

City SG-March 30th-31st, 2019

Bible Story: Basic Instructions (The Greatest Commandment) • *Matthew 22:34-40*

Bottom Line: God made me to love others.

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

NOTE: Small Groups will begin with a Large Group Game as described below.

GAME: Hot Heart

What You Need: Heart Stress Ball (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Play a game similar to “Hot Potato” with the foam heart.
- Guide kids to sit in a tight circle, and hand the heart to one kid.
- Large Group Leader will start the music, and instruct kids to pass the heart around the circle.
- When the music stops, the kid with the heart holds it up and says the name of someone he loves when the Large Group Leader calls on them.
- Continue playing a few rounds or as long as interest holds.
- *Note: Unlike the game of “Hot Potato,” kids are not “out” when they get caught with the heart when the music stops. They simply say the name of someone they love and play continues.*

What You Say:

“You all sure love a lot of people! I love a lot of people too. And that makes God happy!”

1. Individuality Bingo

What You Need: “Individuality Bingo” Sheet (1 per kid, per service), pens

What You Do:

- Give each child an “Individuality Bingo” Activity Page and a pen.
- Explain that they’ll play a “get to know you” game to discover unique and individual things about each other.
- Read a couple of the phrases on the page like, “has a pet” or “doesn’t like chocolate.”
- Explain that kids will walk around and share their bingo cards with one another. When a friend hands you their card, you must find a phrase that applies to you and sign your name in that box.
- The first kid to finish must come stand next to you. Allow play to continue as long as time allows so that kids can get as many signatures as possible.
- Since there are 24 spots for kids to sign on the bingo card, you could either combine with another small group to play or instruct the kids to sign more than one spot on the page.

2. Rule Makers

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to imagine that they are the ones in charge at home or at school. Encourage them to write down five rules they would put in place if they were in charge.
- Once they've written down five rules, instruct them to look at their lists and select the MOST important rule of the five they've come up with and circle it on the page.
- Let each kid share their most important rule with the group.

What You Say:

"Wow! All the rules you mentioned are important. Great job. **[Transition]** God has given us a list of rules too. But there is **ONE** that's more important than all the rest; loving Him with everything!"

3. What Does God Say?

What You Need: Whiteboard, dry erase marker, Bible

What You Do:

- Lay the whiteboard on the floor in the center of your small group area so everyone can see it.
- Ask the kids to list some things that God commands us to do in His Word. Examples: the 10 Commandments; treating others the way you want to be treated; caring for the poor, orphans, widows, people who are sick; love your enemies; turn the other cheek; etc.
- As the kids call out their answers, write them down randomly all over the white board.
- Read Matthew 22:36-40 out loud to the group.
- Then ask: "According to Jesus, what is the most important rule?"
- Write down "LOVE GOD" in large bold letters on across the top of the board, writing on top of all the other rules you've listed.
- Underneath that, write "LOVE OTHERS" in large bold letters across the board.
- To end, have kids do the wave with their arms in the air, calling out one letter at a time when it is their turn, to spell LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS. Then everyone yells the words together: LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS! For variety, have them stand up (jump up) and wave their arms and then sit back down when it is their turn.

What You Say:

"This is quite a list! All of these things are important, but Jesus wanted us to understand what's MOST important: LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS.

"When we love God and love others, we will take care of people who are sick, we will choose to treat others the way we want to be treated, and we will keep all the 10 Commandments. There is nothing more important that you or I could do than to LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** God made you to love others."

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you chose to love others even when it was hard or inconvenient or it cost you something. Tell the kids specifically how you

showed love. What action did you take? How did you help someone else and show love to them? How did your choice to love make you feel?)

4. How God Made ME!

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask a volunteer to recite Psalm 139:14 from memory. If not, pass out a Bible and have a volunteer look it up and read it to the group for review, or read it aloud to your group.
- Have the group stand and form a circle. Select a kid to stand in the middle.
- Recite the verse together as a group but replace the word “ME” with the name of the kid in the center. For example, if the kid in the center is named “Charlie” the group will say, “How you made Charlie is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that full well.” *Psalm 139:14, NIV*
- When finished instruct the kid in the center to point to someone and switch places. Have the kids recite the verse again, replacing “ME” with the name of the new kid in the center of the circle.
- Repeat until every kid and YOU have had a chance to stand in the center as the verse is repeated.

What You Say:

“How God made [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] and . . . (*point to each kid as you say their names*) IS amazing and wonderful. God made you, and He loves you very much. Not only that, but God also took the time to create each one of us individually with different talents and skills, likes and dislikes, personalities and preferences. But it’s SUPER important to remember that God created you special for a purpose. He wants you to LOVE others the way He LOVES you. Why? So that others can see that they are made by God too! So don’t forget: **[Bottom Line] God made me to love others.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Hand out kids’ hearts from earlier.
- Challenge kids to think of people they can show love to.
- Tell kids to silently pray for those people.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “**God made me to love others**, and He made you to love others, too! Don’t forget to give those hearts to people this week in order to show them how much they are loved both by you AND by God.”

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”
HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN
WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!