



WEEK FIVE - MARCH 2019 - SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Basic Instructions • Matthew 22:34-40*

Bottom Line: *God made me to love others.*

Memory Verse: *“How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” - Psalm 139:14 NIrV*

Life App: *Individuality - Discovering who you are meant to be*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

Summary: We finish the month looking at Matthew 22:34-40. With the greatest commandment, Jesus clarified what it meant to follow God. Instead of following hundreds of commands, Jesus said we are to love God and love others as we love ourselves. When we put this into practice, it helps us prioritize love in all of our relationships.

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 and working as a group

What You Need: “Individuality Bingo” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Give each child an “Individuality Bingo” Activity Page.
- Explain that they’ll play one more “get to know you” game to discover unique and individual things about each other.
- Read a couple of the phrases on the page like, “has a pet” or “doesn’t like chocolate.”
- Explain that kids will walk around and share their bingo cards with one another. When a friend hands you their card, you must find a phrase that applies to you and sign your name in that box.
- The first kid to finish must come stand next to you. Allow play to continue as long as time allows so that kids can get as many signatures as possible.
- Since there are 24 spots for kids to sign on the bingo card, you could either combine with another small group to play or instruct the kids to sign more than one spot on the page.

2. Rule Makers

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Paper; pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Instruct the kids to imagine that they are the ones in charge at home or at school. Encourage them to write down five rules they would put in place if they were in charge.
- Once they’ve written down five rules, instruct them to look at their lists and select the MOST important rule of the five they’ve come up with and circle it on the page.
- Let each kid share their most important rule with the group.

What You Say:

“Wow! All the rules you mentioned are important. Great job. [Transition] God has given us a list of rules too. But there is ONE that’s more important than all the rest. Let’s head to Large Group to 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: *God made me to love others. We're not meant to do life on our own. God made us for relationships. But for those relationships to thrive, we need to put love as the goal. We hope that kids start to understand how they can love the people God has put into their lives.*

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

1. What Does God Say?

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Whiteboard, dry erase marker, Bible

What You Do:

- Lay the whiteboard on the floor in the center of your small group area so everyone can see it.
- Ask the kids to list some things that God commands us to do in His Word. Examples: the 10 Commandments; treating others the way you want to be treated; caring for the poor, orphans, widows, people who are sick; love your enemies; turn the other cheek; etc.
- As the kids call out their answers, write them down randomly all over the white board.
- Select a volunteer to read Matthew 22:36-40 out loud to the group.
- Then ask: "According to Jesus, what is the most important rule?"
- Write down "LOVE GOD" in large bold letters on across the top of the board, writing on top of all the other rules you've listed.
- Underneath that, write "LOVE OTHERS" in large bold letters across the board.
- To end, have kids do the wave with their arms in the air, calling out one letter at a time when it is their turn, to spell LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS. Then everyone yells the words together: LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS! For variety, have them stand up (jump up) and wave their arms and then sit back down when it is their turn.

What You Say:

"This is quite a list! All of these things are important, but Jesus wanted us to understand what's MOST important: LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS.

*"When we love God and love others, we will take care of people who are sick, we will choose to treat others the way we want to be treated, and we will keep all the 10 Commandments. There is nothing more important that you or I could do than to LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS. So remember: **[Bottom Line]** God made you to love others."*

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you chose to love others even when it was hard or inconvenient or it cost you something. Tell the kids specifically how you showed love. What action did you take? How did you help someone else and show love to them? How did your choice to love make you feel?)

2. Choosing Love

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Index cards, pencils, colored pencils or crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out supplies and an index card to each kid.
- Instruct them to write down a situation from this past week when it was hard to show love or kindness to someone else. (Maybe another kid laughed at them in P.E. or someone was being a bully.) On the other side of the card, have them quickly illustrate the situation.
- Collect their cards and quickly read through them to make sure you understand what's written and that the situation is one that is appropriate.
- Shuffle the cards and let the kids draw one. It's okay if they draw their original card. One at a time, let them show the picture side of their card to the group and challenge the group to guess what is happening in the picture.
- After they have had a chance to guess the situation, the kid will read the situation on the card and then present two possible ways you could show love in that situation.
- Once they've presented their answers, let the group vote on which solution they think is best.
- Make sure each kid has a turn to share.

What You Say:

*"You gave such great answers! It is SO hard to choose to love others when they aren't showing love or kindness toward us. But the Bible reminds us that others will know that we follow God by the way we love. That means we should love when it's easy and especially when it's hard. One good way to help with this is to ask yourself, 'How would I want to be treated?' If you find yourself in a situation this week where you aren't sure how to respond, or you're tempted to treat someone the way they've treated you, just remind yourself that **[Bottom Line] God made me to love others.**"*

3. How God Made Me

[Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask a volunteer to recite Psalm 139:14 from memory. If not, pass out a Bible and have a volunteer look it up and read it to the group for review.

- Have the group stand and form a circle. Select a kid to stand in the middle.
- Recite the verse together as a group but replace the word “ME” with the name of the kid in the center. For example, if the kid in the center is named “Charlie” the group will say, “How you made Charlie is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that full well.” Psalm 139:14, NIV
- When finished instruct the kid in the center to point to someone and switch places. Have the kids recite the verse again, replacing “ME” with the name of the new kid in the center of the circle.
- Repeat until every kid and YOU have had a chance to stand in the center as the verse is repeated.

What You Say:

*“How God made [kid’s name] and [kid’s name] and . . . (point to each kid as you say their names) IS amazing and wonderful. God made you, and He loves you very much. Not only that, but God also took the time to create each one of us individually with different talents and skills, likes and dislikes, personalities and preferences. But it’s SUPER important to remember that God created you special for a purpose. He wants you to LOVE others the way He LOVES you. Why? So that others can see that they are made by God too! So don’t forget: **[Bottom Line] God made me to love others.**”*

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: “Week Five Bottom Line Labels” Activity Page; extra “Picture Frames”

What You Do:

- Pass out a “Picture Frame” page to anyone that’s missed the last few weeks. Explain that each week you are adding a label to the frame and to take them home to place on their mirror.
- Pass out a label to each kid to take home and add to their “Picture Frame” from Week One.
- Encourage the kids to hold their sticker and read the Bottom Line aloud together: **[Bottom Line] God made me to love others.**
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we love You. Thanks for always loving us even when we don’t deserve it. Help us to remember that because You love us, we can show love to others too. You made us in your image, and we are most like you when we choose love over everything else. Help us to choose love this week, even when it’s hard. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage them to share the MOST important thing that God asks of us: to LOVE God and LOVE others. See if they can repeat the Bottom Line for their parents as they head out: [Bottom Line] God made me to love others.

