



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

### Acting Different

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- index cards
- pen or marker

#### Easy Prep

- Make a set of cards for the game by writing the following actions, 1 action per card, on index cards.
  - Standing still
  - Moving backward
  - Feeling sad
  - Whispering
  - Pointing up
  - Being brave
  - Tying shoes
  - Feeling happy
  - Looking down
  - Sitting
  - Being wide awake
  - Feeling cold
- Then stack the cards with the words facedown.

#### Act Out the Opposite of the Cards

Say: **Today we discovered a lot of ways Jesus is different. We can follow Jesus and be different like him, but sometimes doing things differently is hard. Let's play a game to see what that's like.**

- Have everyone sit in a circle, and place the stack of cards in the center.
- Have kids take turns being the Actor, who will stand in the center.
- The Actor will draw a card from the deck and silently read what's on the card, making sure no one else sees it.
- Then the Actor will act out the *opposite* of what's on the card, and all the other kids will call out answers of what they think the card says. For example, if the card said "running quickly," the Actor might run in slow motion.
- The first person to guess correctly can be the new Actor and will draw a new card.
- To help everyone grasp the idea of the game, draw a card from the set and act out an opposite action. Guide kids in guessing what's on the card by thinking of what's the opposite of what you're doing.
- Stay in the center to help kids read or brainstorm ways to act out the opposite of what's on the cards.
- Play until all the cards have been used or time's up.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **What was the hardest part of the game, and why?**

**Say: You had to think really differently for the game whether you were guessing or doing the action. You had to think in opposites. Sometimes following Jesus means thinking and doing things differently than we have been, and it might not be easy at first.**

**Ask: • What's something you've learned to do that wasn't easy at first?**

Share an example of your own, such as learning to speak a different language or having to use your nondominant hand to do things.

**Say: Jesus is different, so we live differently. Maybe we'll treat others differently—with more kindness and love—or we'll be more patient with ourselves and our families. Sometimes it's hard, but Jesus showed us how to do it, and he's always ready to help us!**



## TALK-ABOUT VIDEO Fruit Basket Upset

[10 min]

### Supplies

- “Fruit Basket Upset” teaching video

### Discuss and Watch “Fruit Basket Upset”

Say: **Today we’re learning that Jesus is different, so we live differently. Sometimes living differently isn’t the easiest choice! Let’s watch some fruity friends and see how they learned to live differently.**

Watch “Fruit Basket Upset.”

Ask: • **Which excuses did you hear that you thought were good excuses?**

- **What are some excuses you’ve made to take the easier way?**
- **The wise potato said, “A lot of fruit would just choose the easy way, but Jesus wants us to live differently.” Why is Jesus’ way not always the easy way?**

Say: **Jesus is different, so we live differently. Jesus asked us to do some hard things, like love our enemies and treat others the way we want to be treated. That’s hard to do on our own! But the good news is, Jesus is here to help us live his way.**



## DEEPER BIBLE What if People Think I'm Weird?

[15 min]

### Supplies

- Bibles
- "Who's Different?" handout (1 copy of each page for every 11 kids)
- pens

### Easy Prep

- Cut apart the cards on the "Who's Different?" handout, making 1 set of cards per page of the handout. If you have more than 12 kids, you'll need to make additional copies of each page but throw away the extra "different" cards so there's only 1 per set. You should end up with 5 total sets of cards, with each set containing enough cards for everyone and only 1 card that is different from the others in the set. Keep the 5 sets of cards in separate stacks.

### Be Different

Have kids stand in a circle. Say: **We're learning that Jesus is different, so we live differently. Let's play a game where one of you will be different.**

Give each child a card from the first set of "Who's Different?" cards. It's okay if you have extra cards, but make sure you hand out the one that's different. Have kids look at their cards, but tell them not to let anyone else see what the cards say. Count to three, and have all the kids do what their cards say to do simultaneously. Everyone will end up doing the same thing except for one child.

Repeat with the remaining four sets, trying to give a different child the "different" card each time. If you want to make sure everyone has a chance to be different, you may collect the cards and repeat the game, but kids will know if they're going to be the "different" child that round.

Collect the cards after the game. Each child will need a card to write on later.

Ask: • **Describe what it was like to be the only one doing something different.**

- **Tell about a time you felt weird.** Share your own story first.

Say: **If we live differently, we might feel weird. And what if other people think we're weird? Let's dig in to that.**

### Dig Deeper

Read Matthew 5:11-12.

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone did or said something mean because you love Jesus. How did you react?**

Say: **These verses tell us to be *happy* when people make fun of us for being Christians. Jesus says that's a blessing. Let's read some more verses that talk about the blessing of being mocked for living differently.**

Read 1 Peter 4:14-16.

Ask: • **These verses listed *bad* reasons to suffer. What are some things you could do that would be *good* reasons to be insulted?**

Say: **If people think you're weird for making trouble or getting into other people's business, that's not a good thing. But if people think you're weird because you're shining Jesus' light? That's a privilege! If you're just acting weird but it's not about Jesus, you're drawing attention to yourself. The purpose of living differently is to draw attention to Jesus. Jesus even**

**talked about that.**

Read Matthew 5:16.

Give each child a "Who's Different?" card.

Say: **Earlier our cards told us silly things to do that might have been different from what everyone else was doing. Now I want you to think of something that's *not* silly. What's something you can do for Jesus that's different from what everyone else is doing? What would shine his light? For example, maybe you could befriend someone everyone else thinks isn't cool. Maybe you could pray before lunch. Or, if everyone is telling dirty jokes, you can be the one who doesn't participate. Jesus is different, so we live differently.**

Have kids think of their own ideas and each write one on the back of their cards. Then have kids form pairs, show each other what they wrote, and pray for each other to live out that challenge this week.

Let kids take the cards home as a reminder of their challenges.



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

### Salt & Light

[5 min]

#### Supplies

- chart poster
- flashlight
- saltshaker with salt

#### Bless the Kids

Read Matthew 5:16. Say: **Jesus is different, so we live differently. When we live differently like Jesus did, we shine his light in a dark world. We're like salt that adds flavor to the world!**

- Have kids look at the chart and choose two things from the "Jesus' Way" column that they need help doing.
- Turn off classroom lights.
- Shine a flashlight on each child as you pray: **God, help** [name of child] **shine your light.** Then the child can ask for help shining Jesus' light while doing one of the things from the chart.
- Have kids cup their palms.
- Sprinkle just a small pinch of salt in each child's palm as you pray: **God, help** [name of child] **to be salt to others.** Kids can hold the salt and pray silently for help doing the other thing they selected from the chart.

#### Wrap Up

Pray: **Jesus, you're different. You lived differently than other people because you're God! Help us live differently like you. In your name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

### Spot the Difference

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- “Jesus Teaches Us to Live Differently” Activity Page
- pencils
- crayons

#### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **Jesus is different. In the Sermon on the Mount, he told us how to live differently! When we live Jesus’ way, people will notice that we stand out. Let’s see if you can notice differences.**

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the differences between two pictures.

Ask: • **What differences did you find?**

• **What might people notice that’s different about you because you love Jesus?**

Say: **When we follow Jesus, people can spot the difference in our lives! Jesus is different, so we live differently.**

ANSWER KEY:



**Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page**

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **Jesus is different. He preached a whole sermon about how to live differently. Let's color Jesus teaching.**

Allow time for kids to color.