



**MADE TO PLAY**

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



**1. HELP A BROTHER OUT!**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Help a Brother Out!" Activity Page—cut in half

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Designate one team as the "Ethiopian Official" team.
- Designate the other team as the "Philip" team.
- Give the "Philip" team the top half of the "Help a Brother Out!" Activity Page, but instruct them not to share what's on it with the "Ethiopian Official" team.
- Direct the "Philip" team to act out the Bible verses (don't worry about the reference!) with motions like charades.
- Instruct the "Ethiopian Official" team to try to guess what the "Philip" team is acting.
- Share that in order for the "Ethiopian Official" team to get credit for guessing the verse, the words don't need to be exact—just close! You will determine if the answer is close enough.
- Direct the "Philip" team to choose one member of their group to represent Philip.
- The kid designated to be Philip can help the "Ethiopian Official" team by giving hints when they're having a hard time guessing.
- Remind the teams that when they are the "Philip" team, Philip is the only one who is allowed to talk.
- As the "Ethiopian Official" team is attempting to decode the verses, remind them that they can ask Philip for help whenever they want!
- Assist Philip in giving hints that don't completely reveal the answers.
- After the first three verses have been decoded, direct the teams to switch roles.
- Provide the new "Philip" team with the key for the next three Bible verses.
- Invite the "Philip" team to act out the verses silently with motions.
- Instruct the new "Ethiopian Official" team to decode the verses.

**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

**Love One Another/Philip and the Ethiopian Official**  
John 13:34-35, Acts 8:26-40

**TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE**

**Love others the way Jesus loves you.**

**KEY QUESTION**

**How can you love like Jesus?**

**MEMORY VERSE**

**"Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them."**  
John 7:38, NIV

**BASIC TRUTH**

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Philip was loving toward the Ethiopian official by helping him understand the Bible. Teaching someone about Jesus is the ultimate form of love, but there are all kinds of ways to show people love. What are some other ways we can show love to the people around us? *(Pause for responses. If the kids are having a hard time coming up with ideas, prompt them with questions like, "How can we show love at home with our family?" "How can we show love in our school or neighborhood?"*)

"These are great ideas! Let's try some of them out this week! When we show love to people, we're giving them a glimpse of who Jesus is. Whether it's helping someone with homework, or taking the trash out for a parent, showing love to people is one way we can decode Jesus' love and teach them about Him. **Love others the way Jesus loves you** and remind them how much Jesus loves and cares for them."



**MADE TO IMAGINE**

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



**2. A LOVE LIKE JESUS**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "A Love Like Jesus" Activity Page, markers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give "A Love Like Jesus" Activity Page to each kid.
- Set out the markers.
- As a group, invite the kids to think of as many examples of showing love as they can. (Encourage them to think of all kinds of love, not just doing things for other people.) Here are some examples:
  - Realizing your friend is sad and sitting with them on the playground
  - Giving a parent a hug
  - Letting a sibling pick the movie or game to play
  - Making something for someone important
- Instruct kids to write a few sentences or draw a picture of themselves showing someone love in one of the ways the group talked about.
- When kids are finished, invite volunteers to share their pictures/paragraphs with the rest of the group.

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**BASIC TRUTH**

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Jesus showed love to those around Him so we could see how we can make waves in this big world and love others too. **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time someone loved you so well and it reminded you of Jesus' love for you.)** This week, when you **Love others the way Jesus loves you**, remember that you could be changing the way someone sees Jesus! You could be making a forever difference in their life—making waves by changing the world around you!"



**MADE TO CREATE**

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



**3. RIVER OF LOVE**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, blue construction paper, markers, scissors, clear tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together as a group, look up John 7:38, and read it out loud.
- Share that the kids are going to be making their own rivers!
- Give each kid three pieces of blue construction paper and a pair of scissors.
- Demonstrate how the kids can turn their construction paper vertically and cut the page into four strips.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to write the verse on the strips—one or two words on each strip. (The kids can use their Bibles as reference.)
- To write the whole verse on their twelve strips, direct the kids to write one of the words of the verse on ten of the strips, and two words of the verse on two of the strips. (There are thirteen words, plus the reference, in the Memory Verse.)
- Set out the tape.
- When each kid has written the verse on their strips, demonstrate how to join the bottom end to the top end of a strip to create a circle.
- Instruct the kids to secure each circle with tape.
- Demonstrate how to loop the next strip through the circle and secure the bottom end to the top end of the strip to begin making a paper chain.

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**KEY QUESTION**

**How can you love like Jesus?**

**MEMORY VERSE**

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**BASIC TRUTH**

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Does anyone know what the longest river in the world is? (Allow time for guesses.) It's the Nile River, which goes for 4,132 miles! Our chains aren't nearly that long, but I want to challenge you to hang your river somewhere you will see it often so you can be reminded that Jesus has chosen you to continue flowing His love to everyone in the world. There's no one on earth who doesn't deserve to be loved by Jesus, so let's make waves and **love others the way Jesus loves you!**"



### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Love One Another/Philip and the Ethiopian Official**  
John 13:34-35, Acts 8:26-40

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Love others the way Jesus loves you.**

### KEY QUESTION

**How can you love like Jesus?**

### MEMORY VERSE

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### BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

## 4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Prayer Card: Day 4" Activity Page, markers, Swag Bracelet (if choosing to use)

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a marker, and a Swag Bracelet (if provided).
- Point out the "splash" symbol on the prayer card and the Swag Bracelet.
- Say: "You can make a big SPLASH when you **love others the way Jesus loves you.**"
- Invite the kids to think of someone they can show Jesus' love to.
- Instruct the kids to turn over their card and write that person's name.
- As you guide your group in prayer, direct the kids to whisper the name of the person they chose each time you pause in your prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for creating \_\_\_\_\_. This week, please help \_\_\_\_\_ to experience Your love for them and learn more about who You are. If there is any way we can love \_\_\_\_\_ better this week, please show us that. As we're tempted to focus on ourselves, please help us refocus ourselves on others so we can love them better. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

### Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

### WHAT YOU SAY:

- Has anybody ever stopped what they were doing in order to help you with something? What happened?
- How do you show someone you love them?



## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Prepare ahead of time for Small Group Rotation for VBS:

#### 1. WOBBLE ON THE WATER

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Help a Brother Out!" Activity Page—cut in half

#### 2. A LOVE LIKE JESUS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

*Made to Imagine:* an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "A Love Like Jesus" Activity Page—one per kid
- Markers

#### 3. RIVER OF LOVE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

*Made to Create:* an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Blue construction paper—3-5 pages per kid
- Scissors—one pair per kid
- Markers
- Clear tape—one roll per two kids

#### 4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

*Made to Reflect:* an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Prayer Card: Day 4" Activity Page—one per kid
- Swag Bracelet (if choosing to use)—one per kid
- Markers