

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: ice in two large buckets—try to keep the ice as frozen and fresh as possible before kids arrive; large table or drop cloth; salt in various forms; towels; room temperature water in pitchers, *optional: other objects to melt ice—sugar, newspaper, hand warmers, etc.*

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 DO:

- If using instead of a table, set out the drop cloth.
- Place the two buckets on either side of the table or drop cloth.
- Divide your group into two teams. (Feel free to do more teams—just provide more buckets of ice!)
- Direct each team to stand around their bucket.
- Set out the salt, towels, water, and other supplies on the table or drop cloths.
- Challenge teams to be the first to melt all the ice in their team's bucket!
- Let the teams use any or all of the options you've set out on the table or drop cloth.
- Once there's a winner, invite the kids to circle up and discuss the following:
 - What are all the ways you melted the ice?
 - Did any of these methods not work at all? Why or why not? (*No, they all had an effect on the ice. The salt melts the ice, but it makes the water COLDER; the towels work by friction which WARMS the towel and the water.*)
 - Just like there are actually a lot of ways to melt ice, there is no one way to love like Jesus. What are some unique ways YOU could love like Jesus? (*Invite kids to answer—if they're not sure, ask about their friends, talents, families; from there you should be able to give them a good suggestion.*)

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: small-lidded plastic containers—fill one with water, some with sand (or other small, rattling things), and leave some empty; blindfold

WHAT YOU DO:

- Choose one kid to wear the blindfold first.
- Help the kid put on the blindfold.
- As silently as possible, give out the sealed containers to the rest of the group.
- Instruct the group to scatter around the small group area and shake their containers.
- Direct the kid who is wearing the blindfold to find the container with water.
- Once the kid has found the water-filled container, invite a different kid to put on the blindfold.
- Direct the rest of the group to trade containers and start shaking them.
- Instruct the newly blindfolded kid to find the container of water.
- Play until everyone has had a turn finding the water.
- When everyone has had a chance to find the water, discuss the following:
 - What did the Ethiopian official do when found water? (*he immediately wanted to get baptized*)
 - What was special about how Philip helped the Ethiopian official? (*Philip went out of his way to love the official and tell him about Jesus.*)
 - When was the last time you went out of your way to help someone?
 - **[Make it Personal] (Share a story of your own as well.)**
 - One of the big ways we show love like Jesus is when we stop what we're doing and do something for someone else. When is it most hard for you to do that?
 - What could you do to help remember to love like Jesus—even if you're in the middle of a video game, or a project, when someone needs help?

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MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



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3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: no supplies necessary

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- How do you think the Ethiopian official felt when Philip disappeared?
- Tradition teaches that the official went home to the palace in Ethiopia and told everyone about Jesus. Lots of churches resulted, and some are almost 2,000 years old! How do you think Philip would feel if he knew that his little road trip led to millions of people following Jesus?
- Philip showed Jesus' love by teaching him the Bible. How could you show love with something you're good at?

MADE TO CREATE

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



4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: clean, empty water bottles with tops—one per kid; “Messages in a Bottle” Activity Page—one set per small group; coloring materials; colorful duct or masking tape; Bibles

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Set out the coloring materials.
- Give each kid a “Message in a Bottle.”
- Direct the kids to look up 1 Corinthians 13.
- Instruct the kids to think of a word or phrase that describes love like Jesus’—something that they want to remember and get better at this summer or school year.
- Invite the kids to use the coloring materials to write their word or phrase on their “Message in a Bottle” card and decorate it.
- Give each kid an empty water bottle.
- When the kids are finished decorating their phrase, instruct them to roll up the message and put it in their bottle.
- Put the cap on the bottle and seal the bottle with colorful tape.
- Encourage the kids to put these bottles somewhere they can open them when they need to remember how to love like Jesus.
- When the kids have each created a bottle, discuss:
 - According to these verses in 1 Corinthians 13, what is love really like? (*not selfish or rude, takes time for other people, is kind and compassionate, etc.*)
 - When is it hard to love like Jesus? (*Invite responses: share times when you too feel annoyed at interruptions to your plan or schedule.*)
 - Encourage kids to use their “messages in a bottle” to help them remember that the most important thing they can do is to show love to others like Jesus.

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prayer Cards: Day 4" Activity Page, pencils, Swag Bracelet with today's symbol (if provided)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a prayer card, a pencil, and a Swag Bracelet (if provided).
- Direct the kids' attention to the splash on the prayer card and the Swag Bracelet.
- Ask: "What kinds of actions make a splash and really show Jesus' love?"
- Invite the kids to turn over their prayer card and write or draw one way they plan to love their friends or family like Jesus this week.
- Close your group time in prayer.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for showing us, through Jesus, what love looks like. Please help us to be patient and kind in the way we treat others, and not insist on our own plans. 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:

- What is the longest trip you've ever been on?
- While you traveled, what did you do? Did you read like the official in today's story?
- When was the last time you stopped what you were doing in order to help someone else? Has anyone ever done that for you?

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:

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- Large table or drop cloth
- Salt in various forms
- Towels
- Room temperature water in pitchers
- *Optional: other objects to melt ice—sugar, newspaper, hand warmers, etc.*

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Small-lidded, plastic containers
 - Fill one container with water.
 - Fill some containers with sand or other small rattling things.
 - Leave some containers empty.
- Blindfold

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clean, empty water bottles with tops—one per kid
- “Messages in a Bottle” Activity Page—one set per small group
- Coloring materials
- Colorful duct or masking tape
- Bibles

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[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 card per kid
- Swag Bracelet with today’s symbol (if providing)—one per kid
- Pencils