

## 2023 Jr. RBI Spiritual Development Curriculum: Week 5

**Theme for the Year:** What is LOVE?

**Verse for the Year:** “Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people’s wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 NIRV

**Weekly “Love Challenge”:** *Love doesn’t disrespect others.*

This week, our challenge is to show love *by not disrespecting others*. Disrespect might look like insulting someone else by saying something mean or being rude to someone who you don’t get along with. As we learned earlier in the season, our Bible verse this year tells us to instead be kind to others. For example, instead of saying something mean when another player misses a ball or strikes out, we should encourage them or offer any tips we may have to help them play better. Even if another player or team shows disrespect to you first, you should still show them respect and kindness in return. Jesus says it this way in Matthew 5:39, “... Suppose someone slaps you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to them also.” While we do not condone slapping anyone and certainly hope something like that never happens on the field, Jesus is using this example as a lesson for *any time* someone disrespects you. No matter how hard it may seem, if someone is mean or rude to you, Jesus asks us to rise above it and not be mean or rude in response. This doesn’t just apply to you players but to the coaches as well; we shouldn’t be rude or disrespectful to y’all either but encourage you to be the best you can be on and off the field. This week, let’s all do our best to follow Jesus’ example, not only to turn the other cheek, but to treat others as

we would want them to treat us, by showing kindness and respect no matter the situation or the person. That's love. Let's pray.

**Weekly Prayer Prompt:**

Dear God, we are humbled and grateful for your love for us. Even though we often disrespect you with the things we do or say, you love us despite it. Help us to show others respect even when they may not deserve it, just as Jesus tells us too. It is because of his sacrifice on the cross that our sins are forgiven and we are able to have a relationship with you. From this love that Jesus showed us first, help us to love others with kindness and respect. As God's children, we are all on the same team, regardless of what our uniforms say. So let us be a team known for showing God's love to others above all else. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

*(These prayer prompts are for your reference but feel free to make prayer your own. We just want to ensure that we are speaking God's love and truth over our players every week.)*