

City SG - June 1-2, 2019

Bible Story: What Is Love? (Love Is . . .) • 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Bottom Line: Love others because God loves you.

Memory Verse: *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

1. Love IS

What You Need: “Love IS / Love IS NOT” cards and 1 Corinthians 13 picture cards in bag (1 set of each per group), dice (4 per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams
- Put the “Love IS” and “Love IS NOT” pages and the bag of pictures on the floor, where kids can see them.
- Give one kid on each team a pair of dice.
- At your signal, kids roll the dice (as quickly as possible) until they roll doubles.
- When a child rolls doubles, play pauses, and the child who rolled doubles pulls a card from the bag, identifies what’s happening in the picture, and then decides whether the card is an example of what “Love IS” or what “Love IS NOT.”
- Invite the child to place the card accordingly.
- The kids who had the dice pass them to another kid for the next round.
- Continue the game until kids draw and classify every card. Teams can work together to classify the cards.
- As kids play, praise them for loving behavior: patience, kindness, not boasting, etc.

What You Say:

“The Apostle Paul wrote that love is patient and kind. It doesn’t get angry easily. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.

“What are some ways that you can love others? (*I can be patient with my little brother when he’s driving me crazy. I can be kind when someone cuts in front of me. When someone is being mean to my friend, I can tell them to stop. When my friend gets the toy that I really want for their birthday, I can be happy for them.*)

“Is it always easy to love others? (*Pause.*) Sometimes when we’re tired or hungry or annoyed or angry it’s hard to love others the way God wants us to love them. But if you ever find it hard to love someone, ask God to help you. And when you believe that Jesus is who He says He is, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you to help you show love. So remember: **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”

2. Fruit Basket Turn Over

What You Need: “Fruits” Activity Page (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Circle kids up and pass out a fruit card to each child, making sure that at least two kids have the same card.
- Encourage the kids to look at their card without showing it to their neighbors.
- Explain that you will call out a fruit from the list below.
 - Apple
 - Banana
 - Strawberry
 - Blueberry
 - Peach
 - Watermelon
 - Orange
 - Raspberry

- If kids are holding a card with that fruit, they must get up and switch spots with another person holding the same card.
- After several rounds, call out different categories such as:
 - Fruits that are red
 - Fruits that have a fuzzy outside
 - Fruits that have to be peeled to be eaten

What You Say:

“That was some fast moving fruit! **[Transition]** Our Bible story today is ALL about fruit, but it’s not the kind you eat! Let’s go find out about this special fruit.”

3. Cause and Effect

What You Need: Dominoes (10 per group)

What You Do:

- Pass out one domino to each child. Make sure you keep one for yourself.
 - Instruct the kids to line up the dominoes in a serpentine formation about an inch apart.
 - Place your domino at the front of the line and then push it over so that it knocks the rest of them over as well.
- Talk about the cause and effect relationship of the option you’ve chosen.
 - Talk about how tapping the first domino caused all the other dominoes to fall too.

What You Say:

“That was a super fun cause-and-effect activity. Let’s think about another kind of cause and effect. Can you give me some examples of times when it’s hard to love others? *(Pause.)* Today we’re learning that you can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.** What is the cause for why we love others? *(Because God loves us.)* Because God loves us, what should the effect be? *(That we show love to others.)* What is the effect when we love others? *(Pause for responses.)*

“We don’t love because others deserve it. We don’t love because we feel like it or because it’s convenient. We love others because God has shown love to us. The cause is that God loves us first. He showed us how. And because He loves us, the effect is that we love others. This week, let’s remember to **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”

4. Order Up

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Slips (1 set per group, plus extra for the month)

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles to pairs of kids and use the navigation tips to help them find Galatians 5:22-23a. Read it aloud as a group together.

Finding verses with 1st through 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *(Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)* When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Galatians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Galatians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Galatians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Galatians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verses 22-23a in chapter 5.

- Place all the memory verse phrases in the center of the circle, and instruct pairs to draw a phrase.
- Encourage the kids to hold up their phrase as a pair and then move around to get in verse order.
- Read the verse aloud together once they are in order.
- If time allows, instruct kids to place their phrases back in a stack facedown on the floor.
- Shuffle the phrases and let pairs pick one again WITHOUT showing the rest of the group.

- Once each pair has selected a phrase, instruct them to line up again in verse order, this time without talking.

What You Say:

“When you trust Jesus as Savior, God gives you the gift of His Holy Spirit to help you live the way He wants you to. That’s how we can show patience and kindness and love and joy and peace. It’s because of God’s Spirit IN us, not because of anything we can do on our own. And the first thing on this list of ‘fruit’ is what? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, love! You can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather the kids to sit together in a circle.
- Lead them in a “call and response” prayer.
- The “calls” below correlate to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a.
- After you say the call from scripture, kids will complete it with “love others because you love me.”

What You Say:

“You can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.** Let’s pray and ask God to help us love others the way He loves us. I will say a phrase naming a time when it’s hard to love. I want you to complete it by saying, ‘love others because You love me.’ Let’s pray.

“Dear God,

“When I’m impatient, help me to . . . *love others because You love me.*

“When others are being unkind, help me to . . . *love others because You love me.*

“When I want what someone else has, help me to . . . *love others because You love me.*

“When I want my own way, help me to . . . *love others because You love me.*

“When I’d rather stay mad, help me to . . . *love others because You love me.*

“Thank You for loving me and showing me how to love others. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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!