



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

### WEEK 3- STARTER



### Activity Name: Verse Coloring

**What You Need:**  Bible verse coloring page  Colored pencils or fine tip markers  (optional) quiet worship music

### What You Do:

- 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 every kid a Bible Verse coloring page and make the colored pencils/markers available.
- Explain that this is like an “adult” coloring page, with more intricate designs. They can take their time to color it.
- As they color, play some quiet worship music in the background.
- This activity is meant to be calm and reflective, giving them space to think about the words of the verse

### What You Say:

This is a great verse about humility. It reminds us to think about others more than ourselves. It seems ‘upside down,’ but it’s exactly what Jesus did. And when we think about it, making time for Jesus is an act of humility, too. It’s saying that Jesus is more important than all the other things we could be doing. Today’s true story from the Bible is about two sisters, Mary and Martha. One of them was very, very busy ... Let’s go find out what Jesus thought about all her work.

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

## UPPER 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: Love Challenge

**What You Need:** ☐ Large paper or whiteboard ☐ Love Challenge Activity Page

### 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.
- Give each kid a "Love Challenge" Activity Page to take home.

### What You Say:

Jesus said that we should not only love our friends but also love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us (Matthew 5:44). This challenge is about choosing kindness and putting others first, even when it's hard—that's how we show the world we are His followers! "Jesus said that if someone forces you to go one mile, you should go two miles (Matthew 5:41). That means choosing to do more than what is required, especially for someone who might not expect it or even deserve it. When you choose kindness instead of revenge, you are showing the powerful love of Jesus.

As you go through your week and color in the hearts of the challenges you complete, remember that 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 NIV). 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 **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**, because that's what shows the world what God's love really looks like.

**KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP**