



ORANGE GROUP IDEAS

MAIN IDEAS FOR THE NIGHT

Jesus wants the heart of every Christian's to feel peaceful, but sometimes difficult things happen that can steal away our peace. Being rejected by others can certainly take away our peace and cause us to feel hurt and even angry. We should respond with grace, even when we feel hurt by rejection, and we should always do our best to include and care for others, choosing to accept them rather than to reject them.

KEY VERSES:

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." **Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)**

"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." **Matthew 5:46-48**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This will be the last week of written material provided for your Orange Group. We have a wonderful online resource called [RightNowMedia](#) with hundreds of streaming studies, many of which are excellent for children. Just click on the KIDS tab after logging in. Contact Karen Mitchell or Pastor Dwayne for access.

ICE BREAKERS

Orange Group Leader: Choose the icebreaker(s) that you believe will work best for your group. They all easily carry the main ideas of this week's material.

MY FRIEND, JESUS (coloring page)

Since people arrive for group at varying times, it always works to have the kids start off coloring.

WHAT YOU NEED: Copy of the "My Friend Jesus" coloring page for each child; crayons or washable markers

WHAT TO SAY: After everyone has arrived and the children are coloring, you might share a brief story about a close friend from your childhood, including times when you two had an argument, or you felt rejected by your friend. This shouldn't be too heavy, but should merely introduce the idea that our lives will definitely include times of feeling rejected, sometimes by those who are closest to us. The great news is that Jesus has promised to be our forever friend!

"... Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9 ESV**

GET LOST!

In this elimination game, children & adults form groups of at least three and then one person in every group who meets a certain characteristic is asked to “Get Lost.” Everyone who had to leave must quickly find another group and form groups of at least three again. People who are told to “Get Lost” more than once are eliminated until only one group of three remains – the winners!

WHAT YOU NEED: A large-enough space to form at least three circles (more is great!) of at least three people in each circle; the Leader must also have the “criteria list” available for use (*see next page.*)

WHAT TO DO:

1. Form groups of 3-4 people, including a mix of adults and children. It’s ok if groups are not equal as long as there is a minimum of three in each group and they are balanced as closely as possible.
2. The leader will read the first round’s criteria aloud. Each group then determines, based on the criteria chosen, which person in their group meets the specified characteristic. (*You might want to ask the groups to raise their hands when they have identified the person so that you know when everyone is ready.*)
3. Explain to the groups that on your signal the identified person must move to another group. You will say “One, Two Three!!!” and then all the groups will say “Get Lost!!” That’s when the chosen person must leave the group and find another group to join.
4. Every group must get at least ONE new member to replace the one they lost.
5. As the rounds continue with a new criteria, every person who has been told to “Get Lost” for a second time is eliminated from the game (does not join another group).
6. Continue to play with new criteria for getting lost until only one group of three survives. Then you tell this trio that for being so competitive that they must all “Get Lost!”

WHAT TO SAY:

In each round of this game there were a lot of people who were rejected. Among them some were even eliminated. Whenever people form groups this will always be the case. There will also be group members that are very popular and those that no one seems to want.

ASK & INVITE DISCUSSION:

- Have you even seen someone get rejected from some kind of a group? On what basis were they rejected?
- What are some of the reasons that people get rejected?
- Have you ever been told to “get lost” (been rejected)? Why?
- How did it make you feel? Did it seem fair? How did you respond?

The Bible says:

“Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)

- What is one way that you can become more accepting of others?
- What is one way you can personally bring out the best in others, even when they may not be part of your usual group?

CRITERIA FOR TELLING A GROUP MEMBER TO "GET LOST!"

- First name closest to letter "A"
- First name closest to letter "Z"
- Oldest
- Youngest
- Has the most colorful socks
- Has the oldest living grandparent
- Has the most cousins
- Has the least number of pets
- Has the most pets
- Has the largest pet.
- Is the tallest
- Is the shortest
- Has the longest hair
- Has the shortest hair
- Has the shortest fingernails
- Has the biggest foot.
- Has the smallest foot.
- Has the longest finger
- Has the darkest skin tone.
- Has the smallest nose
- Lives on the highest floor
- Longest last name
- Biggest shoe size
- Has the most siblings
- Birthday closest to today
- Shortest Person
- Youngest Baby brother/ sister
- Has the most traffic tickets
- Longest fingernail
- Has played on the most sports teams
- Can do the most one-armed push-ups
- Tallest Person
- Longest eyelashes
- Smallest belt
- Highest numbered Street Address
- Wearing the most blue
- Oldest
- Biggest hands
- Whistles the loudest

OTHER ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE MAIN IDEAS:

THE ACCEPTANCE CHALLENGE

There are things about ourselves and others that we struggle to accept. God chose you because He loves you for who you are. Just as He made allowances for your faults, He expects you to make allowances for the faults of others.

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, Pens/crayons/markers, Table/flat surface, Blindfold

WHAT TO DO: Divide participants into pairs. One partner (the one who will be drawing) will be blindfolded. During the allotted time (**1-2 minute rounds recommended**) the partners must work together despite their individual “flaws” to have the blindfolded person draw the items listed on a sheet of paper that only his/her partner can see. The non-blindfolded partner helps the blindfolded partner by giving advice and direction, but cannot do the actual drawing him/herself nor touch the pen/rayon/marker. The Team that finishes drawing the most amount of items wins. In the event of a tie, the leader (or a panel of judges) can judge the quality of the artwork to determine the winner.

This list of items to draw is included at the end of this material in a format that can easily be cut and distributed to each pairing.

Items to Draw				
Cross	Smiley face	Heart	Stick figure	Tree
Cat	Football	Chair	The capital letter “G”	Cell phone
Flower	Bird			

WHAT TO SAY:

In this game, everyone had different “flaws” and was forced to work together to overcome them. Though you probably wanted to, you couldn’t change your partner’s flaws just as you couldn’t change your own. Instead, everyone had to make “allowances” for each other to move on and complete the challenge at hand.

Doesn’t it just stink when there’s something you don’t like, but there’s nothing you can do about it? Sometimes, there are things about ourselves that we wish we could change. Maybe we don’t like our physical appearance. We just don’t feel like we are attractive enough like we don’t live up to the unrealistic expectations of popular culture. Sometimes there is something that we wished that we could be better at, but no matter how hard we try, we just don’t improve, at least not in a way that satisfies.

What about when your issue is with someone else? Maybe there’s a person or group of people in your life with whom you just can’t get along. It could be an attitude issue or perhaps this person treats you poorly. In the scenarios I have described, the circumstances might be different, but they point to the same unfortunate truth: we can’t always make things (people) the way we want.

Sure, we can do our best to minimize the problem through fashion choices, avoiding the activity we struggle at or ignore the people who bother us, but they are still there. Life is often outside of our ability to control. That’s just... well... Life. Don’t you wish I could just give you the secret answer that will solve all of life’s problems? In truth, I can, but it may not be the solution you are hoping for. The solution boils down to one word—**acceptance**.

TRY THIS: Take a moment to close your eyes. Who is the person in your life that you are having a hard time accepting? (Just think about who it is; don’t say that person’s name.)

Why do you have a hard time accepting this person? It is entirely possible that you have every reason to dislike this person. He/she might treat you poorly, might do things to you that Jesus would frown upon. That, however, doesn't change God's solution.

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." **Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)**

Distribute the "GOD HELP US ACCEPT OTHERS" Word Search and, while the children search for the words, talk about the action steps that God gives us to take in order to accept others:

- Realize that we are **CHOSEN** by God to live our lives in ways that please him and that help others (mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience).
- **FORGIVE** like Jesus forgave us. That means making allowances for other people's faults. No one (including us) is **PERFECT**. (Only **CHRIST** Jesus was perfect!)
- Do your best to live in **HARMONY** with **ONE ANOTHER**. This will help to keep our **HEARTS** in **PEACE**.

THE GREAT ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION EXPERIMENT

The hope behind this activity is that by experiencing acceptance and rejection, talking about it in the group, and praying about it together, that everyone will better understand that the way they accept or reject others can make a huge difference in others' lives.

WHAT YOU NEED: Garbage Can; painter's or masking tape; room enough for multiple circles of 3 or 4

WHAT TO DO: Begin by sharing an awkward experience (hopefully a humorous one) replaying a time when you tried to fit in but was painfully rejected. Talk briefly about the very real pain of rejection and then invite everyone to conduct the following three experiments (games) concerning acceptance and rejection.

Experiment 1 - Exclusion: Two or three circles of children and parents stand tightly beside each other while one child tries to break into a circle. The circles try to keep them out. Eventually the child will be able to break into a circle.

Experiment 2 - Poison Garbage Can. Form one big circle with a garbage can in the middle. Several from the circle choose one person to drag to the center to touch the garbage can. The group unifies in dragging one person to touch the can. After doing this, the chosen person (the one who was dragged) must leave the circle until everyone is chosen and eliminated.

Experiment 3 - Inclusion: Form three circles of at least four people, children and parents. Each of the circles is required to squeeze inside a 2x2 foot square on the floor (created with masking or painter's tape). Each group can use creative ways to make sure all circle members are included inside the square and no one is left out.

WHAT TO SAY:

- **Invite everyone to talk about how being excluded (rejected) made them feel.** (E.g. Sad, rejected, shamed, unwanted, unloved, bad, etc.)
- **Next, invite everyone to talk about how being included (accepted) made them feel.** (E.g. loved, needed, accepted, valued, appreciated, welcome, wanted, etc.)

READ ALOUD:

"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." **Matthew 5:46-48**

Lead the group in a prayer to not just tolerate others but to love others. Invite the children (and parents) to pray for specific people in the neighborhood, at school, or at work who might feel rejected by others.

WRECK-IT-RALPH (PRINT this Take-Home idea for Parents)

Wreck-It Ralph is a good way to get the conversation started about approval and acceptance. Consider renting the movie Wreck-It-Ralph and planning a family discussion time about it afterwards. On a side note, adults will get a kick out of the movie due to its many retro arcade themes.

Plot overview: The film tells the story of Wreck-It Ralph, the arcade villain who rebels against his role as a villain and dreams of becoming a hero. He travels between games in the arcade, and ultimately must eliminate a threat that could affect the entire arcade, and one that Ralph may have inadvertently started.

The core message of the movie is acceptance.

Glitch was one of the characters who lives in Sugar Rush, a racing arcade game filled with candy and sugar of every kind. Glitch is rejected by the other racers. In fact, she is rejected by everyone in Sugar Rush. Her dream is to compete and win a race in Sugar Rush. Then, everyone will give her the approval that she seeks. Ralph has a similar dilemma. He is tired of being rejected as the “bad guy” in his arcade game. He gets in his head that winning a “good guy” medal of some type will gain the acceptance of those in his game. Both Glitch and Ralph are outcasts searching for acceptance.

Preteens are also on a journey for acceptance. Just about every preteen feels rejection on some level. Some, like Ralph & Glitch, face rejection every day at school. They’re picked on, bullied and harassed. Others, simply want their peers to think they’re cool. They want others their age to give them acceptance and approval.

Suggested Family Discussion questions:

1. Who was your favorite character? Explain why.
2. Why did Glitch feel rejected? Why did Ralph feel rejected?
3. What are some things others your age do to earn “acceptance” from others?
4. Why do you think for many that it is so important to get acceptance from others? Do you suppose that adults struggle with this too?
5. Which is more difficult for you: To accept others as they are or to accept yourself as you are?

Read aloud: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago”. **Ephesians 2:10**

Discuss:

1. What does this Bible verse tell us about ourselves? (*masterpieces; planned by God, just as we are!*)
2. How can we begin to accept ourselves “as-is” rather than always wanting the acceptance of others?



Lord, there are times I feel alone
When others leave me out,
But I know that I have a friend in you
To show me what friendship's about.

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One copy for each pair in **THE ACCEPTANCE CHALLENGE**



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Cat	Football	Chair	The capital letter "G"	Cell phone
Flower	Bird			



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GOD HELP US ACCEPT OTHERS

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Colossians 3:12-13 (NLT)

F O R G I V E D E N
Y T S X G U T C N G
N S P E G W A Q C W
O I P T C E F R E P
M R I O P A P J I O
R H D N E S O H C F
A C R V R N D O H E
H E A R T S N I T D
A N O T H E R E R P
C O L O S S I A N S

PERFECT
HARMONY
CHOSEN

PEACE
FORGIVE
ANOTHER

ONE
COLOSSIANS

HEARTS
CHRIST