

2023 Jr. RBI Spiritual Development Curriculum: Week 7

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 get easily angry.*

This week, our challenge is to show love *by not being angry*. Raise your hand if you’ve ever been angry. (*Encourage participation to break the ice, everyone should eventually raise their hand*). That’s right, we all have. Even me! There’s probably even a chance you’ve felt it today. Can anyone think of a time they were really angry? (*Ask for examples and/or use the ones to follow, depending on player age/interaction*). Maybe you were angry over a bad grade on your test at school, or maybe your sibling did something really annoying that upset you. It could have even been on the field here at practice or a game; like getting angry at yourself for striking out at the plate with the bases loaded or angry at a teammate for missing an easy catch. For us coaches, it might have been a rough day at work that made us angry; or maybe an umpire made a bad call we didn’t agree with during one of our games. Anger is an emotion that we all struggle with, but God doesn’t want any of us to be angry. In the Bible, the book of James says this: “My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry. Human anger doesn’t produce the holy life God wants” (1:19-20). The blessed life that God wants from us doesn’t include anger. Instead, as Ephesians 4:31 tells us,

we should be kind to one another (and ourselves) and always show forgiveness, because God first forgave us through Jesus Christ. Can we all do that today and chose to be kind and forgiving instead of angry? Great, let's pray.

Weekly Prayer Prompt:

Father God, thank you for this day. Thank you for all of the players and coaches here at the ball field. Thank you for being such a kind and loving God to us, even when we might do things that upset you. Help us to love others (and ourselves) as you have loved us, showing forgiveness and tenderheartedness instead of anger. Thank you that your son Jesus died so we can fully receive your love and have a relationship with you. Let everything we do be in thanks for that precious gift and to show the world your love in us. In Jesus' 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.)