

2020_02_15-16

2nd – 3rd Small Group

Bible Story: Never Gonna Give You Up (Love Your Enemies) • Matthew 5:43-47

Key Question: When is it hard to love others?

Bottom Line: Love others because they matter to God.

Memory Verse: Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NirV)

Life App: Love - Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Preservice Activities:

Start with the preservice activity below and have kids join in as they arrive. If you have time, you could start a few games (Uno, Legos, MarbleWorks) after you finish the activity below. Use the time for casual conversation, connection, and to have fun.

Do the Opposite

Ask the kids to stand facing you. Tell the group that you will say a word out loud. Instruct them to respond back by acting out the opposite word. Some suggestions might include:

- Bad/good, sour/sweet, happy/sad, hate/love, small/big, young/old, short/tall, stop/go, up/down, backward/forward, right/left, night/day, calm/angry, awake/asleep, clockwise/counter clockwise, cold/hot, straight/crooked, dead/alive, sunrise/sunset, fast/slow, float/sink, hill/valley, loud/quiet, old/young, open shut visible/invisible, weak/strong

That was fun! You guys are great actors and really know your opposites! So let's go to Large Group, where we will hear a story about how Jesus wants us to do the opposite of what we really feel like doing when someone is not nice to us!

Remind the kids of the Rules posted in your room.

Go to large group time at 5 mins after the service begins. (5:35, 9:05, 11:05) The manager will give you direction.

Small Group Time:

When kids come back into small group time, **set out the rubber dots** so every child and yourself has a place to sit in a circle or have them sit in chairs around the table.

Discussion Questions

- Loving an enemy isn't easy. Why is it worth the effort?
- Why do you think every person matters to God?
- Jesus showed love to everyone, but He still had enemies. What can we learn from His example?
- When is it hard to love others?
- What should you do if you are being bullied? What about if you see someone else being bullied?
- If you can't stop someone from being unkind to you, what should you do? How do you love that person without letting them continue to hurt you?
- How can you show love to a difficult person in your life this week?

As you close, remind the kids that throughout our lives, we will encounter lots of situations in which we are teased, annoyed, or treated unfairly by someone. As a follower of Jesus, we can (and SHOULD) respond differently from those who don't know Jesus. When we come face to face with those who are hard to love, it's an opportunity to remember that every person matters to God. He doesn't hold back His love from people who treat others badly or give His love only to people who are nice. God made each of us in His image, and that means we matter to Him. God's plan is to help each person come to know, love, and follow Jesus. When you show love to an enemy, you're reaching out to them the way God does.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

2020_02_15-16

2nd – 3rd Small Group

Bible Memory Verse Activity:

Review the Bible memory verse and motions you learned in large group time.

Review the following motions with the children to help them memorize this month's memory verse.

- **Here is what love is.** (use your pointer finger to point down for "here"; then crisscross your arms across your chest for "love")
- **It is not that we loved God.** (use your pointer finger back and forth indicating "It is not"; then use thumb, index and middle finger to point to yourself "we"; then crisscross your arms across your chest for "loved"; then point upward for "God")
- **It is that he loved us** (point upward to indicate "he"; then crisscross your arms across your chest to indicate "loved"; then use thumb to point at chest indicate "us")
- **and sent his Son** (hold left hand parallel to the floor with palm down and brush the top of your hand with the fingers of the other hand for "sent"; then point to upward for "his"; then salute with your right hand and then cradle a baby with your arms for "Son")
- **to give his life** (hold your thumb to your fingers and move your hand away from your body for "give"; point upward for "his"; index finger and thumb on each hand facing each other like two guns pointing at each other for "life")
- **to pay for our sins.** (use your right index finger to point to the palm of your left hand for "pay"; then use thumb to point at chest indicate "our"; use index finger on both hands to make downward spirals for "sin".
- **1 John 4:10** (cup hands like a book and then hold up the numbers)

Pray and Dismiss:

When you feel like people are mistreating you or you feel like being unkind, pray and ask God for help. It's not always easy, but it's always the right thing to do, and when you ask Him, God will always help. Let's pray together.

Dear God, help us to treat others as if they matter to You. Give us the courage and opportunity to show kindness and love to those who mistreat us or are unkind to us no matter how difficult it might be. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to show us how to love our enemies and for reminding us that we can rely on you for strength to love others because they matter to God. We love you Jesus! Amen.

As parents arrive, encourage the kids to say the memory verse for their parents. Ask the kids to share how God wants them to love people they wouldn't normally love.

Parent Pick Up:

- When parents are picking up kids be sure to:
- Say the kid's name. Introduce yourself to the parent picking up child.
- Check the numbers on tags to make sure they match.
- Give each parent a God Time card to do with their child this week.
- Ask child if they remember the bottom line/memory verse:
- Have a great week, see you next time.

Clean up:

- Please put any supplies back in your bins.
- Please put any toys you chose back in the resource room. You know where you got them from so it's easiest for you to return them, and the next small group leader might want to choose a different set of toys to play with.
- Check in with the manager before you leave to let them know all your kids have been picked up, any issues that need to be addressed, or anything amazing that needs to be celebrated.

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!