

Best Friends Forever



Do I Have to Like Everybody?

Key Faith Foundation: God's Command to Love Everyone

Key Scriptures: John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21; 1 John 4:19-21

grapple schedule (see pages 4-5 for descriptions)

5 minutes	grapple community
10-15 minutes	grapple games and clues
10 minutes	grapple time
15 minutes	grapple team time
10 minutes	grapple team reports
5 minutes	grapple prayer and dare

Supplies ▶ Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, markers, 1 yard of butcher paper for each team, bowl of jelly beans with a variety of flavors

grapple community: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD.

grapple games: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

grapple clues

Have kids write the answers to this week's Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. The winning team gets the Grapple Button (see page 5).

- CLUE 1** [322 points]: **Find the verse in the Bible that tells you who you should love as much as yourself.**
- CLUE 2** [831 points]: **Name three people in the Bible who had enemies.**
- CLUE 3** [198 points]: **Ask each person in your Grapple Team to name a favorite superhero.**
- CLUE 4** [643 points]: **Find out who in our class has eaten the most disgusting food—and liked it.**

GET READY ▶ Cue the Grapple DVD to the “Love Everybody?” clip.

Lead the entire class in the following:

Set out the bowl of jelly beans. Have kids call out their favorite color of jelly bean and form groups with kids who match their favorite. Then give kids any jelly bean *other* than their favorite, and ask them to eat it.



How did it feel to get stuck with the jelly bean you didn't especially like? How is that like or unlike the way it feels to get stuck with a person you don't like? Why do you like some jelly beans and not others? Why do you like some people and not others?

Just as we like some jelly beans more than others, we also like some people more than others. Raise your hand if you agree with these statements, but don't name any names!

- Some people bug me.
- Some people treat me badly.
- Some people do things I don't like.

Let's get inside the heads of some kids who don't like certain things about other kids. Take your favorite jelly bean this time, and eat it while we watch this video.

Show the “Love Everybody?” clip on the *Grapple* DVD.



Have you ever had thoughts like these about kids you know? Without mentioning any names, share a time it was hard for you to like someone. What do some kids do that makes them hard to like? Do you think Christians are supposed to like everyone? Why or why not?



What did you decide—are we supposed to like everyone? What about that mean, bad-mouthed kid who sits next to you in science—do you have to like somebody like that?

God doesn't command us to like every jelly bean we eat, but he does have something to say about liking the people we meet and about being a Super-Mega-Friend. Just because God loves everyone, do we have to like everybody? Get ready, because that's what we're here to grapple with today.

grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 23-24. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 24. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

Option 1: Back-to-Back Prayers

Sit on the floor back to back with a partner, and pray, asking God to help your partner accomplish a friendship feat this week by loving someone your partner doesn't like. Then lock arms and help each other stand.

Option 2: Motto Prayers

Write a motto by paraphrasing Galatians 5:14. Then pray it back to God, asking for his help to be a Super-Mega-Friend.

grapple dare

The Bible tells us that while we were busy doing things God doesn't like (that's called sin), Jesus was busy dying on the cross for us. He is our ultimate Super-Mega-Friend, and he wants us to love others the way he loves us. I dare you to pray for someone who isn't always kind to you or who bugs you this week and show them God's love, using one of the feats of friendship from Romans 12:9-21. Whenever you wonder, "Do I have to like everybody?" God's answer is simple. God says, "Do what I'd do."

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.



grapple team guide

In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today's question.

God doesn't expect you to be a Super-Mega-Friend by loving everyone you meet, does he? Let's find out.

Read 1 John 4:19-21.

In Pairs

What does the Bible say about loving people around us? Why do these verses say we should love each other?

What does that tell you about how God wants you to feel toward people who aren't nice to you or bug you?

Read John 13:34-35.

In Pairs

How easy or difficult is it to love others the way God does? How does our love for others prove that we're Christ's followers? Give an example of a way you can show God's kind of love to someone you don't like.


Loving people we don't like is a friendship feat accomplished only by God's power in us. Here's what it looks like:

Read Romans 12:9-21.

Think of someone you have a hard time getting along with. This passage contains several challenging feats of friendship. List them here, and then choose three that you'll ask God to help you with as you try to get along with someone who's hard to be friends with.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

In your team, use markers and the butcher paper to design and decorate a Super-Mega-Friend cape. Write on your cape the challenging feats of friendship that you're going to ask God to help you with.


grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Super-Mega-Friend Scenario

Have one person wear the Super-Mega-Friend cape as your team acts out a real-life situation about friendship to share what you discovered.

Option 2: Time's Up

Review Romans 12:9-21, and then see how many friendship feats your team can shout out in 30 seconds.