

CITY SG – February 12th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All About Love (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

Today's Bottom Line: Show respect even when you don't get along.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NirV)

1. The Opposite

Bible Story Review

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to stand facing you.
- Play a game of “Simon Says” with a little twist!
- Instruct the kids to perform the OPPOSITE physical action that begins with “Simon says” and ignore the commands that do not begin with “Simon says.”
 - For example, If Simon says “Lift your left foot” then kids lift their right foot or if Simon says to turn right, then the kids turn left.
- Play the first round as “Simon.”
- Allow the last kid standing in each round to become the new “Simon” for the next round.
- **SAY**, “This was a difficult game to play because doing the opposite of what I asked you to do didn't come naturally, did it? Let's read from the Bible to review what Jesus had to say about doing things the opposite of what we naturally want to do.
- Read Matthew 5:44-45 out loud to your group.
- Lead the group in a discussion about why Jesus' way might be a better way to respond to those who treat us badly.

What You Say:

“According to Jesus, who are your enemies? (*anyone you don't get along with*) How do the people you don't get along with make you feel? (*sad, helpless, mad, upset, angry, out of control, etc.*) How do you think God feels about them? (*God loves them, forgives them, etc.*) That's right! God made everyone—including the people we don't get along with. And God loves them. Jesus came to show us a new way to treat our enemies, and it's the opposite of what we're tempted to do. God wants us to learn how to **[Bottom Line] show respect even when you don't get along.**

“But I want to explain something about that. It doesn't mean you should just let someone be mean to you over and over again. If someone keeps being mean, tell a trusted adult, then don't play with them again. God wants you to avoid being mean back to them but not keep getting hurt by them. The best way to show respect to someone like that is to ask an adult you trust for help.”

2. Color Me

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Verse Coloring” Activity Page, Bibles, and markers

What You Do:

- For 2nd/3rd Graders: Encourage the kids to look up Luke 6:31 with the navigation tips below then recite the verse together.
- For 1st Graders: Find the verse in the Bible and read it aloud to the kids.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids 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 kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Luke” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find “Luke,” lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find “Luke.” Help the kids find the page. When they find “Luke,” explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 31 in chapter 6.

- Give each kid the “Verse Coloring” Activity Page.
- Set out the markers.
- Encourage the kids to color their pages.

What You Say:

“Let’s say our verse one more time. *(Lead the group in saying the verse.)* All of us want to be treated with respect, right? *(Pause for responses.)* Jesus wants us to treat others the same way we want to be treated. In other words, if you want to be treated with respect, you should treat others with respect, even if they don’t treat you with respect.

“Everyone is made in God’s image. God loves everyone and wants you to respect everyone. God created everyone and everything. When you remember to **[Bottom Line] show respect even when you don’t get along**, you’re practicing what Jesus is asking us to do in this verse. But I also want you to remember that what Jesus said does not mean that you should let someone be mean or hurt you over and over again. God loves you and wants you to ask a trusted adult for help if that happens.”

3. Love EVERYONE

Application Activity

What You Need: “Love EVERYONE” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of “Red Light, Green Light.”
- Guide kids to line up shoulder to shoulder at one end of your environment while you stand at the opposite end.
- Call out a kid’s name and read a scenario from the “Love EVERYONE” Activity Page.
- For each scenario, encourage kids to tell how they could SPEAK, DO WELL, or PRAY to show love.
 - If the kids are stuck or shy, offer two alternatives and let them to pick one or invite them to choose someone to answer for them.

- When they answer, say, “Yes! That’s a great way to **[Bottom Line] show respect even when you don’t get along**. GREEN LIGHT!”
- Let everyone take quick baby steps toward you and after a second or two, say, “RED LIGHT!”
- Call out another kid’s name and read another scenario.
- Continue the game until every kid reaches you.

What You Say:

“Jesus said, ‘Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you.’ (*Matthew 5:44*). Is it EASY to love your enemies and people who hurt you? (*No!*) No, it’s not. But with God’s help, you can SPEAK, DO WELL, and PRAY for EVERYONE—even your enemies!

“If someone says something mean to you, you can choose to SPEAK something kind in return. If someone pushes you at recess, you can choose to DO WELL and invite them to sit with you at lunch. And—most importantly—no matter what people say or do, you can PRAY. You can ask God to bless them and help you LOVE and forgive them. And you know what? Prayer might change your enemy and it can change your own heart, too. So, remember to **[Bottom Line] show respect even when you don’t get along**. SPEAK. DO WELL. PRAY.

“But listen carefully. If someone truly mistreats you or ignores you when you ask them to stop, tell them it’s not okay. And if you need to, you can always ask a trusted adult for help, okay?”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to ask God to help them be kind to the people who are unkind or who they just don’t get along with.
- Tell the kids to think of practical ways they can be kind to that person.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for loving everyone and making us in Your image. As we talked about today, we know that it isn’t always easy to be loving—especially to those we don’t get along with. But each day from here on out, please help us continue to find ways to speak, do well, and pray for them so we can show Your love to the world. Help us **[Bottom Line] show respect even when you don’t get along**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”