

ALLEY SG – February 12th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All About Love (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

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)

1. Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review/ Application Activity

What You Need: Paper (one piece per child), pens, box or basket (one per group)

What You Do:

- Hand out paper and pens.
- Invite kids to write down a description of a situation when it is challenging for them to show respect to someone or a type of person (*no names*) that it is particularly difficult for them to get along with.
 - It can be another kid, family member, or adult leader that they seem to always be at odds with.
- When finished, ask them to crumple up their paper.
- Set the basket in the center of the room and ask kids to stand about 8-10 feet away.
- Invite kids to take turns tossing their paper wads into the basket.
- The catch is that they have to face the opposite direction and throw backward over their shoulder without looking.
- After everyone has had a turn, let kids share ideas that would make the game easier.
- Use the best ideas for a second or third round.
- Come back together as a group.
- Lead a conversation to connect the changes that were made in the game with the way an attitude of respect can be a game changer when it comes to getting along with people we don't feel deserve our respect.
- Use the following questions to guide kids in thinking through ways they can show respect even with those who are hard for them to get along with.
 - *How do you see God showing respect to everyone (good people and evil) in the verses you read?*
 - *If you knew that someone didn't like you, how would you still want them to treat you?*
 - *What are some good things that can come out of showing respect to those we don't get along with?*
 - *Do you think showing respect could actually turn an enemy into a friend? Explain.*
 - *What are some wrong attitudes that lie underneath or motivate disrespectful actions?*
 - *What can you do when others aren't showing you respect?*
 - *What are some of God's actions that show His great respect for you? What does that tell you about Him?*
- Allow kids to read what they wrote on the paper wads as they collectively share ideas of ways to show respect in that situation and how it might impact their relationship.

2. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies

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?

3. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens, ball

What You Do:

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

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

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—silently PRAY for someone they don't get along with.

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.”