



Sneak-a-Peek

Jesus Says Love the Mean People

BIG IDEA: The Bible helps me make good choices.

BIBLE BASIS: Matthew 5:38-48

KEY VERSE: "Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way."
Psalm 119:105

★ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

A HEART FOR YOU

Supplies: Blank name tag stickers (1 per child), markers

Directions: Tell the children they're going to give their love to somebody. Give each child a blank sticker and instruct them to draw and color a heart on it. Tell them to make it as pretty and colorful as they can. While coloring, ask the children who they would like to give their heart to. Ask them why they chose that person. If the person is in the room, they can give their heart away when they're finished coloring; otherwise, they can take it home.

Say: Most (or all) of you said you want to give your heart to a friend or family member. But can you imagine giving it to someone who is mean to you? (*Allow children to answer.*) In today's true Bible story, Jesus says we should give our love to mean people too.

Question: Has anyone ever been mean to you? What did they do?

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

CRAYON DROP (Application Activity)

Supplies: Red crayon (1 per group), bucket (1 per group), small shoe box (1 per group), mason jar (1 per group), name tag stickers (3 per group)

Preparation: Find three containers of varying sizes, such as a bucket, a small shoe box, and a mason jar. The idea is that the openings of the containers should get progressively smaller. Write the word “Family” on one name tag and stick it to the largest container. Write the word “Friends” on another name tag and stick it to the medium size container. Write the words “Mean People” on a third name tag and stick to the smallest size container.

Directions: Tell the children that they’re going to try to give their love (the red crayon) to family, friends, and mean people. Begin with the family container (largest). Have the children take turns standing over the container, holding the crayon so that it dangles from the tip of their nose, and dropping it into the container. They may not lean over to get closer to the container. When all of the children have had a turn, repeat with the friends container (medium size) and then the mean people container (small size). As the containers get smaller, it will get progressively more difficult to hit the target.

Say: It was pretty easy dropping the crayon into the first two containers, but it was harder to get it into the third container. It’s the same way with loving people. It’s easy to love our family and friends, but it’s much harder to love people who are mean to us.

Question: Why do you think it’s so hard to show someone love when they’re mean to you?

LET’S ROLL (Application Activity)

Supplies: Dice (1 per group)

Say: Sometimes when people are mean to us, we want to be mean back. But Jesus said we should love people who are mean to us. Let’s play a game that will help us think of ways we can show love when someone is being mean.

Directions: Have the children take turns rolling the dice. When a number is rolled for the first time, ask the children how they would show love to the person who corresponds with that number on the list below (column one). When a number is rolled multiple times, have the children perform the silly action (column two) on the repeated rolls. Continue playing until each number has been rolled at least once.

Question: How could you show love to someone who...



First Roll:

1. Pushed you
2. Broke your toy
3. Cut in front of you in line
4. Said mean words to you
5. Stole your ball
6. Made a mean face at you

Repeat Rolls:

1. Cluck like a chicken
2. Hop on one foot
3. Karate chop the air
4. Spin around two times
5. Moo like a cow
6. Make a silly face

WADDLE WALK (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Hula hoop (1 per group), inflated balloon (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"Your word (*extend hands like you're holding a book*) is like a lamp (*point up like a candlestick*) that shows me the way (*with palms facing each other, make a squiggly path motion*)." Psalm 119:105 (*extend hands like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, place a hula hoop on the floor. Choose a child to place the inflated balloon between their knees and walk around the hula hoop while saying the Bible verse. They must say the entire verse without dropping the balloon or touching it with their hands. Continue until every child has had a turn. Play additional rounds by challenging the children to walk backwards, hop on two feet, or skip.

THROW BACK (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Stuffed animal (1 per group)

Directions: Have the children stand in a cluster while you stand about 6 feet away with your back to the group. Toss the stuffed animal over your shoulder toward the group of children. Ask the child who catches it, "What happened first in today's Bible story?" Only allow them to tell a small part of the story. Allow the other children to help answer if needed. Next, have the child who caught the stuffed animal toss it over their shoulder so another child can catch it. Ask the next child to catch the animal, "What happened next in the story?" Repeat this until the whole story has been told.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: Have you ever been nice to someone who is being mean? What happened when you showed them love?

Question: Why do you think Jesus wants us to show love to someone who is being mean?

Say: Jesus says we should love people who are mean to us, but that's really hard sometimes! Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us love people who are being mean.

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Small Group Lesson | Preschool



Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by asking God to help the children show love to people who are being mean.