

## 2023 Jr. RBI Spiritual Development Curriculum: Week 6

**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 isn’t selfish.*

This week, our challenge is to show love *by not being selfish*. We are selfish when we put ourselves and what we want before others. Especially when playing a team sport like this, it is very important that we are putting our teammates first. If not, we won’t be much of a team at all, or at least not one that is very successful or happy together. Everyone may want to bat first, but there’s only one leadoff spot in the batting order. Everyone may want to play shortstop, center field, pitch, etc.; but there can only be one at each position on game day. This applies to us off the field at home and school as well. Maybe a friend or a sibling wants to play a game or watch a movie that you don’t like; but in showing love by not being selfish, you let them choose anyway. Or maybe there’s a long line at the school cafeteria, and you let a classmate go in front of you. There are so many ways we can love others by not being selfish. Jesus was the ultimate example of this, showing his love by dying on a cross for each and every one of us even though we didn’t deserve it. This week, let’s accept the challenge to follow his example and live unselfishly towards others. Putting others first may not always lead to wins on the field; but when we play this way, the right way, we are always winners in God’s eyes. Now let’s pray.

**Weekly Prayer Prompt:**

Father God, thank you for this beautiful day and for this great group of players. Thank you that baseball and softball teach us so much about being an unselfish teammate and putting others first. Thank you most of all for exhibiting your unselfish love for us in sending your only son Jesus to be our Savior. This is the most amazing and undeserved gift we could have ever received. Knowing that you would go to such lengths for us, please help us to also unselfishly put others first in our own lives. From the ball field to our homes to our schools and beyond, let us reflect the unselfish love of Jesus Christ in all that we do. It's in his name we pray, 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.)*