



WEEK FIVE – DECEMBER 2018 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *I Will Follow* • 1 John 4:9–12

Bottom Line: *Love others because God loved you first.*

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 finish our month on compassion in 1 John 4:9–12, where we read about God’s great love for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. John reminds us that no one has ever seen God, but when we show love to others, people see God through us.

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

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: Ball

What You Do:

- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Give a child the ball and invite her to tell her favorite thing that happened during Christmas. She then says another child's name and rolls the ball to them.
- Continue until each child has a turn.
- **[Make It Personal] If a child rolls the ball to you, tell your favorite thing.**

2. Which Comes First?

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Guide kids to spread out slightly.
- Ask a series of "Which Comes First?" questions, guiding kids to pretend to be the thing that comes first!
- Which comes first:
 - An egg or a chick?
 - A caterpillar or a butterfly?
 - A snowman or snow?
 - A campfire or a warm, melty, gooey s'more?
 - A seed or a plant?
 - A tadpole or a frog?
 - A cloud or rain?
- Encourage active participation by saying things like: "Wow, it's so c-c-c-cold in here! Look at all the snow!" "Aw, what sweet little eggs. I wonder when they'll hatch?" "So many caterpillars! They must be hungry. What will I feed them?" "What soft, fluffy, puffy clouds. I wonder if I'll need an umbrella. Tut, tut, it looks like rain. Tut, tut, it looks like rain."

What You Say:

"You all made great eggs and caterpillars and snowflakes and seeds and tadpoles and clouds! [Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll about something else that comes first. Let's go find out what it is."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Love others because God loved you first.* This week, we want to help kids connect their compassion to the source of compassion. We show love to others, not just because it's a good thing to do, but also because it's what God did for us and what God calls us to do for others.

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

1. Every Season

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Seasons” and “Every Seasons” Activity Cards; cones

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a variation of “Four Corners.”
- Set the corners in four corners of your small group space
- Beside each cone, set a “Seasons” card face up and its two corresponding “Every Season” cards face down.
- Order the seasons clockwise.
- Close your eyes and cue kids to silently move from hoop to hoop.
- They can move as many or as few times as they wish.
- Slowly and methodically countdown from ten. When you say “one,” every child must be standing beside a cone
- With your eyes still closed, call out the name of a season. Open your eyes.
- Guide one of the kids standing in that season’s cone to pick an “Every Season” card and show it to her group.
- Each child in the hoop then pantomimes that act of compassion while the other kids guess.
- Continue either as time remains or until kids pantomime all the cards

What You Say:

“This month, we’ve been learning all about compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need. We don’t show compassion just because it’s Christmas. We love others—always and every day—because God loves US always and every day.

*“So what are some ways you can show God’s love to others all year long? (Kids can come up with their own ideas, or they can personalize the “Every Season” cards: I can wash my neighbor’s windows. I can bake cookies for the new family down the street. I can rake leaves for my granddad. I can play with my little brother when he’s lonely.) **[Make It Personal]** (Tell kids a way you can show compassion as well.)*

*“Those are all kind and thoughtful ways to show God’s love to others. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** love others because God loved you first.”*

2. Move

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up and “read” the verse using the navigation tips from Week One.
- Together, come up with motions for the verse or use the suggested motions below. Begin slowly, and then add challenge by going faster and faster as kids learn the motions.
 - God – pointing to the sky
 - so loved – create a heart shape with your hands
 - the world – draw a circle in the air with your pointer finger
 - that He gave – both hands move out like you are giving a gift
 - His One and only Son. – use pointer finger to show one and then fold arms like holding a baby
 - Anyone – point to everyone
 - who believes – give a thumbs up
 - in Him – point to sky or use one finger to touch the middle of the palm of each of your hands
 - Will not die but have eternal life. – shake finger back and forth to say “no” then bring hands together and separate like showing a long time

What You Say:

“When God sent Jesus, He showed us that He loves us more than we can ever imagine. He sent Jesus—His one and only Son—to live on earth, to die on a cross, and to come back to life so that if we put our trust in Him, we can live forever with God. Wow! Now that’s an amazing love!

*“But what about the people who don’t know that God loves them? Sometimes just telling them isn’t enough. We need to show them God’s love by loving them ourselves. So what are some ways you can show God’s love to others? (I can let my friends choose what to play first. I can say kind things to my brother instead of yelling at him. I can get a BAND-AID® for someone who’s hurt.) Great ideas! When you put others first, when you say kind things, and when you help someone who’s hurting, you’re showing God’s love to others. So remember: **[Bottom Line] love others because God loved you first.**”*

3. 3D for 365

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing

What You Need: Bible; pre-cut “3D Heart Patterns” Activity Page; markers; stickers; scissors

What You Do:

- Give each child a pair of hearts.
- Encourage kids to use the supplies provided to decorate the hearts as they choose.
- If you provide stickers or tape, caution kids not to stick them over the slits. (That said, have some scissors handy just in case!)
- As kids work, invite a child to open the Bible where marked.
- Talk about the Bible story and the truth that God loved us so much that He sent his Son to give His life to pay for our sins.
- Emphasize that since God loved us this much, we should love others.
- When kids finish, show them how to slide their two hearts together to create a “3D” heart that can stand.
- Encourage kids to take their hearts home and set them someplace where they’ll see them often. The hearts can remind them to love others because God loved them first.

What You Say:

*“1 John 4 tells us: **[God] sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. . . . since God loved us this much, we should also love one another (1 John 4:9–11 NIV).***

*“Wow! When God sent Jesus, He showed us that He loved us more than we can imagine. And since God loves us SO much, He wants us to love others so that they can know how much He loves them, too. We can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] Love others because God loved you first.***

*“So what are some ways that you can love others? (I can help them. I can be kind. I can send a card. I can share.) Great ideas! Those are great ways to **[Bottom Line]** love others because **God loved you first!**”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today’s Bottom Line and share one way they can give to others, too. Also, hand out the weekly Parent Cue card.