



WEEK ONE – DECEMBER 2018

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.*

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:44 - KIDS ARRIVE

Team Welcomes Kids *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

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! 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.

9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP

"Je-sus loves me.
2 lap pats – 2 claps
Je-sus loves me.
2 lap pats – 2 claps
Jesus loves [child’s name]"
shout out the name

1. Clock–centration

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

What You Need: “Clock–centration” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Sequentially place the “Clock–centration” cards face down (numbers up) in a circle on the floor, creating a large “clock.”
- Invite kids to take turns calling out two numbers.
- Turn over the corresponding cards.

- If the pictures match an animal to something it needs, place the matches to the side.
- If the pictures don't make a match, turn them face down again.
- Continue until kids match all the cards.

What You Say:

“Animals need many things. They need food, the right kind of home, shelter, and friends. What are some things that PEOPLE need? (food, water, clothing, shoes, friends, places to live) Yes, people need all these things. But did you know that there's something people need more than anything else? [Transition] Let's go to Large Group to find out what it is.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

*Bible Story – INTRO, Story, OUTRO Videos (whatever works best for your few)
Worship SONGS*

9:35–10:05 | 11:05–11:35 – SMALL GROUP

GROUPS

(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)

2. Advent-urous Compassion

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Advent-urous Compassion” & “Compassion Cues Stickers” Activity Pages; sticky notes (red/green); markers

What You Do:

- Ask kids if they have ever seen an advent calendar.
- Explain that an advent calendar is a way that we count the days until Christmas.
- Tell kids that they're going to make their own advent calendars to help them remember that **[Bottom Line] God did something about our greatest need** when He gave us Jesus.
- Give each child an “Advent-urous Compassion” page. Tell them that each space on the calendar represents a day until Christmas.
- Read the verse aloud, leading kids to point to each word as you read.
- Show the “Compassion Cues Stickers” and guide kids to identify ways the people are showing compassion.
- Invite each child to choose four stickers and stick one on each “blank” calendar day.
- Set out the sticky notes and guide kids to press one over each calendar day.
 - *HINT: Guide kids to cover the bottom row first, then the next to bottom row, and so on.*
- Tell kids that every day until Christmas, they'll take a sticky note off the calendar. Each day they'll be able to read more of the verse.

- When they come to a day with a sticker, they can look for a way do that act of compassion for someone.
 - *NOTE: Go ahead and guide kids to remove the notes from any preceding days.*
- When kids finish, they can draw Christmas pictures on the notes.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] *“God did something about our greatest need. He sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth, to die on a cross, and to come back to life so that if we truly believe in Jesus, we can live with Him forever!*

*“That’s why Christmas is so amazing! It’s the day we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. **Because: 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).***

*“So this month, share God’s love with others and show them compassion. You can use your advent calendars to help remind you. And never forget: **[Bottom Line] God did something about our greatest need and gave us Jesus!**”*

3. God So Loved the World

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; inflatable globe

What You Do:

- Give each child a Bible. Help kids look up John 3:16 using the navigation tips below.
- Briefly unpack the concept that “the world” means EVERYONE God made: people in your town, your state or province, your country, and around the world—people everywhere!
- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Begin passing the ball. Guide each child to say a word of the verse when he holds the ball. (Provide as much help as needed.)
- When it’s a child’s turn to say, “world,” guide that child to hold the globe over her head as she says the word.
- Lead kids to quote the verse up to “only Son” and then begin again. (They’ll learn the rest of the verse later this month.)
- As kids become more comfortable saying the verse, encourage them to pass the globe more quickly.
- For variety, guide kids to pass the globe different ways: standing in a straight line, alternating over their heads and between their legs; using only their elbows; sitting and using only their feet; etc.

What You Say:

“God had compassion on us and did something about our greatest need. He gave His one and only Son to be our Savior. So if you truly believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that God sent Jesus to live on earth, die on the cross for your sins, and come back to life, then you’ll live FOREVER with God.

[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell how you came to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Be sure to use words and phrases the kids can understand.)

(Note: Depending on what you know about your kids, it might be a good idea to simply “plant the seeds” and have a conversation about salvation, without explicitly leading kids to take the step of faith. If a child’s parents are already believers, they will probably want to be present for the moment when their child accepts the gift of salvation. Use your judgment and your knowledge of your kids’ home lives when having this conversation.)

*“So always remember: **[Bottom Line] God did something about our greatest need. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior!**”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Inflatable Globe

What You Do:

- Hold the globe and guide kids to gather around and point to a place on the globe.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

What You Say:

“God so loved the people in (name the places or continents the kids are pointing to) that He gave His one and only Son. Jesus was God’s gift to the world. (Point to where you live.) He was God’s gift to [your city’s name]. He was God’s gift to me and to YOU! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You so much for having compassion on us and doing something about our greatest need. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. We love You so much, God. It’s in Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to finish the verse as you say, “God so loved the world that he gave _____ (his one and only Son).” Also, hand out the weekly Parent Cue card.