

City SG-February 1st-2nd, 2020

Bible Story: You're the Inspiration (No Greater Love) • *John 15:12-13*

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.

Memory Verse: *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Candy hearts (1 box per child), blindfolds (1 per child)

What You Do:

- **Give** each person one box of candy conversation hearts and a blindfold.
- **Instruct** kids to put on the blindfold (or close their eyes).
- **Signal** the group to begin stacking their hearts, one on top of the other.
 - After one minute, let kids take off the blindfolds and see who has the tallest tower of hearts.
- **Repeat** as time allows, adding the variations below while keeping each round at one minute.
 - Form the shape of a heart.
Try to use candy hearts to form the letters to spell "LOVE."
 - Remove the blindfold then work with a partner to stack the candy as tall as they can.

2. Link It

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to stand in a line and link arms.
- Let them know you will be giving them a few commands they need to follow.
- The object of this game is for kids to stay connected throughout the entire game, no matter how fast or challenging it becomes. (Make sure they understand that they do need to stay safe and help their friends stay safe as well. Feel free to pause the game if kids get too crazy!)
- Some suggestions might be:
 - Take two steps forward.
 - Take eight steps to your left.
 - Hop on your right foot three times.
 - Turn around and face backward.
 - Touch your knees with your chin.

What You Say:

"You did an amazing job staying connected together even when the game became challenging. **[Transition] In Large Group today, we found out that it's important to stay connected to Jesus."**

3. Love Connection

What You Need: "Love Chain" Activity Page (1 sheet per kid), scissors, markers, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out an Activity Page to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to follow your instructions as you demonstrate how to cut out the silhouettes.
- When finished cutting, show kids how to unfold their 'Love Chain' to display four silhouettes connected by four hearts.
- Tell the kids to think of four people they can show love to.
- Encourage them to take a moment to think quietly and come up with one person they may not know that well and one person they have a hard time getting along with.

- Instruct the kids to assign each silhouette to one of the four people they thought of by writing names in the blank spaces provided.
- Brainstorm with your group different ways the kids can show love to others.
- As you talk through the ideas, encourage kids to choose one or two ideas to draw or write on their silhouettes.

What You Say:

“What’s holding the people in the chain together? (*hearts, love*) We all want to be loved, don’t we? Sometimes it’s easy to love someone, while at other times it’s really hard. The more we stay connected to Jesus the easier it is to love others. **[Make It Personal] (Share stories of different ways you show or have shown love to a few people in your life.)** This week, I would like to challenge you to show love to the people on your ‘Love Chain.’ **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.”**

4. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to give their answers to the following questions then share why they chose one answer over the other.
 - Would you rather be first in line at an amusement park or first among your friends to get a cool toy?
 - Would you rather be first to give a report in front of the class or first to sing a solo in front of the church?
 - Would you rather miss the first day of school or the last day of vacation?
 - Would you rather be the first player chosen on a team or first to score a winning point in a game?
 - Would you rather be first to show kindness to someone or first to receive it?
 - Would you rather be first to jump into a cold swimming pool or last?
- **Add** other questions as needed keeping the theme of being first.

What You Say:

“Most of the time it’s pretty great being first. That is, unless it’s something you don’t want to do. Jesus was the best at putting others first, and we can do the same!”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Kids’ love chain from the “Love Connection” activity

What You Do:

- Hand out kids’ love chains from the “Love Connection” activity.
- Give kids 15-seconds to silently pray for strength and courage to love those people in their love chain.
- Close with the prayer below.

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. Your love is perfect and never ends. We need Your help to stay connected to You and to share that kind of love to those on our love chain and those in our lives, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!