

Alley SG-February 1st-2nd, 2020

Bible Story: You're the Inspiration (No Greater Love) • *John 15:12-13*

Key Question: What makes you feel loved?

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.

Memory Verse: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Candy hearts (1 box per student), blindfolds (1 per student)

What You Do:

- **Give** each person a box of candy conversation hearts and a blindfold.
- **Instruct** kids to put on the blindfold (or close their eyes).
- **Signal** the group to begin stacking their hearts, one on top of the other.
 - After one minute, let kids take off the blindfolds and see who has the tallest tower of hearts.
- **Repeat** as time allows, adding the variations below while keeping each round at one minute.
 - Form the shape of a heart.
 - Give kids additional candy hearts to form the letters to spell "LOVE."
 - Remove the blindfold then work with a partner to stack the candy as tall as they can.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to give their answers to the following questions then share why they chose one answer over the other.
 - Would you rather be first in line at an amusement park or first among your friends to get a cool phone?
 - Would you rather be first to give a report in front of the class or first to sing a solo in front of the church?
 - Would you rather miss the first day of school or the last day of vacation?
 - Would you rather be the first player chosen on a team or first to score a winning point in a game?
 - Would you rather be first to show kindness to someone or first to receive it?
 - Would you rather be first to jump into a cold swimming pool or last?
- **Add** other questions as needed keeping the theme of being first.

What You Say:

"Most of the time it's pretty great being first. That is, unless it's something you don't want to do. Jesus was the best at putting others first, and we can do the same!"

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, index cards (20 per group, per service), pens

What You Do:

- **Form** partners or groups of three kids.
- **Give** each group a Bible, five index cards, and pens.
- **Ask** teams to look up John 15:12-14 and read it together.
- **Invite** teams to create a playlist of at least five song titles based on John 15:12-13 and write each title on a separate card.
- **Discuss** the titles kids came up with.
 - Which song title sounds like a song you might sing in church?
 - Which title is a song that might encourage you to love others more like Jesus does?
 - How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loved us first?
 - Is it possible for us to love others the way God loves us? Why or why not?
 - Who is someone you can show love to first, even if they don't return it?
- **Challenge** kids to pick one of the song titles and take the card as a reminder to live out what they learned today.

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What's something you love ALL of the time?
- When do you feel most loved?
- Think (silently) of someone you CHOOSE to love even when you don't feel like it. It's probably someone in your family or maybe a friend you tend to have drama with. What do you do to show love to that person when you don't FEEL love toward them?
 - ***[Make it Personal] (Share your own answer to this question, especially if kids seem to be stuck for answers. If you can share without being gossipy or overly negative and talk about a typical situation in which it's hard to feel love toward a particular person, do so. Kids don't need to know all the details, but it's good for them to know their leaders struggle with the same things they do!)***
- If you don't really like someone, is it fake to be nice to them? What is okay or not okay about that kind of love?
- What can you do to help you show genuine love to others?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bibles, "Prayer Point" Cards (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Invite** the kids to choose a "Prayer Point" sheet, then read what is written on the front and pray silently.
- **Provide** as much time as needed for kids to pray.
- **Ask** kids to indicate they are finished praying by placing their sheets back in middle of the circle.
- **Lead** the group in a closing prayer or invite one of the kids to do so.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for the love You show us every day. You care for us, listen to us, and are always with us. No one will ever love us more than You do. Help us to not be afraid to show Your kind of love to others—even if we don't receive anything in return. Help us be okay with being the first—or maybe the ONLY one in the group to think of others. In Jesus' name, amen."

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!