



## WEEK ONE – DECEMBER 2018 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *The Greatest Love of All* • John 3:16

**Bottom Line:** *God did something about our greatest need.*

**Memory Verse:** *“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die, but will have eternal life.” John 3:16(NIRV)*

**Life App:** *Compassion – Caring enough to do something about someone else’s need*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what.*

**Summary:** We kick off the month with the greatest verse in all of Scripture, John 3:16. God loves the world so much that He wants to spend forever with us. That was made possible through Jesus!

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**8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES**

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## **1. Early Arriver Idea**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group*

**What You Need:** “All I Want for Christmas is My Two Teeth” Lyric Sheet

### **What You Do:**

- Play or read “All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth” and tell kids to pay attention to the chorus—particularly the line after the title line.
- Ask kids to think of what they want for Christmas and why they want it—like how the kid in the song wants his two front teeth so he can wish people “Merry Christmas.”
- Then guide kids to take turns singing the chorus while inserting their own items and reasons why they want them.

## **2. Wants vs. Needs**

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Slips of paper; pencils

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid three slips of paper and a pencil.
- Instruct them to write down three things in their house—they can be anything from snacks to toys to furniture.
- Collect the slips of paper.
- Designate one side of your space to be the “WANTS” side and the other side to be the “NEEDS” side.
- Read the slips one by one.
- After you read one, kids will run to the side of the room that they think the item on the slip fits into.
- If there are kids on both sides for the same item, ask a volunteer from each side to explain why they chose the side they did.
- Continue play as time and interest allows.

### **What You Say:**

*“We all have stuff, but there’s a difference between things we WANT and things we really NEED. We need food. We don’t need video games. We need shoes. We don’t need 15 pairs of shoes. [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear more about something we REALLY need.”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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**9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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## **OVERVIEW:**

**Bottom Line:** *God did something about our greatest need.* Jesus was God’s gift to the world. We pray that kids start to understand their need for a Savior and put their trust in Jesus.

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**9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP**

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## **1. Shine a Light**

### **[Memory Verse Activity]**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bibles; flashlight

### **What You Do:**

- Guide kids to look up John 3:16 in their Bibles using the following tips.
  - **Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 3.
- Read the verse together two times.
- Hand out the flashlight
- Choose one kid to say the first word of the verse.
- Then he will choose the next kid by shining his light on them (but not in their face!).
- Continue in this way until the entire verse has been said.
- Tell kids that they must choose a kid who has not been chosen yet.
- Repeat as long as time and interest allow, encouraging kids to go faster each time.

### **What You Say:**

*“This month we’re going undercover to make others our mission. When people are undercover, they often are out and about at night and need to use flashlights to get around.*

*We'll be using flashlights all month as a reminder that we're on a mission to show compassion to the people around us.*

*"This verse tells us how God had compassion on us because He loves us. **[Bottom Line]** God did something about our greatest need when He sent Jesus to earth to live and to die so that we can have a relationship with God and live with Him someday in heaven.*

***[Make It Personal]*** *(Tell kids your salvation story. When did you choose to follow Jesus? What does it mean to you that God did something about your greatest need?)*

*"God's compassion for us leads us to have compassion for others. Because of God's compassion, we feel led to do whatever we can to show other people who God is and how much He loves them. And we do this through caring about others enough to do something about their need."*

## 2. Light It Up

### **[Bible Story Review]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** "Light It Up" Activity Pages; push pins; flashlight

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid an Activity Page.
- Quickly explain the three phrases on the page:
  - GOD LOVED the world.
  - GOD SENT His Son.
  - GOD GAVE eternal life to those who believe.
- Hand out pushpins and guide kids to use the pins to poke holes along the lines of the drawings.
- Instruct kids to shine a flashlight through the holes in the pictures to make them light up

### **What You Say:**

*"GOD LOVED the world. GOD SENT His Son. GOD GAVE eternal life to those who believe.*

***[Bottom Line]*** *God did something about our greatest need when He had compassion on us and sent Jesus to us. We can have compassion on others by telling them how God sent Jesus to us to fill our greatest need. You can use these papers to help tell friends and family members about the greatest gift anyone ever gave—Jesus!" (Collect kids' flashlights to use again next week.)*

## 3. Show Compassion

### [Application Activity]

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through reenactment*

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Read a scenario, and guide kids to act out ways they could help the people described.
  - Scenario 1: Your best friend’s dog died. She’s very upset, because her family has had the dog since before she was born.
  - Scenario 2: Your mom is upset because she burned the hamburgers for dinner and your dad got home two hours later than he had planned.
- Challenge kids to think of someone in their life who might need compassion. It could be a parent, a sibling, a friend, a teacher, a neighbor, an aunt, etc.
- Then pair kids up and encourage them to help each other think of a way they could show compassion to that person.

#### **What You Say:**

*“Everyone needs compassion sometimes—even all of us here in this small group. We all have needs, and God always meets our needs, but most of the time He uses other people to do that. He can use all of us. So let’s open our eyes and see the needs of the people around us who need compassion. **[Bottom Line]** God did something about our greatest need when He sent us Jesus. And we can do something about the needs of the people around us. My challenge to you is to actually do the thing you thought of in this activity. When you come back next week, I’d love to hear all about it!”*

## **4. Pray and Dismiss**

### [Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Tell kids to think about the person they were thinking about in the “Show Compassion” activity.
- Explain that you will say a prayer.
- After each sentence, you’ll pause and give them time to silently repeat the prayer for their person

#### **What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You for putting this person in my life. (Pause.) Help me to show compassion to them the way You show compassion to me. (Pause.) Give me the strength I need to say and do what I need to. (Pause.) In Jesus’ name, amen.”*

***[Bottom Line] “God did something about our greatest need. Let’s remember to thank Him for that every day. Let’s also remember to show compassion to the people around us just like God shows us compassion.”***

***As adults arrive to pick up, allow kids to use the flashlights to show their parents their “Light It Up” Activity Pages and tell them what it means. Make sure you collect the flashlights before kids leave so you can use them again next week. Also, hand out the weekly Parent Cue card.***