

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time and for the kids that show up each week! Pray over their time here and the lessons they learn, relationships they build.*
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
 - *What was your favorite part of this last week?*
 - *When someone makes you upset, what's your first reaction usually?*
 - *Have you ever seen someone respond to rudeness with kindness? What happened?*
 - *What's one small way you could show kindness to someone who's having a bad day?*
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

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.
- (If you have a larger group, feel free to make smaller groups and give each group a Hula Hoop. Groups of five work great!)
- 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:

“You did it! That was a real challenge, but you worked together! Sometimes, being friends and loving each other can be a little tricky! *[Transition]* **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!**”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

We follow up in Week 3 with Jesus’ teaching to “turn the other cheek” and “go the extra mile.” Rather than paying back our enemies in kind, we show they can’t control us when we choose to love like Jesus ... and trust God to make things right. Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it’s hard. [BOTTOM LINE] Love like Jesus even when it’s hard.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: 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. *Here's some examples:*
 - 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 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.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate example of how you showed Jesus’ love, even though it was really hard. For example: “There was a time someone at work was really unfair to me, and my first instinct was to take revenge and complain about them to everyone. But I remembered this teaching from Jesus. Instead of complaining, I chose to pray for them and even did something nice for them. It was really hard, but it totally changed how I felt, and eventually, our relationship got better.”)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: The Color of Humility Coloring Page

What You Do:

- Give out the color of humility coloring page to any kid who wants one.
- If kids don’t want to color but need help focusing in on the conversation, let them use a fidget toy.
- Ask your group these 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?

What You Say:

“It’s not always easy to pray for people who are hard to love. But Jesus tells us to do it. His command is ‘*Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you*’ (Matthew 5:44 *NIV*). It changes our hearts and helps us see them more like He sees them. Let’s pray together.”

Close in prayer OR invite a kid to pray!