

K-2 | March 15

**Bible Story:** Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

**Bottom Line:** Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIRV*

## 1. Opening Activity

### What You Need:

- Offering container
- Hula Hoops®
- Spot markers

### What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Set up a spot marker a few feet away from each pair.
- Give each pair one Hula Hoop.
- Explain the challenge: They are to work with their friend to get the Hula Hoop from where they're standing to the spot marker and back.
- The catch: They can't use their hands! They must hold the Hula Hoop between their bodies (e.g., back-to-back, side-to-side) and walk together to move it.
- If they drop the Hula Hoop, allow them to just pick it up (with their hands is okay for picking it up) and try again.
- Cheer for each pair as they work together to complete the challenge.

### What You Say:

"Great teamwork, everyone! That was tricky! You had to work together very closely with your friend. It can be hard to work that closely with someone, especially if you disagree.

**[Transition]** "In our true story from the Bible today, from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught a brand-new way to treat people. He told us to love everyone even when it's really, really hard. Let's go find out what He said!"

### **EveryChild Pro Tips:**

- *If a kid is uncomfortable with close physical contact, allow them to use their hands with their partner, focusing on the cooperative goal of moving the Hula Hoop together.*

## 2. Love Grows for Everyone

### What You Need:

- White cardstock or construction paper
- colorful paper hearts
- Green paper strips (stems)
- Yellow paper sun
- Cloud cutouts
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or markers

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper to be their “garden.”
- Have the kids glue green stems coming up from the bottom of the page.
- Invite them to glue a heart on top of each stem to make heart-flowers.
- Explain that the hearts represent people in our lives—friends, family, and even people who are hard to love.
- Have kids glue the sun in the corner of the page and help them write **“Love Your Enemies.”**
- Have kids draw raindrops falling onto the hearts and help them write **“Pray for Those Who Hurt You.”**
- Allow time for kids to decorate their garden with grass, smiles, or extra hearts.
- Encourage kids to quietly think about one person they can pray for this week while they finish their craft.

### What You Say:

“Your gardens look amazing! You added hearts, sunshine, and rain—and that’s important. Plants need sun and rain to grow, and people need love and prayer too.

“Jesus teaches us to love everyone—even people who are unkind or hard to love. God gives sunshine and rain to everyone, and He wants us to show His love the same way. Loving someone who hurts us can feel really hard, but we don’t have to do it on our own.

“When you pray and ask God for help, He gives you the strength to love like Jesus. And when people see you choosing love—especially when it’s hard—they’ll see God’s love through you. You can **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus, even when it’s hard.**”

### 3. Bible Story Telephone

#### What You Need:

- No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to join you and sit in a circle.
- Explain the game of Telephone. You'll whisper a short sentence from the story into one kid's ear, and they'll whisper it to the next, and so on.
- Use these simple sentences from the story:
  - "Jesus said, 'Love your enemies.'"
  - "Be kind to people who are mean."
  - "Pray for people who hurt you."
  - "This shows you are children of your Father in heaven."
  - **"[Bottom Line] Love like Jesus even when it's hard."**
- Whisper the first sentence to the first kid.
- When the sentence gets to the end of the circle, encourage the last kid to say it out loud.
- Talk about whether the message stayed the same. Play again with the next sentence.

#### What You Say:

"Great job! It can be tricky to get the message right. The message Jesus gave us in our story is so important, we want to get it right! Jesus said: *'Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don't'* (Matthew 5:44-45 NIV).

"Did you hear that? Jesus didn't just say: 'Don't be mean to your enemies.' He told us to love our enemies. That's completely upside down, right?! But showing love to an enemy—that's just what God does. God shows kindness to everyone. And God says He wants us to show the world that we are His children by doing the same. He wants us to **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"

### 4. Pray

"Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us to love others the way You do, sending sun and rain on everyone. Give us Your strength so we can **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard.** We need Your help! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."