



MADE TO IMAGINE

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



1. ACT IT OUT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: two action figures, toy car, plastic tablecloth, plastic bin, bottle of water

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay out the plastic tablecloth on the floor or a table.
- Set the car (chariot) on one side of the plastic tablecloth and the plastic bin on the other.
- Pour the water from the water bottle into the plastic bin.
- Hold up one action figure and say, "This will be the Ethiopian official."
- Select three kids to sit on the side of the plastic tablecloth with the car.
- Give the action figure to one of them.
- Hold up the second action figure and say, "This will be Philip."
- Select three kids to sit next to the first three.
- Give the action figure to one of them.
- Choose two or three kids to sit near the car. Say: "This will be our chariot."
- Choose two or three kids to sit near the plastic bin. Instruct them not to touch the water.
- If you have more kids, assign them to each of the four groups.
- Explain that you will read a version of today's Bible story.
- Direct the kids to listen closely and act out the story by moving the action figures/items provided based on what's happening in the story.
- Instruct the kids to choose one kid in each group to act out their part first.
- Periodically throughout the story, say the word, "Switch."
- When you say the word "switch," instruct the kids with the chariot and the action figures to switch so another kid has a turn acting out the story.
- When finished with the story reenactment, set the bin of water out of reach of kids.
- Collect the car and action figures.

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.

Bible Story

Philip was traveling around telling people about Jesus. An angel appeared to Philip and told him to take the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. So Philip started walking! On his way, he saw an Ethiopian official with a very important job. He was in charge of all the queen's wealth. The Ethiopian official had been to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading from Isaiah the prophet. **(Switch)**

Philip felt the Holy Spirit tell him to go over to the chariot. So Philip did. The Ethiopian man was reading the words of Isaiah, but he was very confused. He didn't understand what he was reading. Philip realized that the official was reading about Jesus. As they rode along in the chariot, Philip began to tell the Ethiopian official about Jesus! He explained that the prophet Isaiah was telling them that a Savior, a Rescuer, was coming. Then he explained that the Savior was Jesus! **(Switch)**



(1. ACT IT OUT, CONTINUED)

Suddenly, the man noticed water nearby. He said, "Stop the chariot!" He pointed out the water to Philip and said, "There's water right there! Can I be baptized?" Philip replied, "Definitely!" So the men got out of the chariot and went to the water. Philip baptized the Ethiopian official right there. *(Pause as the kids near the water help with the "baptism.")* **(Switch; if needed)**

When they came up out of the water, the spirit of God suddenly took Philip away. Just like that, Philip was gone. The Ethiopian official continued on his journey, full of joy. Philip was seen next in a different town, where he continued to tell people about Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What an amazing story! Because Philip took the time to stop and talk to the Ethiopian official, he was showing him God's love, just like Jesus told His followers to do! The Ethiopian official's whole life was changed. He became a follower of Jesus! Talk about making waves! Philip made a BIG difference in this man's life because he took the time to help him understand how to follow Jesus. We can make waves and change the world around us when we **love others the way Jesus loves you.**"

[Make It Personal] *(Tell the kids about someone who took the time to show you love and introduced you to Jesus as a result. Maybe it was a church leader you had as a kid. Maybe it was a grandparent or parent or friend. How did their love for you help you see how much Jesus loves you?)*



MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



2. LOVE OTHERS SCENARIOS
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: heart cut out, music player

WHAT YOU DO:

- Direct the kids to form a seated circle.
- Give the heart cut out to one kid.
- Instruct the kids to pass the heart cut out around the circle as the music plays.
- Start the music.
- Stop the music at random.
- Instruct the kid holding the heart when the music stops to share the name of someone they know who they see most every day and how they know them. (Example: "My brother who lives with me." "Tommy on my soccer team." etc.)
- Invite the kids to raise their hands and share one example of how the person holding the heart could show love to the person they've named. (Example: "You could let you brother pick what you watch on TV." "You could invite Tommy to come to church.")
- Start the music again and repeat the activity.
- Stop the music strategically so every kid has a chance to name a person as the other kids share examples.
- Be prepared to help with examples if the kids are stumped.

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John 7:38, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Wow! There are lots and lots of ways we can show love to the people around us. When we do, we'll be making waves just like Philip did! The best way we can help others know about Jesus and His love is by **LOVING** the people around us. So this week, when you have an opportunity, I want you to **love others the way Jesus loves you.**"



MADE TO CREATE

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



3. WATERCOLOR VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible marked at John 7:38, "John 7:38 Watercolor Verse" Activity Page, watercolor paints, small paintbrushes, cups of water, a plastic tablecloth, markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a kid to open the Bible to John 7:38.
- Read the verse out loud to the group.
- Spread out the plastic tablecloth to cover the painting area.
- Give each kid a "John 7:38 Watercolor Verse" Activity Page and a paintbrush.
- Set out the paints and cups of water.
- Point out and read the verse on the "John 7:38 Watercolor Verse" Activity Page.
- Encourage the kids to paint the water in the background.
- Direct the kids to write their names on their papers with the marker.
- Set the pages aside to dry.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Beautiful painting, friends! I love all of your creativity. I'm so glad that God sent Jesus to show us how to live and love others! When we put our trust in Jesus and what He did for us, we can make waves to change the world around us. Let's remember to share Jesus' love so that others can have this same living water! You can **love others the way Jesus loves you.**"

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



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

WHAT YOU NEED: Swag Bracelets with today's symbol, "Prayer Card: Day 4" Activity Page, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, 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 [Bottom Line] love others the way Jesus loves you."
- Ask the kids to think of someone they're having trouble getting along with or someone who has been unkind to them.
- Encourage them to turn their card over and write the first letter of that person's name on the back of their card.
- Close in prayer—asking God to help kids love others as Jesus loves them, including the person noted on their cards.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When someone is unkind to us, sometimes we want to be unkind right back! But that's not what Jesus did. He said to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. But we can't do that on our own. We need God's help to [Bottom Line] love others the way Jesus loves you. So why don't we pray and ask God to help us love others today?"

"Dear God, thank You that You love us no matter what. We when mess up, You always forgive. Please help us love others the way Jesus loves us. When it's hard and when it's easy and when we just don't feel like it, please help us to remember to treat others the way we want to be treated. 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?



DAY
FOUR
SUMMER 2022

SMALL GROUP

K-1

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

ROTATIONS

HOME

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. ACT IT OUT

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- Action figures—two
- Toy car
- Plastic tablecloth
- Plastic bin
- Bottle of water

2. LOVE OTHERS SCENARIOS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Heart cut out
- Music player

3. WATERCOLOR VERSE

[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:

- Bible marked at John 7:38
- "John 7:38 Watercolor Verse" Activity Page
- Watercolor paints—one per every 2 to 3 kids
- Small paintbrushes—one per kid
- Cups of water—one per every 2 to 3 kids
- Plastic tablecloth
- Markers

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:

- Swag Bracelet with today's symbol
- "Prayer Card: Day 4" Activity Page—one card per kid
- Pencils—one per kid