

- Goggles
- Snorkel
- Flippers
- Box of popsicles
- Giant flat pool inflatable (pizza slice, watermelon popsicle, cupcake, etc.)
- Whiteboard with marker

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Key Question Slide

What You Do:

- Collect the props needed for the lesson and place them in the large prop box. Place the prop table center stage with the prop box behind the table.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Who You Say I Am

What Is Love?

Bible Story: What Is Love? (Love Is . . .) • 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Key Question: How can you love others like God does?

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Countdown*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme*

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: Rotisserie Chicken Day, Rocky Road Day, Yo-Yo Day, Doughnut Day, Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, Stanley Cup Finals, NBA Finals, Father’s Day, movie opening (Secret Life of Pets 2, Men in Black: International, Toy Story 4), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening. The stage should be prepared for the game as kids walk into the large group room.

Opener

HOST: “Welcome, everybody! I’m willing to go out on a limb today and guess most of you out there play video games. By show of hands, how many of you have played some kind of video game within the past week? (Pause) Yep, that’s what I thought. In this day and age, gaming is in vogue. Whether you’re playing on the Switch™, the XBox One™, the PS4™, the Nintendo 3DS™, or—if you’re a fan of the vintage—the ATARI 7800, there’s no doubt that you’ve dabbled in the world of electronic entertainment.”

“And who could blame you? Modern games are so shiny and sleek, and the graphics are straight up incredible! However, if you’re anything like me, maybe you’ve got a soft spot for some more . . . classic games, the 8- and 16-bit retro games that serve as the granddaddies to the current age of Rocket League and Super Smash Brothers Ultimate. Stuff like Pong, Pac-Man™, Pole Position, Centipede . . . the games that paved the way for all the stuff we have nowadays!”

“Well, today we’re giving you a blast from the past and having everyone help me play one of my ABSOLUTE FAVORITE classic arcade games: Asteroids™.”

CG: *Visual image of Asteroids*

“As you can see, you play as a tiny spaceship in the midst of an asteroid field, and your job is to wipe out as many of the oncoming rocks as you can. Now, as much as I would love to sit here and spend the rest of the service taking turns playing the actual game, we only have a few minutes before the guys in the back cut my microphone, so we’re going to have to improvise with a game we call FINGER ROCKET ASTEROIDS!

CG: Finger Rocket Asteroids Title Slide

“Take a moment and break up into your small groups. Pick ONE person from each small group to come to the stage!”

Allow a few moments for each small group to send a volunteer to the stage. If you have a large number of small groups, consider bringing just a handful of volunteers. If you have a small number of small groups, consider bringing up multiple from each small group.

“Okay, those of you onstage will be our ship pilots. Your job is to destroy the asteroids that are flying around with these finger rockets!”

Supply each volunteer with a bucket of finger rockets and one hula-hoop for each Small Group.

“That means the rest of you in the audience will be the asteroids! Each small group will receive a hula-hoop, and EVERYONE in the small group will have to keep at least one hand on his or her group’s hula-hoop at ALL TIMES. If anyone in your group is hit with a finger rocket anywhere on his or her body, the entire asteroid will be destroyed and, thus, the whole group must immediately sit down. If the finger rocket goes THROUGH the hula-hoop, the asteroid is ALSO destroyed and EVERYONE will have to sit down. If anybody is caught letting go of the hula-hoop, his or her entire group will also be destroyed. We’ll give our ship pilots exactly one minute to blow these space rocks away! The last asteroid still standing wins the title . . . GREATEST FINGER ROCKET ASTEROID OF THE UNIVERSE! Everyone understand? Excellent—game on!”

SFX: High-energy game music

One-minute timer begins. If your space is large, consider taping off a smaller space in front of the stage to play the game. If the game ends quickly and time permits, consider the first round a practice run to squeeze in one more round.

“Well-played, everyone! That was some of the finest asteroid shootin’ I’ve ever seen! Let’s have a round of applause for our space explorers AND for our asteroids! And of course, let’s go crazy for the GREATEST FINGER ROCKET ASTEROID OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE! *(Pause for response)*

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they’re pretty amazing. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!**

“I have just a few announcements for you all today...

Share any/all announcements.

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

We Are Royals

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

Who You Say I Am

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

Introduction

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, hey, everyone! I don’t know about you, but this whole week I have had a HUGE smile on my face that I’ve been unable to shake. Seriously! My cheek muscles are starting to hurt from all this goofy grinning! Anybody know why? (*Pause for responses*) That’s exactly it! Because it is officially *[or almost]* SUMMER BREAK! There are few things in this world I love more than the summertime! Is there anybody out there who gets a big smile over summer break? (*Pause for response*) Yeah, you do!”

“At my house, summer break means maxin’ and relaxin’ in the pool.”

Communicator places goggles, snorkel, and flippers on stage table.

“It means chowing down on some delicious popsicles . . . by the pool.”

Communicator pulls out an empty box of popsicles and places it on stage table.

“It means enjoying an ice-cold lemonade while lounging on an inflatable . . . in the pool.”

Communicator places a giant pool inflatable next to stage table.

“I think you get the picture. I LOVE summer by a pool!”

“What about all of you? Is there anything you absolutely love? Something you love so much that it puts an unshakeable smile on your face? Maybe it is something other than summer break—your pet iguana named Spike or your grandmother’s banana pudding or kicking it with your best friend, just to name a few examples. Let’s take a minute to discuss this. Everyone gather with your small group and share one thing you love.”

Small groups take a minute to share something they love.

“Based on all the discussions I just observed, it appears there is a whole lot of things we love! I want all of us to take a moment to hear some of what you shared.”

Communicator calls on several groups to hear highlights. As they share, write down answers on a whiteboard.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “What a list! I realize this is only a small sampling of the many things we love, but it’s plain to see we love all sorts of things. From video games to sports to food, we’ve got lots of love for it all!”

“Here’s something to think about. We love lots of different things, but what about when it’s people? When we say we “love” someone, what do we really mean? Do we love people the same way we love our Nintendo Switch? Should our love for people be different than our love of swimming pools? And what if the people we’re supposed to love let us down somehow? Do we still have to keep loving them?”

“Wow. Those are some big questions, right? It’s true that loving people can be hard and confusing sometimes. Thankfully, when we have big questions like that, we have a book with some big answers. And if you’ve been around here for a while, I’m pretty sure you know what book I’m taking about, right? Yeah—the Bible! The people inspired to write the Bible give us some great insight into what it looks like to love others, even when it might be hard.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s head to the Bible now and find out more. So long ago, there was this guy named Saul, who you might know as Paul. Many of you have heard about him, as he sought to destroy those who believed Jesus is the Son of God. However, all of that changed when he had an encounter with Jesus on a dusty road on the way to a town called Damascus. From that point on, Paul and became a force FOR Jesus. From starting churches to telling anyone and everyone about Jesus, Paul made a huge impact on the world.” “Paul used to write letters to the churches he started. He hoped to give them some direction and encourage them. One such letter was written to a church in the town of Corinth, which was surrounded by people who made extremely poor choices about the way they lived. As these people became followers of Jesus, Paul

helped them understand what it meant to live like Jesus while they were surrounded by people who didn't live like Jesus."

"In the letter, Paul gave a fantastic description of love that describes the way we should love others, even in hard situations. Listen to what Paul wrote them. *(Open Bible and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a) 'Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs. Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails.'*"

"Wow! Those are some great ideas about love, but you might be thinking, 'What does this kind of love actually look like in real life?' Good question. How about this . . ."

"Let's all imagine you're at a pool party and all of your friends are there. You've been really impressing people with your cannonballing skills. When you enter the water at Maximum Velocity, there's not a dry person around for MILES—and, yes, I do mean FEET."

Host enters wearing a swimming suit, white t-shirt, sunglasses, and lots of sunscreen on the face.

"After a little while, though, one of your friends starts showing off her water balancing skills on top of the pool inflatable . . . and she is REALLY good."

Host lays on the large inflatable and begins to do ridiculous gymnastics balance beam poses.

"Her balance, her technique . . . suddenly all of the focus is off of you and onto your friend! So you try desperately to get the attention back. You even try an extremely dangerous standing back tuck into a cannonball plunge . . . to no avail. Your friend has become the center of attention."

Host continues to do ridiculous gymnastics balance beam poses on the inflatable.

"With all of the attention diverted, you start to feel something. At first you think it was the chili-cheese dog you ate, but you quickly realize it's something else . . . you . . . were . . . jealous. This wasn't something small like you wanted someone else's swimming suit. No—this was being really envious of the attention your friend was getting because of her mad water-balancing skills."

Communicator pauses to look over at Host continuing to do ridiculous gymnastics balance beam poses.

"You wanted that . . . bad. The love you had for this friend seems to be clouded in a green-eyed storm. You want nothing more than to shank the inflatable with your chili-cheese fork to end the attention your friend was getting. *(Pause)* In this situation, where is the love?"

Host exits.

"Later on at the same party, you and your friends are hanging out by the pool in the summer heat, taking a breather after a really intense game of sharks and minnows. Suddenly, your mom comes out with a box of popsicles—your favorite! Everybody knows popsicles are your favorite, including your AMAZING mom who furnished the treats and ALL of your friends."

Host enters and rushes to the popsicle box on the table. Host rips open the box and begins opening multiple popsicles and sticking them all in his/her mouth at once.

“You turn away for just a moment to change the music playing on the Bluetooth speaker. And when you turn back . . . your hungry, heartless friends have eaten ALL of the popsicles! There’s not even ONE left for you!”

Communicator pauses to look at Host stuffing face with multiple popsicles at once.

“Needless to say, you are beyond angry. The sweet, chilled delectables you love so much have just been devoured by your ‘friends’ who all know popsicles are your jam. So you flip out. You waive your fist around like a helicopter and scream and verbally wish excruciating ice headaches upon all of your friends. Then you stomp off in a huff! *(Pause)* In this situation, where is the love?”

Host begins to exit with a mouth full of popsicles but pauses to add one more popsicle to his/her mouth. Host exits.

“At this point, you’ve stepped away to calm down. The last thing you want to do is something you’d regret. You count to ten and return to the party just in time to see something awful.”

Host enters and picks up goggles from the table.

“You see one of your friends pick up your brand-new swimming goggles, which were a gift from your grandmother. Normally, you wouldn’t worry, but these were bought specifically with your head in mind—tailored just to the specifications you need to see underwater no matter what’s going on in the water. And your friend’s head and your head are NOT the same size. His is big.”

Communicator pauses to look at Host’s head.

“Like really, really big. When your friend goes to put your brand-new swimming goggles on his oversized noggin . . .”

Host attempts to put mask on head but the strap breaks. Host holds up the mask by the broke strap.

“. . . the strap breaks! Maybe it was the water balancing poses . . . or maybe it was the popsicles . . . or maybe it was the broken goggles . . . but something inside of you snaps in a bad way. You go straight up Tasmanian devil on this pool party.”

Host has a panicked look on his/her face, tosses the mask, and runs off stage.

“You find your chili-cheese dog fork and dive face first into the large inflatable used for water balancing. You repeatedly jab the floatie until it is an unrecognizable heap of wilted plastic. With the empty popsicle box in hand, you try to force your friends to finish the popsicles by eating the empty box! You find every single pool toy you can get your hands on, including your broken mask and chuck them, screaming, into the neighbor’s yard!”

“After your whirling frenzy of a tantrum is done, you feel . . . embarrassed. All of your friends are giving you a horrified look, and you realize that you’ve completely ruined the pool party. (*Pause*) In this situation, where is the love?”

“Love might be hard to find right now, but what if this is where we see the love. What if the friend who took your limelight when you were doing cannonballs patches up the floatie and teaches you some water balancing moves? What if some of your other friends walk down to the corner store and pick up a brand new box of popsicles to share with you? What if another friend goes over to the neighbors and retrieves all of the pool toys? Even though you lost control, your friends showed you love . . . even when you didn’t deserve it.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Loving others is no easy task. Showing love takes a lot of work sometimes. Life throws some frustrating situations our way, causing us to react. But in our reaction in those situations people will see either love or no love. Remember, Paul wrote that love is patient and kind. It does not want what belongs to others . . . even killer water-balancing poses. It does not become easily angry . . . even if all of your favorite popsicles have been eaten before you’ve gotten one. Love always protects. It always hopes. It never gives up. Love never fails. This kind of love takes a lot of work.”

“The great thing, though, is that we don’t do this alone. When it comes to loving others, we can lean on Someone much stronger than we are, who has a perfect understanding of love. See, when you put your trust in Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. And through the Holy Spirit, God is doing something in us to change the world around us with what Paul calls the Fruit of the Spirit—and one of the Fruits of the Spirit is . . . you guessed it . . . LOVE! In fact, each week this summer, we’ll be taking a look at a Fruit of the Spirit to discover more about what it means to follow Jesus.

But when it comes to love, ask God for help. God wants us to love everyone. And God’s the expert on love. And what Paul talked about in 1 Corinthians 13 is exactly how God loves you and me. He is kind and patient with us even when we disobey. God went so far to send His Son to earth to die on a cross for us even though we are undeserving of His help. God wants to have a relationship with you . . . And God’s love never fails.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “We about to head back to our Small Groups to explore this kind of love a little more. As we do, think about this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How can you love others like God does?” When it comes to your family, your friends, even your frenemies, how can you show them the sort of love Paul talked about? If you’re having trouble thinking of ideas, don’t worry. You’ll come up with all sorts of ideas during Small Group. Before you head there, let’s pray and thank God for loving us with a never failing love. Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop Video