

ALLEY SG – March 14th- 15th, 2026

Bible Story: Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

Conversation Starter: How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Large piece of paper (one per service) and marker

What You Do:

- Tell the group that Jesus didn't just talk about loving others; He showed it. As a group, you're going to brainstorm a simple service project you could do together to "love like Jesus" in a practical way.
- Ask: "What are some ways we could love others like Jesus?"
- Write their ideas on the board.
- Then, brainstorm simple ways your group could show love to one of those groups.
 - Make cards for residents of a local nursing home.
 - Collect socks or toiletries for a local shelter.
 - "Chalk the walk" with kind messages on the sidewalk outside the church.
- Choose one idea that your group is excited about and could realistically do. Make a simple plan to put it into action.
- **Say:** "These are incredible ideas. It's one thing to talk about loving people, but it's another thing to actually do it. When we serve others, we are putting others first. When people see you choosing to love when it's hard, they'll know that you're different. They'll see that you're a follower of Jesus. We are choosing to **love like Jesus even when it's hard**. That's humility in action."

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story review

What You Need: "Love Challenge" Activity Page (one per kid), Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Love Challenge" Activity Page and instruct them to decorate around the exterior of their paper.
- As a group, think of more love challenges they could complete.
- Direct the kids to choose a few and write them into the empty hearts on the "Love Challenge" Activity Page.
- Instruct kids to hang this at home and color in the hearts as they complete each challenge.
- **Say:** "As you go through your week and color in the hearts of the challenges you complete, remember with each one, you are loving like Jesus when it's easy and when it's hard. This really

captures the 'upside down' message Jesus was teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. It's easy to love people who are nice to you. But loving your enemies? That takes God's help, big time. And Jesus ended by saying, '*So be perfect, just as your father in heaven is perfect*' (Matthew 5:48). It's not our natural reaction to be kind to people who are unkind to us. But Jesus calls us to a higher standard, to be like our Father in heaven. He wants us to **love like Jesus even when it's hard**, because that's what shows the world what God's love really looks like.

3. Discussion Questions

- Jesus said to love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you. Why do you think Jesus wants us to respond to mean or hurtful people with love instead of revenge?
- Going the "extra mile" was a choice the person could make to show kindness. What might it look like for you to "go the extra mile" for someone who isn't kind to you?
- It's easy to love people who love us back, but Jesus asks for more. What's the difference between the kind of love Jesus talked about and the kind of love most people show?
- Jesus said that when we love our enemies, we show we are God's children. How can showing love to difficult people help others see what God is like?
- Loving others like Jesus can feel impossible sometimes. When it's really hard to be kind or forgiving, what can you do to let God help you love that person anyway?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Paper (one per kid), Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 2:3 Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a marker.
- Assign each person to write down just three or four words of the Memory Verse, Philippians 2:3. (e.g., Kid 1 writes "Don't do anything," Kid 2 writes "only to get ahead," etc.)
- Once they've written their part, invite the kids to crumple their paper into a tight ball.
- Encourage each kid to toss their crumpled paper into a pile in the center of the circle.
- On "Go," instruct everyone to grab a crumpled paper, open it up, and work together as a group to put the verse back in the correct order on the floor.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- "God, thank You for being so great. We are sorry for the times we make ourselves or other things more important than You. This week, please help us to be humble and put others first. Help us to live in a way that shows everyone how great You are. We want to live in a way that says, **[Bottom Line] Jesus must increase. I must decrease.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the Alley for 3 Alley Cash!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they could show kindness to someone who made them mad.