

## HACKS

Every ministry is different. Whether you're teaching middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers with disabilities, or all three, here's how to hack this series to fit your unique and diverse audience.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HACKS

### REVISE

**To make this week more accessible for middle schoolers, here's what to adjust ...**

**Move the Week 1 listening response to small groups.**

Help teenagers practice listening to each other with an adult volunteer. Consider modeling the activity, showing them what listening can look like, and then have them do it.

**During Week 2's "What's On the Playlist?" object lesson, provide plenty of examples of what love looks like.**

Your middle school students are concrete thinkers, so an abstract idea like love may be hard to grasp. Giving them plenty of concrete examples will help keep them engaged.

**During Week 3's "Mark 1:40–45" Scripture module, differentiate between love and care.**

This is a pretty nuanced idea that may go over the heads of some of your middle schoolers. Help them see that love is how we treat people in a way that shows them that God loves them. Care is when we help meet people's needs because we are moved with compassion. While loving others has an explicit component of connecting people to God's love, care can simply be moved with the compassion God has given you to help meet a need.

**Keep in mind that early adolescents are still discovering what it looks like to encourage people and care for the needs of others.**

So, during the Week 3 and Week 4 reflection activities, they'll need extra help from you or an adult volunteer to help make those habits very concrete. Prepare your volunteers to help ahead of time.

**Every week, consider doing the Community Playlist activity in groups.**

Instead of having everyone come up with songs on their own, brainstorm ideas as a group, and then have a leader put them into the community playlist. This will make it fun to do as a group and help ensure the most appropriate songs are on the list.

### REPLACE

**And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else ...**

**Consider replacing the Week 4 activity "Beat Shazam."**

If your students do not know the suggested songs well enough to make them fun, consider replacing them with another game like [On The Spot Leader Love Song](#) from the Grow Games App.

### REMEMBER

Remember, middle school students will need plenty of time in this series to process what it means to love people like Jesus does. Early adolescents may be familiar with loving, caring, listening, and encouraging in specific settings, but doing this as Jesus does in all areas of their lives may take some practice. Consider empowering your volunteers to follow up with your teenagers during the week to see how loving like Jesus is going and how it changes from week to week.