

Alley SG - March 30-31, 2019

Bible Story: Basic Instruction (Greatest Commandment) • Matthew 22:34-40

Bottom Line: God made me to love others.

Key Question: How do others know you love them?

Memory Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." *Psalm 139:14, (NirV)*

1. Just For Fun

What You Need: Pipe cleaners (1 per student), ping pong balls (10 per bin), straws (1 per student)

What You Do:

- **Instruct** kids to bend their pipe cleaners to make open-ended hearts. The opening needs to be just large enough for a ping pong ball to roll through it.
- **Tell** kids to place their pipe cleaner heart on a hard surface, a floor or a table, and to place their ping pong ball about three feet straight across from their heart.
- **Give** kids a straw and encourage kids to get the ping pong ball inside their heart by blowing through the straws to maneuver the ping pong ball.
- Kids can **compete** against each other to be the first to get a ping pong ball inside their hearts.

What You Say:

"When you see a heart what do you think of? What are you saying when you send a heart emoji to someone? Love is important! God wants us to not only love Him, but also love others!"

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: L-O-V-E Cups with "Love Question" Cards in them (1 set per group), ping pong balls (10 per group), pens, markers

What You Do:

- **Line** up four cups; cups should be labeled with letters to spell "LOVE" when they're lined up.
- **Gather** kids in a circle around the cups, about seven feet away from them, and **explain** that each cup has a question in it.
- **Give** kids a ping pong ball.
- **Ask** kids to select a question by successfully bouncing their ping pong ball into one of the cups.
- **Explain:**
 - If their ping pong ball misses the cups, they can grab another ping pong ball and try again.
 - If their ping pong ball lands in a cup, they retrieve their ping pong ball and a card from the cup and answer the question on the card.
 - Kids are simultaneously trying to land a ping pong ball into a cup.
 - Once kids answer a question, they repeat the process to get another question. Kids may get the same question twice, but they must come up with a different answer/example for each card they collect.
- **Evaluate** the progress, and depending on your group, you may need to adjust the distance between the kids and the cups.
- **Allow** kids time to answer a couple of questions. *Optional:* Let kids work in pairs to answer the questions.
- **Spend** time as a group sharing questions and answers.
- Questions are:
 - Finish the sentence, Love is . . .
 - How do you know someone loves you?
 - Give an example of something you can say to show someone you love him or her.
 - Give an example of something you can do to show someone you love him or her.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, paper, pens, markers

What You Do:

- **Read** Matthew 22:34-40.
- **Give** each kid a piece of paper.
- **Instruct** kids to fold their paper into fourths.
- **Let** kids label each of the boxes with the following: WHAT?, PICTURE IT, IN MY LIFE, IMPACT
- **Give** kids time to fill in each of the boxes with the following:
 - Box 1: WHAT? – Define the greatest commandment in a sentence
 - Box 2: PICTURE IT – Sketch a picture of the greatest commandment
 - Box 3: IN MY LIFE – Give an example of the greatest commandment from your life
 - Box 4: IMPACT – How could obeying the greatest commandment make a difference?
- **Ask** kids to share at least one of their boxes with the group.

4. Discussion Questions

- What does it look like to love God? Give an example of a way you show God you love Him.
- What does it look like to love others? Give an example of a way this week you showed someone you loved him or her.
- How can loving God make a difference? How can loving others make a difference? Imagine a world where everyone seeks to make a difference in someone else's life every day. Describe that world and compare it to the world we actually live in.
- When is it easiest to love others? How about when it's hardest? How can you show love to people when it's difficult?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Give** kids an opportunity to share a prayer request.
- **Explain** that one way we can show God's love is to pray for each other.
- **Tell** kids you will open in prayer. **Encourage** kids to add to your prayer. Maybe they can thank God for making us in His image or pray for guidance for a specific concern in their life or someone else's. Or for eyes to see others the way God sees them.
- When kids are done praying, **close** with prayer.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!