



WEEK ONE – JUNE 2019 – PRETEEN

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

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

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.

PRE-SERVICE SOCIAL ACTIVITY

1. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: Small Beach Balls

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
- Form a circle.
- Give one student the beach ball then ask him to stand in the middle of the circle.
- Explain that the person in the middle will toss the ball to someone.
 - The student catching the ball must call out a letter (excluding Q, X, Y, and Z) then begin passing the ball around the circle.
 - The student in the middle must name four items found in a refrigerator that start with that letter before the ball gets back to the original person.
 - If he succeeds, he can switch places with someone in the circle.
- Repeat until everyone has had a turn in the middle.
- Choose a new category every few rounds from the list below or let students come up with other categories.
 - Stuff you can buy at Walmart (or name another local store kids are familiar with)
 - Animals with fur
 - Cold places
 - Boy (or girl) names
 - Any word at all
 - Things found in a bedroom

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *How can you love others like God does? That's a big question! As preteens start to engage more with pop culture, they'll start to hear many voices talk about what it means to love. But we want them to take their cue from how God loves us. We hope preteens will discover how they can show God's love to the people in their lives.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Orange

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Remind students that LOVE is a fruit of the Spirit.
- Show everyone the orange then say, “We know that a healthy orange tree produces oranges. God uses the example of fruit to help us understand how followers of Jesus produce something called, the fruit of the Spirit. If we believe in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us grow more like Him. One important fruit of the Spirit that He wants to produce in us is LOVE.”
- Invite the group to think about ways God shows love and ways we can show love to others.
- Explain that you will roll or toss the orange across the circle.
 - If the right thumb of the person who catches it lands on the word GOD, he should share a way God shows His love to us.
 - If it lands on US, he can share a way we show love to others.
- Continue rolling the orange around the circle until everyone has had several turns.
- Challenge everyone to not reuse an idea previously shared.

What You Say:

“God’s love is amazing. He shares His love with us in so many ways—often without us being aware of all that He is doing. He gives us a perfect example to follow. Can anyone ever love perfectly the way God does? No, but we’re still challenged and encouraged to give it our best shot. Followers of Jesus—those who believe Jesus is who He says He is—have the Holy Spirit living inside them to help them show love the way God does. Think of it like this: If you were in a video game, it would be like the Holy Spirit was helping you power up or move on to the next level. We have what we need to love others the way He does, even those who are not easy to love.”

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's one way you can do a better job of loving others the way God does?
 - How do you love people who have hurt you or treated you badly?
 - God wants us to love everyone in exactly the same way. Agree or disagree? Why?
 - What makes someone easy to love? What can you do to be that kind of person?
 - If we show love to someone and he or she doesn't love us back, have we failed? Explain your answer.

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Remind students that showing love often takes a lot of work. People are not always easy to love, but God promises to help us.
- Invite students to pray silently for God's help to love in the ways described in 1 Corinthians 13.
- Suggest they pray for specific people and situations in which they need to do a better job of showing love and to thank God for the ways He shows love to us as described on each of the cups.

What You Say:

"Dear God, you have shown your love to us by giving us a Savior who made a way for us to know you. Help us love others the way you love us. Remind us this week of the things we learned about love from 1 Corinthians 13. In Jesus' name, amen."

Don't forget to hand out this month's content overview to each child to give to their parents!