Is Being Liked What Matters?

*Key Faith Foundation:* Focusing on God’s Opinion

*Key Scriptures:* Psalm 139:17-18; Matthew 10:29-32; John 5:16-18, 36-44; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18; Galatians 1:10
1. Is Being Liked What Matters?

**grapple schedule**

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**Supplies**: Bibles, *Grapple* DVD, DVD player, Christian music CD, CD player, copy of the Grapple Team Guide for each person, paper, pencils, markers, 3x5 cards

**grapple community**: 5 minutes

Play Christian music as kids enjoy snacks and friendship, and then play an opening countdown from the *Grapple* DVD to wrap up Grapple Community time.

**grapple games**: 10-15 minutes

Lead kids in the games they chose ahead of time at mygrapple.com.

**grapple clues**

Have kids write the answers to this week’s Grapple Clues. Award points for each correct answer. (Answers in parentheses are samples.) The winning team gets the Grapple Button.

**CLUE 1** [436 points]: Find two people Jesus liked to spend time with. *(Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas, Mark 3:13-19)*

**CLUE 2** [968 points]: Discover someone in the Bible others didn’t like. *(Joseph, Genesis 37; Zacchaeus, Luke 19; Jesus, John 5)*

**CLUE 3** [893 points]: Find out one thing each person in your Grapple Team likes about himself or herself.

**CLUE 4** [345 points]: Find out if what others in our class like about themselves is the same as what you like about yourself.
Give each person a marker and five blank 3x5 cards. Lead the entire class in the following:

**Take a moment to quietly think of words you wish people would use to describe you.** Then write a different word on one side of each card. **After a minute, I’ll collect the cards.** Don’t write your name or anything other than one complimentary word per card. Got it?

If kids get stuck, use these words to spark their creativity: happy, thoughtful, helpful, funny, kind, generous, good listener, leader, friendly, talented, athletic, intelligent, enthusiastic, and energetic. After one minute, collect the markers and cards and shuffle the cards.

**Now I’ll hand out five “compliment cards” to each of you. Don’t look at them yet.** When I tell you to, read and think about the compliments. Then look around our room for people the compliments fit. **When I say “Go!” you’ll have three minutes to give away all your cards,** briefly explaining why you’re giving the person that compliment. You can’t keep any of the cards I just passed out, you can only give one card to each person, and you have to end the time with only five cards in your hand. Once you’ve given away your cards and received five new ones, **take a seat.**

Allow 30 seconds for kids to think about their compliment cards and who should receive them. Then allow time for kids to hand out one compliment card at a time to people they think best match that compliment.

**How do you feel about the compliments you received and why? Which of your cards do you think fits you best?**

**How would you have felt if you hadn’t received any compliment cards? How important is it to you to be well-liked by others?**

**We all want to be liked. It feels good to know we have friends who enjoy our company and want to be with us. It doesn’t feel so good to be lonely and wonder whether anyone really likes us. Today we’re going to grapple with this question: Is being liked what matters? Maybe we could ask if being liked is what matters most or if there is something even more important. Let’s grapple!**
grapple team time: 15 minutes

Break into Grapple Teams. Encourage Grapple Team leaders to check in with kids about their week. Grapple Team leaders will facilitate discussion, using the Grapple Team Guide on pages 5-6. Afterward, kids will report what they learned.

grapple team reports: 10 minutes

At the end of Grapple Team Time, match Grapple Teams that chose Option 1 with Grapple Teams that chose Option 2 from page 6. Have teams present their reports.

grapple prayer: 5 minutes

Read the Grapple Prayer options. Have the class choose one prayer option that everyone will do. Allow kids time to pray about what they discovered. Then close in prayer.

**Option 1: Sand Prayers**

Hold your hands in front of you, and imagine sand running through your fingers. Give thanks to God for his countless precious thoughts about you!

**Option 2: Hair Prayers**

God loves you so much that he knows how many hairs are on your head. Shake your head as you thank God for knowing and caring about the details of your life.

grapple dare

Being liked is wonderful, but sometimes, no matter what we do, people still don’t like us. Knowing that we are valuable to God is what matters most. This week I dare you to stop whenever you compare yourself to someone else and remember how precious you are to God. Then offer a compliment to the person you’re comparing yourself to. Instead of saying, “Oh, she’s so popular, and I’m all alone,” praise God that she has friends. Look for an opportunity to tell her something you appreciate about her. God loves you so much that you can afford to spread God’s love all around. You might even find you like yourself more, too!

Remember to go to mygrapple.com this week to choose the opening games for next week, look for Grapple Clues to win the Grapple Button, play an online game, and connect with each other—and me.
In your Grapple Team, use this guide to grapple with today’s question.

Close your eyes and decide, on a scale of 1 to 10, how liked you think you are. Be honest with yourself; you won’t need to share your rating with anyone else.

**In Pairs**

What makes someone the kind of person others really like? Which of those character traits do you have? Which traits would you like to strengthen in yourself?

Unfortunately, not everyone will like you. Jesus had encounters with people who didn’t like him at all.

**Read John 5:16-18, 36-44.**

How does Jesus “defend” himself against those who don’t like him? What does Jesus say about what really matters? In your own life, whose approval matters most to you? Can you think of something you would do to make that person like you? something you would never do to make that person like you?

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**In Pairs**

Share a time someone didn’t like you or hurt you and how you felt. Compare what you felt to what Jesus said in John 5.

**Read Galatians 1:10.**

What does this verse say about being well-liked by others? How is this verse similar to or different from Jesus’ attitude about being liked by others? How can you apply this verse to your life?

**Read Matthew 10:29-32.**

What does Jesus say in this passage about what really matters? How can knowing this change how you might respond or feel the next time you think someone doesn’t like you very much?
Read Psalm 139:17-18.
What do you think about when you have free time? How does knowing that God thinks about you make you feel? How could your life be different if you realized that God is with you and thinking precious thoughts about you all the time? Explain why knowing this does or does not change your opinion of whether or not being liked by others matters?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-18.
What work do kids your age do? When do people compare themselves to others? How might comparisons get in the way of remembering how very valuable you are to God?

Close your eyes again and think back to the “likability” rating you gave yourself earlier. Now give yourself a new rating based on how much God likes you.

grapple team reports

With your team, choose one of the options below to report what you discovered.

Option 1: Clap!
Share the most important thing you learned from God’s Word today, and then clap wildly for each person here because each person matters to God.

Option 2: Shout!
Come up with a sentence or two to explain what you learned today, and then shout it so the world can hear what really matters.