



WEEK ONE – JUNE 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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
- Invite kids to take turns drawing their favorite fruit for the other kids to guess.

2. It's in the Bag

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Fruit Basket” Activity Pages, hula-hoops

What You Do:

- Hold up the “Fruit Basket” images one at a time, and lead kids to identify each fruit.
- Set the hoops around your environment and place a “Fruit Basket” image inside each one.
- Guide kids to mingle, moving as a watermelon, grape, banana, or other fruit. (How would a grape move? The kids’ creativity is the only limit!)
- Call out a fruit category, and lead kids to cluster inside the hoop of the fruit (or fruits) that match the category. You might say: “Go to a fruit that . . .”
 - is round
 - is yellow
 - is red and green
 - you eat whole
 - is small
 - is large
 - you peel to eat
 - you slice to eat
 - you like to eat

What You Say:

“That was fun! [Transition] In Large Group, we’ll learn about a VERY special kind of fruit. This fruit is one that you can’t eat. Let’s go learn more.”

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. Love IS

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Love IS / Love IS NOT” and “1 Corinthians 13 Cards” Activity Pages; dice; tape

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Post the “Love IS” and “Love IS NOT” pages where kids can see them.
- Give one kid on each team a pair of dice.
- At your signal, kids roll the dice (as quickly as possible) until they roll doubles.
- When a child rolls doubles, play pauses, and the child who rolled doubles pulls a card from the bag, identifies what’s happening in the picture, and then decides whether the card is an example of what “Love IS” or what “Love IS NOT.”
- Invite the child to post the card accordingly.
- The kids who had the dice pass them to another kid for the next round.
- Continue the game until kids draw and classify every card. Teams can work together to classify the cards.
- As kids play, praise them for loving behavior: patience, kindness, not boasting, etc.

What You Say:

“The Apostle Paul wrote that love is patient and kind. It doesn’t get angry easily. It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.

“What are some ways that you can love others? (I can be patient with my little brother when he’s driving me crazy. I can be kind when someone cuts in front of me. When someone is being

mean to my friend, I can tell them to stop. When my friend gets the toy that I really want for their birthday, I can be happy for them.)

*“Is it always easy to love others? (Pause.) Sometimes when we’re tired or hungry or annoyed or angry it’s hard to love others the way God wants us to love them. But if you ever find it hard to love someone, ask God to help you. And when you believe that Jesus is who He says He is, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you to help you show love. So remember: **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**”*

2. A-mazing Love

[Application Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “A-Mazing Love” cards and diagram (Activity Page); paper plates; straws; tokens; die

What You Do:

- Set up (for every four kids):
 - Set 20 paper plates on the floor in a 5x5 grid as shown on the “Amazing Love” diagram.
 - Lay straws between the plates as shown.
 - Place a “Fruit” card on each corner plate. These are “power-ups.”
 - Set a token on each remaining plate.
 - Guide kids to get into teams of four: one child will be “Mr. Love,” one will be “Mr. Love’s Helper,” and two will be “Ghosts.”
 - Mr. Love begins on “Start” (the plate outside the grid) and the Ghosts begin in the center (“Ghost Central”).
- Mr. Love’s goal:
 - Collect the four power-ups (fruits) and each token without being tagged by a Ghost.
- The Ghosts’ goal:
 - Tag Mr. Love!
- To play:
 - Players take turns rolling the die or using the number generator, and they move the number of spaces they roll.
 - Inform kids that they can’t cross over a straw; the straw is like a barrier, and they have to go around it or move sideways next to it. (Demonstrate a couple examples of “okay” moves and “not okay” moves.)
 - Mr. Love goes first (sound effects are perfectly permissible!), with Mr. Love’s Helper picking up the tokens Mr. Love “gobbles.”
 - Ghosts must roll a one before they may leave “Ghost Central.”
 - When Mr. Love eats a power-up:

- The Ghosts freeze and Mr. Love rolls two times.
- Any Ghost that Mr. Love tags while they're frozen must return to Ghost Central. (These ghosts must roll a one to re-enter the maze.)
- Any ghost not tagged must move three spaces backward (away from Mr. Love).
- Mr. Love rolls a third time, and play resumes as before.
- If a Ghost tags Mr. Love, Mr. Love returns to Start.
- NOTE: As kids play, be sure to praise them for patience, kindness, not boasting, and other qualities of love.

What You Say:

(Hold up the “patient” power-up fruit.) “Love is patient. (Hold up the “kind” power-up fruit.) Love is kind. (Hold up the “doesn’t want . . .” power-up fruit.) It doesn’t want what other people have. And it (hold up the “never fails” power-up fruit) NEVER fails. Love never stops loving!

“Since love is patient, how can you be patient and show love to others? (I can wait my turn. I can be patient with my little brother even when he’s driving me crazy.) How can you be kind to others? (I can share. I can say kind words. I can play what my friend wants to play instead of what I want to play.) How can you ‘not want what others have’? (I can be happy when my friend gets a cool birthday present. I can be thankful for what I have.)

“And here’s the cool thing: when you believe that Jesus is God’s Son, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside you and help you love others like God loves them! If you were in a video game, it would be like the Holy Spirit giving you a power-up to love more than you could love on your own. Wow!

*“So remember: **[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: Bible marked at 1 Corinthians 13

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible where marked.
- Lead kids in a responsive prayer based on 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a. (See below.)
- Before beginning the prayer, guide kids to practice saying, “love others because You love me.”

What You Say:

“Dear God, please help me be patient and to . . . love others because You love me.

“Help me be kind and 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 to be more important than others, 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’m tempted to get angry easily, help me to . . . love others because You love me.

“Dear God, thank You so much for loving me the way You do. Your love is amazing! In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite each child to say to say the Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] Love others because God loves you. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!