



WEEK ONE – JUNE 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *What Is Love? • 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a*

Bottom Line: *Love others because God loves you.*

Memory Verse: *“The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.” Galatians 5:22–23a, NIV*

Life App: *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: We start the month in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to a church in the city of Corinth who was struggling with putting love into action. We’ll discover different aspects of what it looks like to love others.

EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: Dry-erase board; Dry-erase markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Ask the following silly questions about fruit, and let kids try to guess the answers.
 - What grows in bunches on a tree that monkeys love to eat? (bananas)
 - What do you eat that has seeds on the outside? (strawberries or raspberries)
 - What's green on the outside, pink or red on the inside, and eaten in slices? (watermelon)
 - What fruit has the same name as its color? (orange)
 - What rhymes with orange? (nothing; trick question!)
 - What fruit has anywhere from 600 to 1400 seeds inside of it? (pomegranate)
 - Is a tomato a fruit or a vegetable? (It's a fruit! Other things we think are vegetables that are really fruits include eggplant, olives, peas, avocado, cucumber, pumpkin and zucchini.)
 - What is the world's smelliest fruit? (It's durian, an Asian tropical fruit with a creamy pulp which can smell like a sweaty socks or wet garbage. It's so stinky that it's been banned on the mass transit system in Singapore.)

2. Fruit Basket Turn Over

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

What You Need: "Fruits" Activity Page, scissors

What You Do:

- Circle kids up and pass out a fruit card to each child, making sure that at least two kids have the same card. (Note: If the cards aren't cut apart, use the scissors to do so.)
- Encourage the kids to look at their card without showing it to their neighbors.
- Explain that you will call out a fruit from the list below.
 - Apple
 - Banana
 - Strawberry
 - Blueberry

- Peach
- Watermelon
- Orange
- Raspberry
- If kids are holding a card with that fruit, they must get up and switch spots with another person holding the same card.
- After several rounds, call out different categories such as:
 - Fruits that are red
 - Fruits that have a fuzzy outside
 - Fruits that have to be peeled to be eaten

What You Say:

“That was some fast moving fruit! [Transition] Our Bible story today is ALL about fruit, but it’s not the kind you eat! Let’s go find out about this special fruit.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Love others because God loves you. God gave us the ultimate example of love when God sent Jesus to live a perfect life and die on the cross to make it possible for us to have a forever-relationship with God. Kids will discover how God’s love for us can motivate us to show love to others.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Draw It, Sculpt It, Act It, Sing It, Rap It

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Verse Phrase and Scenario Cards” (Activity Pages); Bible; scissors; Play-Doh®; paper; pencils, crayons, and/or markers

What You Do:

- Read today’s Bible passage to the group: 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a.
- Pair kids up. Give each pair a card.
- Encourage the kids to read the scenario and then come up with a response that lines up with their verse phrase.

- Using the materials provided, instruct pairs to decide how they want to present their response to the rest of the group.
 - They can sculpt something out of Play-Doh, draw it, act it out, or write a poem or lyrics to sing it or rap it for the group.
 - Some of the verse phrases might require a bit of nuancing for the kids who were assigned to them. (For instance, for “love is not proud,” help kids understand that it’s okay to be proud of your own hard work, but it’s not okay to brag and throw it in others’ faces. For “love does not want what belongs to others,” it’s okay to think someone else’s toy is cool; it’s not okay to want it so badly that you’re mean to that person.)
- Give kids a few minutes to complete their assignment and then present to the group with the phrases in the following order:
 - Love is patient.
 - Love is kind.
 - Love does not want what belongs to others.
 - Love does not brag.
 - Love is not proud.
 - Love doesn’t get angry.
 - Love doesn’t keep track of wrongs.
 - Love never gives up.

What You Say:

*“Wow, I LOVE all the creativity you’ve displayed to show what real love looks like. I’m so glad that God has given us His Word to teach us the best way to live and that He loves us more than we can imagine. You can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”*

[Make It Personal] (Tell your kids about a time when you chose to love someone who was hard to love because of God’s love for you. You may want to pick one of the phrases above to help you think about a time when you chose to be patient, kind, etc., in order to show love to someone else.)

2. Cause and Effect

[Application Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Dominoes

What You Do:

- Pass out one domino to each child. Make sure you keep one for yourself.
 - Instruct the kids to line up the dominoes in a serpentine formation about an inch apart.

- Place your domino at the front of the line and then push it over so that it knocks the rest of them over as well.
- Talk about the cause and effect relationship of the option you've chosen.
 - Talk about how tapping the first domino caused all the other dominoes to fall too.

What You Say:

*“That was a super fun cause-and-effect activity. Let’s think about another kind of cause and effect. Can you give me some examples of times when it’s hard to love others? (Pause.) Today we’re learning that you can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.** What is the cause for why we love others? (Because God loves us.) Because God loves us, what should the effect be? (That we show love to others.) What is the effect when we love others? (Pause for responses.)*

*“We don’t love because others deserve it. We don’t love because we feel like it or because it’s convenient. We love others because God has shown love to us. The cause is that God loves us first. He showed us how. And because He loves us, the effect is that we love others. This week, let’s remember to **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Gather the kids to sit together in a circle.
- Lead them in a “call and response” prayer.
- The “calls” below correlate to 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a.
- After you say the call from scripture, kids will complete it with “love others because you love me.”

What You Say:

*“You can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.** Let’s pray and ask God to help us love others the way He loves us. I will say a phrase naming a time when it’s hard to love. I want you to complete it by saying, ‘love others because You love me.’ Let’s pray.*

“Dear God,

“When I’m impatient, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“When others are being unkind, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“When I want what someone else has, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“When I want my own way, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“When I’d rather stay mad, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“Thank You for loving me and showing me how to love others. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share the first fruit of the Spirit you talked about today and tell WHY we should love others. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!