



WEEK
TWO

FEBRUARY 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All About Love

Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:43-47

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- If an adult is hard for you to get along with, who can you go to for help so that you don't make things worse by being disrespectful?
- What are some consequences we might face if we are disrespectful?
- Is it possible to not like someone but still show them respect? Explain.
- Why does every person—good or bad—deserve your respect?

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to get along with someone?

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.



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MADE TO PLAY

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



4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, paper, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set out paper and pens.
- Ask kids to look up then write out Matthew 5:44 on a

sheet of paper.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All About Love
Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:43-47

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Matthew. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the first of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 44 in chapter 5.

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

When is it hard to get along with someone?

- When kids are finished writing, ask:
 - How does following this verse show respect?
 - What are some reasons why God wants us to show respect even when it's the opposite of what it seems someone deserves?
 - If you were going to do what Matthew 5:44 says and pray for someone who has hurt you, what would your prayer for them be?
- Remind kids that God's way of treating others is sometimes very different from what we feel like doing in the moment. Sometimes it's even the OPPOSITE of what we naturally want to do.
- Ask kids to sit in a circle and place their papers on the floor in front of them.
- Explain that kids will pass a toy car around the circle as you call out a directive.
- Whatever the command, they must do the opposite. The commands are:
 - Pass *left* (right)
 - Pass *right* (left)
 - Pass *high* (low)
 - Pass *low* (high)
- Begin slowly then progressively build up speed.
- If a kid makes a mistake, they tear off a corner of their paper and set it on the floor in front of them. At the end of the game, the kid with the least amount of scraps wins.
- Recite the verse at the beginning of each new round or several times during the game.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Show respect even when you don't get along.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

All About Love
Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:43-47

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

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5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Coin

WHAT YOU DO:

- In closing, challenge kids with the following reminders:
 - You may know some kids who think being disrespectful is cooler than showing respect. They're wrong.
 - Being disrespectful doesn't make you more grown up or win you more friends. In the moment, showing disrespect might make you feel like a big deal, but eventually it'll turn around and bring more problems and trouble.
 - The smart thing for you to do is follow what Jesus says, which is, to show respect to EVERYONE—even those you don't get along with.
- Invite kids to pray for their personal attitude and times when they struggle to show respect.
- Tell them you'll flip a coin several times.
- When it lands on HEADS, they can pray silently for God's help in treating others respectfully.
- If it lands on TAILS, encourage them to do what's written in Matthew 5:44—PRAY for someone they don't get along with.

Optional – If you think your kids can do it without disrupting others, consider giving each kid their own coin to flip four times. Let them keep the coin as a prayer reminder.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, as we leave today, help us remember how important it is to show others respect—even when we think they don't deserve it because they're hard to get along with. Please help us to not be someone who is difficult to get along with. Remind us that following You and treating others the way we want to be treated is way cooler than putting others down or saying things that are disrespectful. We need Your help to do the opposite of what we sometimes feel like doing when we're angry or hurt. You take respect seriously. Help us to do the same. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."