

City SG-September 9 & 10, 2017

Bible Story: Take on Thee (Accept One Another) • *Romans 15:7, Acts 9:26-28* (Supporting: *Acts 9:1-25, 26:12-18*)

Bottom Line: Friends accept one another.

Key Question: What does it mean to accept a friend?

Memory Verse: “A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.” *Proverbs 17:17 NlrV*

1. Why Do You Love Your Neighbor?

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to make a circle with one person in the middle.
- The person in the middle points at two people sitting beside each other and asks one person, “Why do you love your neighbor?”
- The person being asked has to say something that the two of them have in common. For example: “I love my neighbor because, just like me, he’s wearing jeans.”
- What kids decide to say can be anything, but the phrase needs to be consistent. “I love my neighbor because, like me, _____.”
 - Some more examples include: she has long hair, he has two eyes, he is wearing sandals, she is wearing a dress, etc.
- Then anyone in the circle not wearing jeans has to get up and change seats.
- While this is happening, the middle person tries to sit down in an empty seat.
- The new person caught in the middle will choose a new pair of people for the next round.

What You Say:

“It’s pretty common to like people who are similar to us in some way, but there’s a very important thing that makes all of us alike and means that we should show love to everyone even if they seem different.

2. I Would Accept You If . . .

What You Need: Dry erase board or chart paper; marker

What You Do:

- Start off by asking kids to help you make a list of good qualities a friend could have and some not-so-good qualities.
- If they seem stuck, here are some examples of both types of qualities:
 - Good: generous, willing to share, honest, kind, fun
 - Not-so-good: selfish, dishonest, controlling, bossy, mean
- Then play a game similar to “Honey, If You Love Me You’ll Smile.”
 - Get kids into a circle and choose one volunteer to go first.
 - That volunteer has three chances to get one of his peers to smile.
 - He must say to his friend, “I would accept you if _____,” and then fill in the blank with one of the qualities (good or bad) from the list you just made. (The point is that you’ll end up mixing good qualities with bad qualities, to help kids understand they should accept a friend no matter what.)
 - To get a friend to smile, kids can make crazy faces, talk in weird voices, fill in the blank with random hilarious things (such as, “I would accept you if you squawk like a chicken”), etc.
 - Whenever a kid gets his peer to crack a smile, that kid is the next person up to try to get a friend to smile.

- If your group seems to be having a hard time loosening up and making their friends smile, try to get them started by doing a few of your own!

What You Say:

“That was kind of a silly way to talk about accepting others, but it gets the point across. That’s how we should accept others: no matter what they’ve done, who they are, or if they [insert a funny quality or something funny that happened during the game]. Jesus accepts us and offers to free us from our not-so-good qualities. Because of that, we can do the same for our friends.

3. Lunch Tray Bingo

What You Need: “Lunch Tray Bingo” Activity Pages; one for each kid, “Lunch Tray Bingo Scenarios” Activity Pages in a bag, game tokens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Lunch Tray Bingo” game board and five tokens.
- Guide a volunteer to draw a scenario strip from the bag. Read the scenario and direct the kids to mark that scenario if it’s on their lunch tray.
- Continue until a child marks all five of their scenarios.
- Briefly unpack how each scenario shows a way that friends can accept each other.

What You Say:

“God wants you to accept one another just like Jesus accepted you. ***[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you accepted someone who was new, lonely, or somehow different. Talk about how it affected both you and the other person.)*** What are some ways that you can accept others? *(Pause. If kids are stuck, invite them to use their game boards for ideas.)* So remember: ***[Bottom Line] Friends accept one another.***”

Pray and Dismiss

- Guide kids to stand in a circle and tell them that they are going to pray for their friends all month in different ways.
- Let the kids who want to pray for friends by name do so, and tell them to pray about one thing for that friend.
- Have the group pray silently for that friend for about 15-30 seconds.
- Remind them that they don’t need fancy words. A simple, “Please help Jamal get through this hard time,” or, “Please help Sarah’s mom get well,” is just fine.

What You Say:

“It doesn’t take long to pray for our friends. We don’t have to pray long prayers with a bunch of fancy words. A simple, short prayer for our friends is great!

NOTE: As Parents arrive to pick up their child, hand them a Parent Cue Sheet with information on this week’s lesson.