join in, even if they are new to our group.

- What kind words and actions can we offer when we work together during a game or project?  
Aim for 3-5 volunteers of different ages.



## Inspire

Our kind words and actions help others to feel included when we work and play together. We can practice inclusiveness during times of teamwork in two main ways:

- **Using kind words:** How you talk to someone when you work together has a big effect on how welcome they feel. Even if we don't say something mean, our words can still feel unwelcoming. Make an effort to choose words that encourage others to work with you as a team!
- **Choosing kind actions:** This includes your facial expressions, eye contact, and body language. Make sure to smile, make eye contact, and be friendly when working and playing with others.

Today we will practice working together in teams to accomplish a goal. When we include everyone, we reach our goal more quickly!



## Empower

Divide your group into small teams of 4-5 students of varying ages and abilities. Every person in each group will get 2 marshmallows and 2 straws. After all the groups have been divided up, explain that they will work as a team to build a tower using all of the supplies provided. Every person must be included to succeed. Each person is responsible for the materials they receive. However, the rest of their team should encourage them in a kind and welcoming way to add to the building during their turn.



## Reflect

Have each team share their creation. Encourage each team member to discuss their component if time allows. Guide a discussion on **INCLUSIVENESS**.

- How did it feel to be included during this activity?
- How were you able to practice inclusiveness while we were building our towers?
- What is one way you can practice inclusiveness with your family?

