

Alley SG - June 1-2, 2019

Bible Story: What Is Love? (Love Is . . .) • 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Key Question: How can you love others like God does?

Bottom Line: Love others because God loves you.

Memory Verse: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a, NIV

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Beach Ball (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Form** a circle.
- **Give** one student the beach ball then ask him to stand in the middle of the circle.
- **Explain** that the person in the middle will toss the ball to someone.
 - The student catching the ball must call out a letter (*excluding Q, X, Y, and Z*) then begin passing the ball around the circle.
 - The student in the middle must name four items found in a refrigerator that start with that letter before the ball gets back to the original person.
 - If he succeeds, he can switch places with someone in the circle.
- **Repeat** until everyone has had a turn in the middle.
- **Choose** a new category every few rounds from the list below or let students come up with other categories.
 - Stuff you can buy at Walmart (or name another local store kids are familiar with)
 - Animals with fur
 - Cold places
 - Boy (or girl) names
 - Any word at all
 - Things found in a bedroom
 - Things found in a bathroom

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Orange Ball with God & Us on it (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Remind** students that LOVE is a fruit of the Spirit.
- **Show** everyone the orange then say, "We know that a healthy orange tree produces oranges. God uses the example of fruit to help us understand how followers of Jesus produce something called, the *fruit of the Spirit*. If we believe in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us grow more like Him. One important fruit of the Spirit that He wants to produce in us is LOVE."
- **Invite** the group to think about ways God shows love and ways we can show love to others.
- **Explain** that you will roll the orange ball across the circle.
 - If the right thumb of the person who catches it lands on the word GOD, he should share a way God shows His love to us.
 - If it lands on US, he can share a way we show love to others.
- **Continue** rolling the orange ball around the circle until everyone has had several turns.
- **Challenge** everyone to not reuse an idea previously shared.

What You Say:

"God's love is amazing. He shares His love with us in so many ways—often without us being aware of all that He is doing. He gives us a perfect example to follow. Can anyone ever love perfectly the way God does? No, but we're still challenged and encouraged to give it our best shot. Followers of Jesus—those who believe Jesus is who He says He is—have the Holy Spirit living inside them to help them show love the way God does. Think of it like this: If you were in a video game, it would be like the Holy Spirit was helping you power up or move on to the next level. We have what we need to love others the way He does, even those who are not easy to love."

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, prepared cups (1 set per group), orange ball (reuse the orange ball from previous activity)

What You Do:

- **Place** each of the prepared cups upside down in a row a few inches apart.
- **Ask** students to stand on both sides of the row of cups and few feet away.
- **Explain** that each cup has a phrase from 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 that describes love.
- **Invite** one of the students to roll the orange and knock over one of the cups then read what's written on the cup.
- **Ask** the group (referring to what's written on the cup) . . .
 - Do you think it is easy or hard to show love in this way? Why or why not?
 - How does God exhibit love in this particular way?
- If the cup has a verse reference written inside, ask one of the students to **look up and read** it.
- **Continue** until all of the cups have been knocked over and read.
- **Prompt** discussion of the verses using the following sentence starters:
 - I need to remember this verse when . . .
 - This verse helps me because . . .
 - The part I like most about this verse is . . .

4. Discussion Questions

- What's one way you can do a better job of loving others the way God does?
- How do you love people who have hurt you or treated you badly?
- God wants us to love everyone in exactly the same way. Agree or disagree? Why?
- What makes someone easy to love? What can you do to be that kind of person?
- If we show love to someone and he or she doesn't love us back, have we failed? Explain your answer.

5. Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Memory Verse Slips (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- **Place** the cards face down
- **Divide** group into 2 teams
- **Allow** students to race each other to put the verse together first
- **Play** a few rounds as time and interest allows

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!