**Bucket Filler**

**Topic: How to treat others**

**Bible: Philippians 2:1-4**

Supplies:

* 2 kiddy pools or very large containers to hold water
* 8 five gallon buckets
* 20 pieces of pool noodles that are cut to 2 feet long each
* Colored tape or markers to mark buckets

Directions:

1. Divide students into 4 equal teams.
2. Fill the pool noodles with water and place them in the pools.
3. Mark the eight buckets with four different colors – two buckets with each color.
4. Assign colors to each team.
5. Place buckets in a line across from the pool. You want them to be far enough away so students will have to run to them.
6. Make sure no team’s two buckets are directly next to each other in the line.
7. On go teams will send one member at a time down to the buckets with a noodle filled with water.
8. They can only use their hands to hold the water in the noodle.
9. Once they reach the buckets they need to dump the water into another team’s bucket.
10. Once they return the noodle to the pool, another team member can grab a noodle and go.
11. Once both buckets from a team are filled they are out.
12. Continue playing until only one team has one or more unfilled bucket and wins.

Say: Wow, wow, wow was that crazy. You all looked like you were having a great time, well until both your buckets got filled to the top. To the winning team congratulations and great job. As I was watching you all run around and fill each other’s buckets, I began to think about a book you may have read before. It is called *Have you filled a bucket today?*

Ask: Can anyone tell us how this works?

Say: The concept is really easy, we all have this imaginary bucket of feelings we carry around with us. When the bucket is full we are happy and feel great. When the bucket is empty we are sad and depressed. Where other people come into play is we all can have an effect on other people’s buckets. When we say something nice or do something for someone we are helping fill his or her bucket. We become bucket fillers. But when we talk about people, make fun of others, pick on people, and just do mean things we are emptying their bucket. We become bucket dippers.

Ask:

* What does it look like in your lives to be a bucket dipper?
* How do you respond when someone is dipping your bucket?
* Do you think you are a bucket dipper?
* What are things you do to fill people’s buckets?
* Is there anyone you know that is a great bucket filler?
* Are there things you need to do to be a better filler?

Say: It can be a great feeling when we do something to make someone happy. And the opposite is true when we do something to make someone sad. When we do things for God we make Him happy, and He is smiling as we are filling His bucket. When we sin we are dipping His bucket and making Him sad. So what do we have to do to stop being God’s bucket dipper? By having a Christ-like attitude.

Read: Philippians 2:1-4

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

You see in the game you worked hard to fill the buckets to win the game. Do the same in your life; work hard at filling God’s bucket. Live by these verses and watch how much God’s bucket overflows with love and joy in your lives.

Close: Pray over students