



WEEK FIVE - MARCH 2019 - PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *How do others know you love them?*

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. Just For Fun

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask if anyone accepted the challenge from last week and memorized 1 Samuel 16:7. Allow kids to recite it to the group if they want.
- Challenge kids to come up with songs with the word “love” in them. The group can judge if the song is legit or not. Kids may defend their song choices and may even have to sing or hum a few bars for the group.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *How do others know you love them? Because the way we see ourselves impacts the way we treat others, we want preteens to think through how they show love to others. This question will prompt a conversation about the ways they show love to the people in their world.*

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

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible, paper, pencils, markers

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 22:34-40.
- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Instruct kids to fold their paper into fourths.
- Let kids label each of the boxes with the following: WHAT?, PICTURE IT, IN MY LIFE, IMPACT
- Give kids time to fill in each of the boxes with the following:
 - Box 1: WHAT? – Define the greatest commandment in a sentence

- Box 2: PICTURE IT – Sketch a picture of the greatest commandment
- Box 3: IN MY LIFE – Give an example of the greatest commandment from your life
- Box 4: IMPACT – How could obeying the greatest commandment make a difference?
- Ask kids to share at least one of their boxes with the group.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application 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:
 - What does it look like to love God? Give an example of a way you show God you love Him.
 - What does it look like to love others? Give an example of a way this week you showed someone you loved him or her.
 - How can loving God make a difference? How can loving others make a difference? Imagine a world where everyone seeks to make a difference in someone else's life every day. Describe that world and compare it to the world we actually live in.
 - When is it easiest to love others? How about when it's hardest? How can you show love to people when it's difficult?

3. Verses To Take With You

[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

What You Do:

- Pair up kids.
- Tell partners to stand about three feet apart, facing each other.
- Instruct one kid to move slowly and his or her partner to mirror his or her movement. Be sure to remind kids to mirror movement and facial expressions. Explain that if they do a good job you shouldn't be able to tell who is the leader and who is the mirror image.
- Switch roles.
- Optional for large groups: Divide the group into two, forming two lines. Each line holds hands and one line moves slowly and the other line mirrors them.
- Read Matthew 22:37-39.
- Ask:
 - What does it mean to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?
 - When we love others, whose image are we reflecting?

- What can you use to love others, to reflect God to others? Challenge kids to give specific examples of what they can do (or have done) to show love.

4. Make It Personal Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Give kids an opportunity to share a prayer request.
- Explain that one way we can show God's love is to pray for each other.
- Tell kids you will open in prayer. Encourage kids to add to your prayer. Maybe they can thank God for making us in His image or pray for guidance for a specific concern in their life or someone else's. Or for eyes to see others the way God sees them.
- When kids are done praying, close with prayer.