

Loving Others

Game Spot



Activity Spot

Box Pasting: Provide a range of boxes for pasting, ribbons, wrapping paper and lots of items to decorate the boxes. While you are participating in this activity you can talk to the children about making a gift for someone else. What sorts of gifts do you like to receive? How do they make you feel? Do you think somebody else would like to receive that too? I wonder what the gift you are going to make today will look like and who you will give it to.

Painting: When the children choose to do a painting tell them that, today, they need to do a painting for someone else, to make them happy and brighten their day. Who are you doing your painting for? Write 'To.....from.....' on the painting.

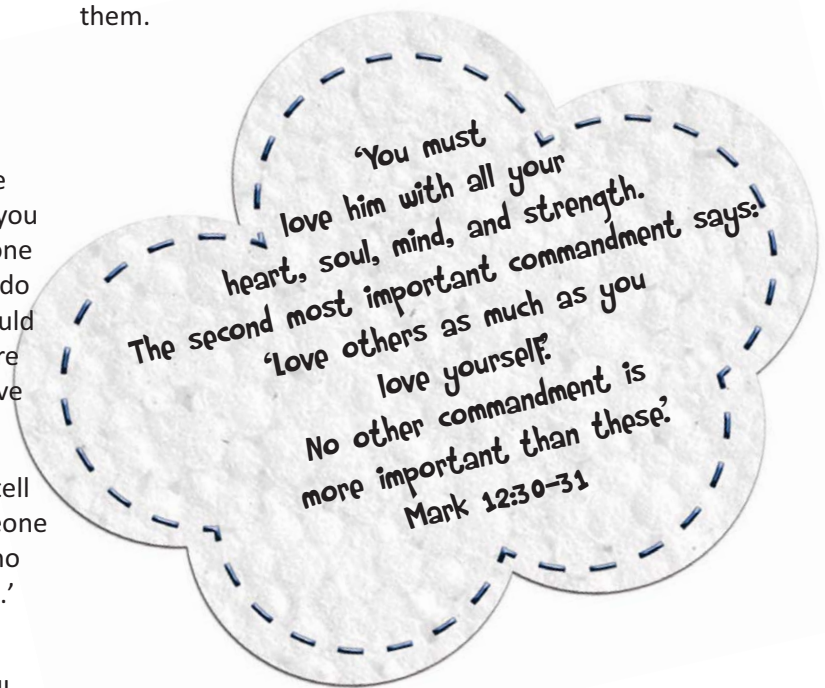
Turn-taking activities: Choose some activities that will require the children to take turns e.g. slides, ride-on cars, etc.

Doctors/dentist/vet: For dramatic play, you might like to set up a doctor, dentist or vet surgery, all areas where people will be helping others. You might like to have this set up for each of the weeks, just changing it slightly or perhaps trying another service that helps people within the community.

Books: There are lots of books available about people that help others; it would be good to provide a variety of books for the children to choose from in a reading area. It would be important also to include some books about how Jesus cares for people.

Week 8 – An obstacle course – This game/activity helps the children with taking turns as well as letting someone help them or some of the bigger kids perhaps helping some of the smaller ones. Set up an obstacle course using items like big blocks, cones, hula hoops, skipping ropes etc. Use helping language, 'I am helping you to step over the block' 'I am helping you to jump into the hoop'. Make sure you do not have too many items or instructions for this activity, remembering that repetition and someone helping them will help them to succeed and be affirmed. Start the children along the obstacle course at intervals so that you can get everyone through the activity.

Week 9 – Musical hugs – This game is played just like musical statues but when you stop the music you call out who the children have to hug e.g. hug your mum or dad, hug a friend, hug two friends etc. If you didn't want to hug you can change it for giving someone a high five, shake hands, pat on the back or a combination of all of them.



Week 10 - Pass the parcel: During this game of 'pass the parcel' the focus will be on being kind to others. Each layer will be unwrapped by the child that the parcel lands on when the music stops but then they are to be kind to someone and get them to unwrap the next layer (make sure you have plenty of layers of paper on the parcel). In the middle of the parcel it is also good to have an item that is something that the winning child can share e.g. packet of stickers or lollypops etc.

Creating Spot

Cooking cupcakes: To make this easier you might like to use a packet mix. Encourage the kids to all have turns at mixing and putting some of the mixture into the patty pans ready for cooking. As you do this activity together, reinforce that you are helping each other to make the cupcakes; everyone is doing their part. If you do this early in the program you can cook the cupcakes and then get the children to decorate them later or you can have some already cooked and cooled ready for the children to decorate. When they have decorated their cupcakes get the children to put one in a little noodle box with some ribbon and a little card to say 'To..... Love from.....', and they can eat one for morning tea. Encourage the children to take their specially wrapped cupcake and give it to someone else outside of the program.

Helping hands: You could do this activity in a couple of ways. You might like to put up a long roll of butchers paper on the wall and get the children, leaders and caregivers some paint that they can dip their hands in and make some prints. You could have a couple of colours and encourage everyone to make two handprints in the chain. Help the children to place their handprints in a chain to show how we can work together, use our hands to help others. If you don't want to use paint you might like to trace and cut out the children's hands from brightly coloured paper and stick them up to create a chain of helping hands showing love and care for others. While you are doing this activity with the children make sure that you talk about some of the things that we can do with our hands that can help others.



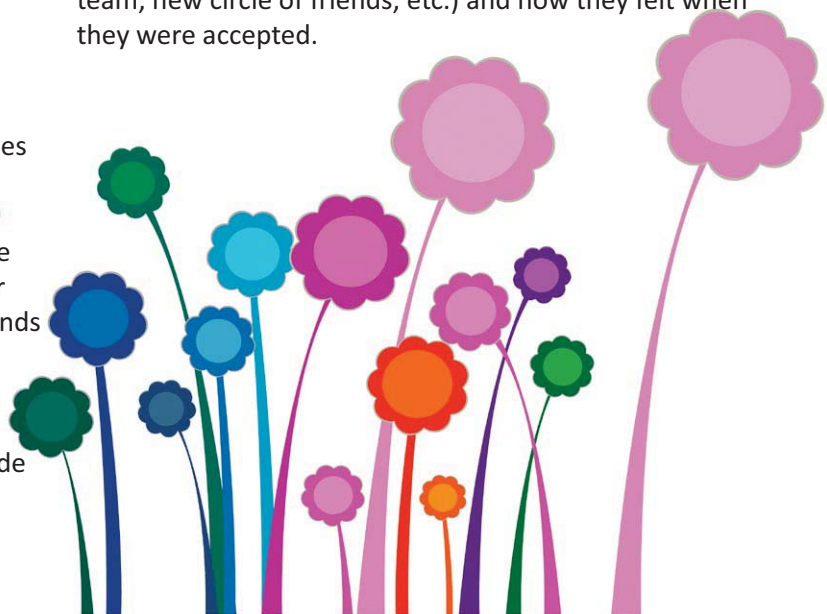
Puppets: Provide the children with either cut out circles or small paper plates, icy pole sticks and a range of items to decorate the plates to make faces e.g. cotton wool, mini patty pans, bottle lids, wool etc. Encourage the children create their face and then to create other faces of people around them, their family or their friends or even other children from playgroup or kids church. While participating in this activity make sure you use language of helping and kindness, asking the children how they help the other people whose faces they made or how they can be kind to them.



Story Spot

The Big Hungry Bear and the Red Ripe Strawberry – This is a wonderful story of a mouse that will do anything to protect the strawberry from being eaten by the Big Hungry Bear. When finished reading the story talk to the children about their favourite food and if they had some right now would they share it with someone or keep it all for themselves? I wonder how you would feel if someone had something very yummy to eat and they didn't want to share with you. How do you feel when someone shares something special with you? Encourage the children to be kind with the things that they have. God loves it when we are kind to others.

Arnold the Prickly Teddy – A thoughtful story of a boy who finds a discarded teddy bear and makes him his own. Though the bear is a bit prickly and shoddy, the boy loves him anyway. A lovely story of acceptance and friendship. Remind the children that God loves us all equally, no matter what we look like on the outside. Ask the kids if they can think of a time they were accepted by others (into a new school, new church, new sporting team, new circle of friends, etc.) and how they felt when they were accepted.



Through the roof – Lost sheep series – Book or

Powerpoint presentation – The PowerPoint copy of this story would work best with young children. There are opportunities for the children, leaders and caregivers to participate in the story e.g. knock, knock, knock, dig, dig, dig etc. This story is a wonderful illustration of how much the four friends cared for the man who could not walk. The book has a page with suggestions for things to do before the story and also after the story, depending on your group you might need to adapt these to reinforce the message of caring for each other.

Object story: Cheering Up – For this illustration you will need an adult (parent or another leader) and items that you can stack in their arms to weigh them down e.g. phone books or boxes etc.

Some things make us sad (show me a sad face), mad (show me a mad face), worried or scared. Get the children to tell you what some of those things might be, as they say each thing add an item to your helper's arms (they need to shrink down under the weight as each item is added). These things really weigh us down don't they, they are really heavy, they make us not very happy. The Bible tells us (Proverbs 12:25) that when we are upset or worried that we are weighed down but an encouraging word, when someone says something nice it will make us happy, bring us joy, make us smile. So what kind of words will make our helper happy? Encourage the children to share encouraging words, as they are said take off the items one by one and get the helper to stand taller and look happier. God loves it when we encourage each other, when we say good things to each other to make them happy. We like it when people say nice things to us so we can help others by being kind and caring and saying encouraging and nice words to them to help them smile (show me a smiling face).



Language

I wonder how they might feel.

Is that helpful?

I wonder how you could help?

I wonder how you might feel if that was you

Well done.

Thank you.

Please.

Thank you for helping me with that.

Love others.

All together.



Mat Time Spot

We're all singing

I feel like a giggle

God will care for me

O Jesus loves me so

God's Love is BIG

If you're happy and you know it

Rock- a- bye your bear

Clap your hands with Dorothy





Prayer Spot

Week 1: Create a photo wall at playgroup/kids church that includes all the children and their families. Take photos as needed, print off and cut them out and add them to the prayer wall. Add to this each week. 'Today we are praying for Michael and Rebecca and Elise and Josh and all the people in their families – Bless them God. Amen.'

Week 2: Add to the photo wall appropriate images of children from around the world or of children that are not so well off in our communities. 'Today we are praying for Rachel and Nathan and Hannah and and..... (point to the children that you want to pray for today). Bless them God. Amen.'

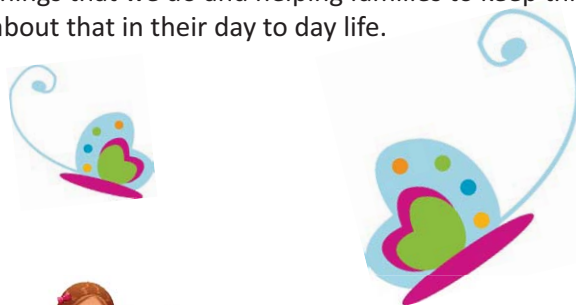


Week 3: Use the prayer wall again and encourage some of the children to choose who you are going to pray for today. Use this time also to celebrate some of the kind and caring acts that people might have done in response to the Take Home Spots below.

Take Home Spot

Week 1, 2 & 3: As a family decide on a kind and caring act that you could do for someone this week. For example, make a card together (you could provide packs for families to take home to complete this task), cook a cake together for someone, pick or buy some flowers for someone, invite someone over for dinner or a coffee and play-date; these are just a few suggestions. As a group you might like to get some people to suggest some other ways of doing kind and caring acts.

By repeating this each week you will hopefully be reinforcing a great message of caring for others in the things that we do and helping families to keep thinking about that in their day to day life.



Extra Spots

For any of your weeks but probably more specifically Week 9 – Mission Week, you might like to get each child/family to bring a can along that can be donated at the end of the session to welfare for your local community. When the children bring the cans along you might like to make a person or model out of the cans and take some photos to show others in the church (you could even get the local paper along to do a story).

If might like to also think of some other options or projects that you can do to help either your local community or somewhere overseas. You could have a specific focus with photos to promote the project. You could raise some money by having a special fundraising day e.g. cake stall, chocolate drive, children's book group or toy group to come and sell items with the proceeds going to your special project.

