

Children's Message follows first lesson

(**Bold words** are spoken; *italicized* are directions; boxes contain directions for American Sign Language words.)

Invite children to front for children's time. Greet them in a friendly fashion and sit together as is your tradition.

In the lesson we just heard, the prophet Micah was telling his people that God didn't need anything from us except that we live with justice, kindness and a humble life.

*Ask: **What is kindness?** Invite response. Look for responses that reflect sharing, including others, helping others. If children are older, you may wish to discern between being "nice or polite" (manners related) and being "kind" (human compassion related).*

Can you tell me about a time when someone was kind to you? *Invite response.*

Can you tell of a time when you were kind? *Invite response.*

Let's learn the hand-sign for "Kind"

Both right-angle hands roll over each other as they move down and away from their initial position crossed at the heart.

The prophet Micah also says that God wants us to seek justice—if we're 'seeking' something we're actively looking for it—not simply waiting for it to come to us. So, God wants us to watch for times when others are being put down or bullied or hurt—and to do everything we can to stand up for others. Can you tell me about a time when you helped someone who was being hurt? *Invite response, but be prepared to tell about a time when you (or someone you know) sought justice for others.*

Has anyone ever stood up for you when you were being hurt? *Invite response.*

Let's learn the hand-sign for "Justice"

The two 'F' hands, palms facing each other, move up and down alternately to depict the movement of scales (Justice scales).

The last thing Micah says is that we are to live a humble life... What does it mean to live humbly?

Invite response, affirming where possible.

God knows you and loves you deeply—just as you are. God knows me and loves me deeply. When we understand that God loves each of us, we know that all are valued and important—so I am loved, and that's what matters, (*point to various children*) and you are loved, and that's what matters; and you are loved, and that's what matters! We are humble because we know God loves us all equally! (and that's what matters)!

Let's learn the hand sign for "Humble".

Left hand in front, fingers straight, palm facing chest; right hand fingers straight touching chin, movement down as though slicing palm of left hand.

Try them together. *Use hand sign with each word:*

"Kindness" "Justice" "Humble"

Let's all try to live by these words!