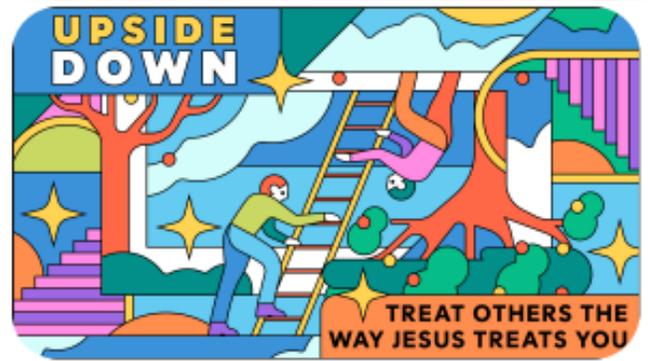




## LOWER ELEMENTARY

### WEEK 3- STARTER



### Activity Name: Hula Hoop Challenge

What You Need:  Hula hoop

### What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle, holding hands.
- Place a Hula Hoop over one pair of clasped hands.
- Challenge the group to move the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle without anyone letting go of their friends' hands. (The kids will have to step through the Hula Hoop and move their bodies to pass it along.)
- Cheer them on as they work together to get the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle.

### What You Say:

That was so fun! That was a real challenge, but you worked together! Sometimes, being friends and loving each other can be a little tricky!

Today, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is going to teach us a brand-new way to do something that can feel upside-down: how to love people who are unkind to us. Let's go listen!

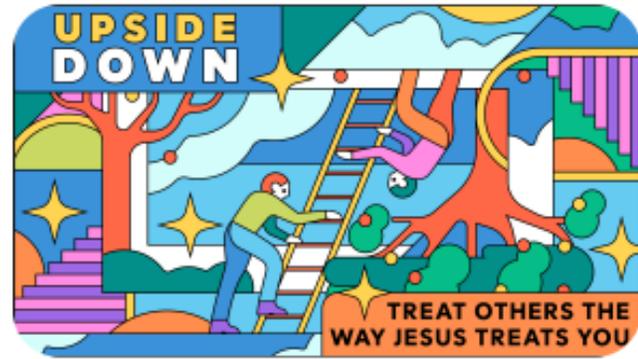
**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

### WEEK 3- SMALL GROUP

### 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?



#### Bible Story

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

#### Conversation Starter

How can you show kindness to someone who makes you mad?

#### Bottom Line

Love like Jesus even when it’s hard.

#### 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*

## Activity Name: Prayer Chain

**What You Need:**  Paper strips  Coloring supplies  tape or stapler

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a strip of paper and make coloring supplies available.
- Ask them to think of one person whom it is sometimes hard for them to love. They don't have to say the name out loud.
- Instruct them to draw a picture of that person on their paper strip.
- When they are done, help them tape or staple their strip into a loop.
- Then, link all the loops together to form a paper chain.
- Hold up the chain for everyone to see.

### What You Say:

Look at our prayer chain. There are so many people we can pray for. People we love and people who are hard to love. It can be hard to love everyone, but Jesus told us to 'pray for those who hurt you' (Matthew 8:44 NIV). Let's pray for the people on our chain right now.

Dear God, thank You for loving us, no matter what. Please help us to be like You, our Father in heaven. Help us to love the people we drew on our prayer chain today. Give us the strength to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.** We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP**