

Alley “All Together Activities”—February 28th, 2021

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to sit a safe and comfortable distance apart from each other facing you.
- Ask for a kid volunteer to stand in front of the group.
- Tell the group you’re going to change one thing about the volunteer and they’ll have to figure out what is different.
- Encourage the volunteer to strike several “modeling” poses so the group can get a good look at them.
- Instruct kids to turn around so their backs are facing the volunteer and to close their eyes.
- Allow the volunteer to change one thing about their appearance.
 - For example, untie their shoes, tuck or un-tuck their shirt, remove glasses, remove a watch and place it on the other wrist, etc.
- When the change has been made, instruct the group to turn around facing the volunteer.
- Let the group guess what is different. The kid who guesses correctly gets to be the next volunteer.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read one set of three items from the list below and challenge kids to figure out what they have in common.
 - Picnic, Card, Pool (*types of tables*)
 - Birthday, Pokeman, Baseball (*types of cards*)
 - Yard, Pogo, Chop (*types of sticks*)
 - Brown, Black, Grizzly (*types of bears*)
 - Skunk, Nose, Garbage (*things that smell*)
 - Wagon, Cart, Steering (*types of wheels*)
 - Onion, Tree, Bells (*they all have rings*)
 - Elephant, Car, Tree (*they all have trunks*)
 - Swiss Cheese, Doughnut, Bowling Ball (*they all have holes*)
 - Ballet, Tennis, Horse (*types of shoes*)

What You Say:

“All the items had something in common even though they were very different. We are all made in the image of God so we have that in common, but we are still different, aren’t we? That’s why it’s important to show kindness to people who you may think are different than you are.”

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pair kids up, but have them remain physically distanced.
- Instruct pairs to learn one thing they have in common with each other and one thing that is different about them.
- Instruct kids to join with another pair and share with each other what they have in common with their partners and what they don't have in common.
- Instruct the entire Group to join together and figure out something different/unique about each kid.
- Encourage the group to share something they learned about someone in the group that they didn't know before they came to church today.
- Ask:
 - What are ways people are different from each other? (*looks, culture, how they talk, what they eat, what they like or dislike, etc.*)
- Explain that we are all different from each other in some way and that there will be times at school or on the soccer field you will meet someone who doesn't look like you, act like you, or talk like you. How can you show kindness to someone who seems very different from you? (*Ask questions, try to get to know people who are different, listen, etc.*)

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, Sentence Starter Page (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story by saying: Jesus answered the question, "Who is my neighbor?" with a story. The story starts, "A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho." What happens next?
- After each sentence kids provide, ask, "What happens next?" until the entire story is reviewed. If necessary, refer to The Story of the Good Samaritan from the Bible, Luke 10:25-37.
- Once the story is reviewed, give each kid a set of "Sentence Starter Cards".
- Give kids time to complete the sentences. ***[Make it Personal] Be sure to participate by completing the sentences as well.***
- Spend time sharing the completed sentences.
 - Use the "neighbors" question to guide kids to realize that EVERYONE is a neighbor.
- For further discussion, ask:
 - The Samaritan could have ignored the injured man and walked right on by, but he didn't. How do you feel when someone ignores you or simply doesn't listen to what you have to say?
 - How do you feel when someone shows interest in what you are doing or what you have to say?

- Do you think it was hard for the Samaritan to show kindness to the injured man? Why or why not?
- What can make it hard for kids to show kindness to people who are different from them?

5. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Without naming names, think of someone who is different from you. Maybe they dress differently or their family is very different from yours. Maybe they act differently at school. Whatever the reason, think of someone you don't get along with or don't understand. How could you show this person they are valuable—how would you show them kindness?
- Why might a kid your age be treated unkindly? When have you seen someone treated unkindly?
- Why might showing kindness to someone make you uncomfortable?
- You see someone being treated unkindly, maybe it is the annoying kid at school. What does it look like to respond with kindness? Is it kind to walk away when you see someone being treated unkindly? Why or why not?

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle and to sit a safe and comfortable distance from each other.
- Lead a group prayer. Consider the following format for prayer time:
 - "God, You are *(encourage kids to fill in the sentence with a word describing God)*
 - We know we will have many opportunities to show kindness this week. Help us to remember to show kindness to everyone by *(encourage kids to fill in the sentence with a way to show kindness)*
 - Thank You, God, for making us in Your image and yet making each of us different, with different cultures, languages, likes, and dislikes. You are so creative. Help us to think of creative ways to show others they are valuable to You and to us. Amen!"