

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**MADE TO PLAY**

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to bring to mind the people they have a hard time respecting and also reveal to them ways to show respect, even to those they don't get along with.

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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Respect—Showing others
they are important by what
you say and do

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Remind the kids of this month's theme and that respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do.
- Name a color and instruct the kids to take turns shouting out things that are that color.
 - For example, if you say, "red," the kids could say, "fire engines, apples, and stop signs."
- Play several rounds with different colors.

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

*** 1. SPEAK, DO WELL, PRAY**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared "Bottom Heart" and "Top Heart" Activity Pages; colored pencils; and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a "Bottom Heart" Activity Page and set out the colored pencils.
- Ask them to think of some ways they can "speak" to people they don't get along with.
- After the kids have had some time to think, encourage them to write a few of their ideas in the box labeled "SPEAK . . ."
- Some suggestions are using kind words, not complaining, not talking behind someone's back, using encouraging words, etc.
- Next, ask kids to think of some ways they can "do well" to people they don't get along with then write their ideas in the "Do Well . . ." box.
- Some suggestions include walking away from a fight before it starts, doing nice things, writing an encouraging note, offering to help with homework, including someone, etc.
- Then ask kids to think of some prayers to pray for the people they don't get along with and write their ideas in the box labeled "Pray . . ."
- Some suggestions include asking God to bless those you don't get along with, ask for patience to deal with them, asking for the ability to love and forgive them, giving you creativity to avoid interaction with them or to find something in common with them, etc.
- When finished, give each kid a prepared "Top Heart" Activity Page (with dotted lines cut out) and glue stick.
- Give kids a few moments to color the art on the Top Heart page.
- When finished, instruct the kids to apply glue to the "Bottom Heart" Activity Page everywhere except for the boxes.
- Direct the kids to lay the "Top Heart" on top of the "Bottom Heart" so the top and bottom windows match then press together.
- Demonstrate how to open each window and use it throughout the week for ideas on how to pray, do well, and speak with those who they don't get along with.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"How cool is this? What a fun way to remember how you can pray, what you can say, and what you can do when you're in a tough situation and want to **show respect even when you don't get along.**"

"Can anyone think of a tough situation you've faced lately where it was difficult to get along with others? (Allow time for answers. Make sure kids don't use any names as they share.) Wow! That sounds really hard! Look at your 'Speak,



WEEK
TWO
FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP
2-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(*1. SPEAK, DO WELL, PRAY, CONTINUED)

Do Well, Pray' heart and share some 'speak' ideas to use when you're with someone you don't get along with. *(Pause for answers.)* How about 'do well' ideas? *(Pause for responses.)* How about 'pray' ideas? *(Pause for responses.)* Wow! Those are amazing ideas! This week, use your 'Speak, Do Well, Pray' heart as a tool to remind you of ways you can **show respect even when you don't get along.**"

[Make It Personal] (Describe a time you showed respect to someone you didn't get along with. What did you do? Did you pray? What did you pray for? Or did you speak kindly when they used unkind and rude words towards you? Or did you do well by helping them? Did it change your relationship for the better?)

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

**3. COLOR ME**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Coloring" Activity Page, Bibles, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Encourage the kids to look up Luke 6:31 with the navigation tips below then recite the verse together.

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.

"So, does that mean you respect the kid who drives you nuts in class because they talk all the time? (Pause for responses.) How about the teacher who you're just not a huge fan of? (Pause for responses.) Or how about your brother or sister who constantly annoys you? (Pause for responses.)

"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 **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."

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Hearts from "Speak, Do Well, Pray" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has their "Speak, Do Well, Pray"

heart.

- 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 use the heart 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 **show respect even when you don't get along**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to demonstrate how they can use their "Speak, Do Well, Pray" heart to show respect to those they don't get along with.

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