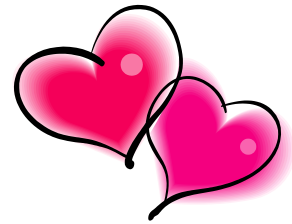


LOVE



Opening Game - Who Am I???

Materials needed: Enough pens/pencils for the group, two different 3x5 cards, a large dry erase board for keeping score.

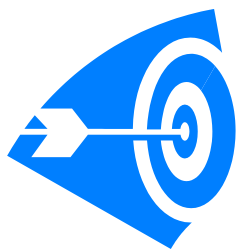
This is a great mixer, especially for groups of 20 or more people. As the students enter, hand them each a 3x5 card and a pencil. Have at least two different color 3x5 cards because you will break them into teams according to color later. Instruct them to write on their cards three interesting facts about themselves. You may choose to serve a snack while they are filling out their cards. They should put their name on the other side of the card in small print. **They should not discuss their facts with others.**

Once everyone is done, have them sit with their color (all red cards on one side of the room, green on the other). Collect the cards but keep them separated by color. Then call up a volunteer from one team and read the facts off a card from the opposite team. That person has to try and guess who matches the description. The fewer clues they need to guess the more points they earn for their team (i.e., 100 pts. with one clue, 50 pts. in two clues, 25 pts. in three clues). The winning team gets candy. If you have a group of more than 30 kids, you may want to have two games going at once. Or keep the cards and continue the following week.

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Lesson - Real Love

Intro: We learned some new things about each other in that last game. Some of you may not know each other as well as you thought. What are some things you learned about each other that surprised you? (let a few people share examples) Even though we don't know each other inside and out, there is someone who does . . .



GET IT???

(driving point, lesson, illustrative point and wrap up)

Driving Point: There is no one who loves you like Jesus does. He knows everything about you and loves you just the way you are.

Lesson Outline:

1) God knows you like no one else. He knows what you're going to think before you think it. He knows what you're going to say before you say it. He knows what you're going to do before you do it.

Psalm 139:1-4 "O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord."

2) God cares about every detail of your life. You are very special to Him.

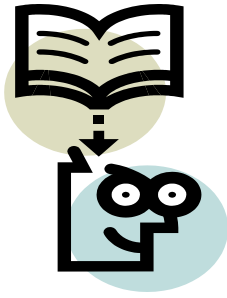
* Luke 12:7—*“Indeed, the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid, you are worth more than sparrows.”* (give a personal example of how God cares for you)

3) God thinks about you all the time.

* Psalm 139:17,18 - *“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.”*

Let’s See It. Bring in a jar of sand (sugar will do if you can’t get some sand) and challenge the kids to try to count the grains of sand. Challenge them further by asking them to name all the places on earth where you can find sand (beaches, bottom of the ocean, golf courses, sand dunes, etc.). Drive home the point that God’s thoughts of us are more than the grains of sand on the earth—they’re immeasurable! This is just a sample of how much God loves you!

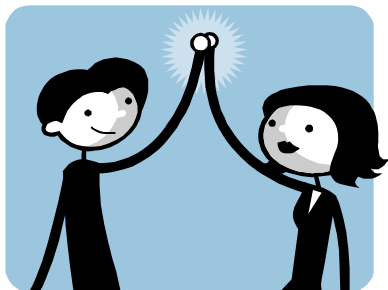
Wrap up: Sometimes we feel like no one understands us, or that we have to be someone else in order to make friends and be accepted. It is not that way with God. He loves you just the way you are. He understands and knows your needs.



GOT IT???? *(Small Group Discussions)*

Let's Talk About It. (try to break the kids into groups of eight or less)

- 1) Have you ever been misunderstood by someone who didn't know you very well? How did it feel?
- 2) Describe someone in your life that knows you very well. Do they understand you?
- 3) How well do you think God knows you? Do you think He cares about your everyday life?
- 4) Give some examples of how God shows His love for us.



GOOD!!! *(Weekly Challenge)*

Let's Do It! When you feel lonely or unloved this week, read Psalm 139 or have your parents read it to you. Look for someone on your lunch hour or recess that may seem lonely and talk to them for a few minutes.