

# City SG-February 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

**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)

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** Scrap paper, pens

### What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card or scrap piece of paper.
- Ask kids to write the name of either a villain or a hero.
- Kids will take turns sharing what they wrote, and the group will try to guess the name of the opposite character's name.
- To get kids' thinking going, some example characters might include:
  - Superman and Lex Luthor
  - Batman and Joker
  - Batman and Riddler
  - Jack Sparrow and Barbosa
  - Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader
  - Mr. Incredible and Syndrome
  - Harry Potter and Lord Voldemort

## 2. Do the Opposite

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- 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, etc.

### What You Say:

"That was fun! You guys are great actors and really know your opposites! **[Transition] In Large Group, we heard 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!**"

## 3. Not So Easy!

**What You Need:** "Family", "Friends" "Enemies" Buckets (set of 3 per group), ping-pong balls (1 large Ziploc bag per group), white carpet tape, "You Decide Scenarios" Activity Page (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Take a moment to talk about and help kids define the word "enemy."
  - An enemy can be someone who's not very nice to you or other people.
  - It can be someone you just don't get along with.
- Use the tape to mark a starting line.
- Place the "Family" and "Friends" buckets about five feet away from the starting line.
- Place the "Enemies" bucket about 10 feet from the starting line.
- Give each kid a ping-pong ball

- Ask kids to line up behind the line.
  - *Note: They don't have to line up single file. Depending on how wide your space is, three to five kids can stand next to each other at one time. This way, multiple kids are able to throw their balls at the same time for each round.*
- Tell the kids that you will be reading different scenarios, each of which fit into one of the three categories: family, friends, or enemies.
- Instruct them to toss their ping-pong balls in the corresponding bucket after you are finished reading each scenario.
- After kids toss their balls, give them time to retrieve the balls before you read the next scenario.
- Encourage kids to show love to each other by making sure they rotate who gets to throw their balls first each time.

### **What You Say:**

"It was pretty easy to toss the ping-pong balls into the first two buckets but harder to get it into the last one—the 'enemies' bucket. It's the same with loving people. It often can be easy for us to love our friends and family but much harder to show love to those who aren't often nice to us or people we just don't get along with.

"There are times when someone is mean to us and we just want to be mean back. But Jesus showed love to those who weren't nice to Him, and He wants us to do the same. It doesn't matter if someone 'deserves' our love or not. What matters is that each and every person you meet was made by God and matters to God.

***[Make It Personal] (Share a time when someone wronged you and you chose to show kindness instead of reacting poorly. Share how difficult it was and how it felt to do the opposite of what you really wanted to do. Also, share how it impacted the other person.)*** "Unkind people matter to God, just like kind people matter to God. ***[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.***"

## **4. Let It Go!**

**What You Need:** "What Would You Do Cards" (1 set per group), paper (5 sheets per group, per service), markers

### **What You Do:**

- Pair kids up and give each pair a card.
- Tell the kids to brainstorm creative ways they can be loving toward others in the situation described on the cards.
- Challenge kids to come up with more than one way to deal with each situation.
- Set out paper and markers, but give pairs the option to act out their solutions as well.
- *NOTE: Remind kids they are made in the image of God and because they matter to Him, He doesn't want them to be hurt or be treated poorly by others. If they are being harmed in any way, encourage them to share their hurts with a trusted adult. Consult with church staff about any situation that you feel needs to be addressed.*
- Give kids a few minutes to brainstorm ideas, draw, and/or make plans for their skits.
- Be prepared to help get kids' thinking going, if they're stumped for ideas.
- As you invite pairs to share their solutions, read the corresponding card out loud before letting them present what they came up with.

### **What You Say:**

"Wow! You guys were great. Have you ever found yourself in situations like the ones we talked about? (*Pause for responses.*) How did you respond? (*Pause for responses.*) But we serve a loving God. He loves us and shows us that we matter to Him. Even though it's the harder thing to do, walking away is often better than being mean back. When you find simple ways to show kindness to those who aren't nice to you, you're showing them that they matter to God. ***[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.***"

## 5. Hula Verse Challenge

**What You Need:** Hula-hoop (1 per group), Memory Verse Printout (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Tell the kids that you're looking for a hula verse champion.
- Ask the kids to stand in a circle.
- Select one kid to stand in the center and give him or her the hula-hoop.
- Tell the group that the person in the center will hula while the rest of the group tries to say the verse before the hoop drops.
  - *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 (NlrV)*
- Repeat until all kids have had a chance to hula.
- If you have any kids who can hula long enough for the group to say the entire verse, let them take turns with the hoop while the group says the verse in a slower rhythm.
- The kid who can hula through the longest, slowest verse repetition is the champion!

### What You Say:

“Wow! You did an amazing job reciting the verse while trying to keep the hula-hoop moving! That’s not easy to do! Do you know what else is not easy to do? Showing love to people who aren’t nice to us! This verse is a great reminder that we didn’t love God first. He first loved us because we matter to Him! So instead of waiting for someone to be nice before we show love to them, **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God.**”

## 6. Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Ask kids to take a few minutes to ask God to remind them of a few people in their lives who aren’t nice kids, who they struggle to get along with, or they just aren’t particularly fond of.
  - **NOTE: Have the children think of that person quietly in their heads, so as not to embarrass anyone, or risk the children saying the name of the same person.**
- Encourage kids to pray for that person, asking God to show them creative ways they can show love to him or her.

### What You Say:

“When 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.

“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 are represented in our bags 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 **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to 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!**