

# ALLEY SG- February 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** No greater love • *John 15:12-13*

**Bottom Line:** Love others because Jesus loves you.

**Memory Verse:** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NIV).

**Life App:** Love—choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated.

## Now Playing

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Now Playing Cards” Activity Page, pens, index cards, paper

### **What You Do:**

- Begin by reading John 15:12-13 to review the focus of today’s Large Group time.
- Next, give each kid a “Now Playing Card” but ask that they not let anyone else see it.
- Explain that the cards contain names of actual movies filmed over 50 years ago. Their job is to create a plot that fits the title of the movie on their card and tells about a way someone chose to love others.
- Give kids an index card and a few minutes to write a short summary (1-3 sentences) of their movie plot.
- Remind them to make sure their storyline goes along with the movie title. Assist with ideas and suggestions as needed.
- When kids have finished writing, collect all of the title cards and spread them out on the floor.
- One at a time, read the movie plots written by the kids and let everyone guess which film title they think it goes with.
- After each guess, have a short discussion by letting the kids elaborate a bit more on their plots. Ask questions about the characters and possible ways those characters could show love to other people in the movie.

### **What You Say:**

- If you could give our story today a movie title, what would it be? Why?
- What does the word love mean to you? (Love is choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated). Are there different kinds of love? (Friendship, marriage/romantic, love for God, family love).
- Can you love someone without doing anything for them? Why or why not?
- Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross? (*His perfect life for our sins*). Is Jesus an example of perfect love? (Yes)
- How can we receive Jesus’ love? (ABCs).
  - Accept that we have all sinned and that we are sorry.
  - Believe that Jesus is God’s son and the savior.
  - Chose to follow Jesus instead of our own ways.
- **[Bottom Line] love others because Jesus loves you.**

## Bodyguard

**What You Need:** Dodge ball sized ball

### What You Do:

- Today, we will be helping the kids train for a new role as a bodyguard in an up and coming movie.
- Have the kids form a circle with everyone about an arm's length away from each other.
- Pick two kids: one to be the "bodyguard" and the person being protected is the "King" Both of them will stand in the middle of the circle.
- The kids in the circle will try to work together to hit the King with the ball.
- The bodyguard can move around to protect the King from the ball.
- Once the King is hit by the ball, they become the bodyguard and a new person is chosen to be King.
  - The kids may pass the ball around the circle to help confuse the bodyguard.
  - Only the bodyguard and king are allowed to move. The kids in the circle have to plant their feet in the ground.

### What You Say:

- What do you think it would take to be someone's bodyguard? (*Being strong, smart, and willing to put your life on the line*).
- Is there someone you know that you would be his or her bodyguard? Don't worry; you don't have to put your life on the line. (*Friend, family, neighbor*).
- Is there anyone that you choose to love even when you don't feel like it? (*Neighbor, sibling, classmate*).
- What do you think is the difference between genuine love and fake love? Could you give an example?
- Jesus wants us to genuinely love others, no matter if we like them or not. What is a way that we can love others?
- **[Bottom Line] love others because Jesus loves you.**

## Pray

**What You Need:** "Behind the Scenes Cards" Activity page, markers

### What You Do:

- Ask your group to share one way God has shown love to them.
- Remind them that Jesus is our example of love. No one is kinder and no one has done more for us than He has.
- Invite two kids to lead the group in thanking God for His love.
- Hand each one of the kids a "Behind the Scenes" card and explain that this is the challenge for this week. See if you can get rid of these cards.
- If time allows have the kids color the cards.

### What You Say:

"Dear God, we are so grateful for the many ways that You show us Your love—especially for the way You sent Jesus to save us. Just as 1 John 4:10 says, it's not that we loved YOU but that YOU loved US and sent Your Son to give His life to pay for our sins. Your love is perfect and never ends. We need Your help to share that kind of love with others this week, amen."

## EXTRA ACTIVITY

## **Word for Word**

**What You Need:** Bibles, index cards that have been cut in half, containers with lids, pens, stopwatch or timing device (*optional*)

### **What You Do:**

- Form two teams and ask teams to sit in a circle.
- Give each person a Bible and have kids look up 1 John 4:10.
- Share the navigation tip below if kids need help finding the book of 1 John near the back of their Bibles.

***Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders:*** Our verse is from 1 John. 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. When they find 1 John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 10 in chapter 4.

- Read the verse out loud, and invite the kids to read along.
- Pass out index cards and ask teams to work together to write each word of 1 John 4:10 on its own individual index card, including the reference.
- When finished, ask each team to mix up the cards and place them face down in their container. Put the lids on the containers.
- Tell kids their teams will compete to see who can be first to say 1 John 4:10 word for word.
- The only way they can say a word is to first sift through the cards and find it in their container.
- As kids find a card, they should hold it up, say the word, and then place it back in the container and toss it across the circle to another person, who will then find the next word.
- The same person can't take the container for a second time until everyone has had it once.
- Teams can refer to their Bibles if they need help remembering the verse.
- *Optional:* Time the teams and play several times to see if they can shorten the time it takes them to complete the verse.

### **What You Say:**

- How would you describe love to a friend? Is there someone you love?
- What is something that you have done for that person you love?
- Does anyone know what the word atone means? (*To make repair to injuries*).
- What did Jesus sacrifice? (*His life for ours*). Why would he do something like that? (*Because he loves us*).
- Do you think Jesus loving us and us loving others are connected? Why or why not?
- **[Bottom Line]** “**Love others because Jesus loves you.**”