



## WEEK FIVE - DECEMBER 2018

**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.*

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

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

**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.

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.

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

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"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. 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.*

***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. 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.”*

### 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.*