



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *You're the Inspiration* ▪ John 15:12–13

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

Memory Verse: *“Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.” – 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)*

Life App: *Love—Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

Summary: We start the month with something Jesus said in John 15:12–13: *“Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends.”* Jesus proved this to us when He put us first by giving His life for us. If we say that we follow Jesus, then we should show others how much we love them.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- Talk about favorite moments in a movie when someone gave up something tangible or non-tangible for someone else.
- Some suggestions might be:
 - In *Aladdin*, when Aladdin gave bread to the younger orphans
 - In *Frozen*, when Olaf chose to stay with sick Anna even though he would melt
 - In *Cinderella*, when Cinderella showed kindness to her stepmother and stepsisters, even though they did not treat her well
 - In *Finding Nemo*, when Marlin had to search an entire ocean for his son in spite of his fears, the adversity he faced, or the harsh reality that he may never see Nemo again
 - In *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, when Poe gave Finn his jacket

2. Link It

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to stand in a line and link arms.
- Let them know you will be giving them a few commands they need to follow.
- The object of this game is for kids to stay connected throughout the entire game, no matter how fast or challenging it becomes. (Make sure they understand that they do need to stay safe and help their friends stay safe as well. Feel free to pause the game if kids get too crazy!)
- Some suggestions might be:
 - Take two steps forward.
 - Take eight steps to your left.
 - Hop on your right foot three times.
 - Turn around and face backward.

- Touch your knees with your chin.

What You Say:

“You did an amazing job staying connected together even when the game become challenging. [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group to find out why it’s important to stay connected to Jesus.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Love others because Jesus loves you. More than anything, we want kids to know that Jesus loves them. When kids understand how much Jesus loved them, they can see how important it is to share that love with others and point them to back to Jesus.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Love Connection**[Application Activity]**

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

What You Need: “Love Chain” Activity Page, scissors, markers, pencils

What You Do:

- Hand out an Activity Page to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to follow your instructions as you demonstrate how to cut out the silhouettes.
 - First, cut the long rectangle around the image.
 - Then, fold the page on the gray lines like an accordion.
 - Once you have the page folded, cut around the shapes leaving the outline of the people.
- When finished cutting, show kids how to unfold their ‘Love Chain’ to display four silhouettes connected by four hearts.
- Tell the kids to think of four people they can show love to.
- Encourage them to take a moment to think quietly and come up with one person they may not know that well and one person they have a hard time getting along with.
- Instruct the kids to assign each silhouette to one of the four people they thought of by writing names in the blank spaces provided.
- Brainstorm with your group different ways the kids can show love to others.

- As you talk through the ideas, encourage kids to choose one or two ideas to draw or write on their silhouettes.

What You Say:

*“What’s holding the people in the chain together? (hearts, love) We all want to be loved, don’t we? Sometimes it’s easy to love someone, while at other times it’s really hard. The more we stay connected to Jesus the easier it is to love others. When we stay connected to Him we are reminded of how much Jesus loves us. Passing on the love Jesus gave to us doesn’t always have to be as big or complicated as it sounds. It can be as simple as paying attention to what others need and doing something to help them. **[Make It Personal] (Share stories of different ways you show or have shown love to a few people in your life.)** This week, I would like to challenge you to show love to the people on your ‘Love Chain.’ **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.**”*

2. Love in Action

[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, “Heart” Activity Page, “Memory Verse” Activity Page, tape

What You Do:

- Help kids look up 1 John 4:10 using the tips below.
 - **Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** *Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 John in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 1 John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 John. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 10 in chapter 4.*
- Say the verse together several times.
- Hang the “Memory Verse” Activity Page on the wall so kids can see it.
- Instruct kids to read the verse again a few times. But before each round, invite a volunteer to tape heart over one action verb in the verse.
- Once the verb is covered, invite the group to act out that word instead of saying it out loud.
- Continue until all the action words are covered and you’ve said and acted out the entire verse.

What You Say:

*“This verse has a lot of actions in it! It tells us what ACTIONS God took for us out of love and, because of that, what ACTIONS we can take for Him! God loved us first and sent His Son to give His life so we can have a relationship with God. Jesus’ ACTIONS demonstrated His love for you by the way He lived on earth and died on the cross. You, too, can demonstrate your love for HIM by how you live and how you love others. **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Kids’ love chain from the “Love Connection” activity

What You Do:

- Hand out kids’ love chains from the “Love Connection” activity.
- Give kids 15-seconds to silently pray for strength and courage to love those people in their love chain.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we are so grateful for the many ways that You show us Your love—especially for the way You sent Jesus to save us. Your love is perfect and never ends. We need Your help to stay connected to you and to share that kind of love to those on our love chain and those in our lives, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their love chains and talk about one person they will be sure to show love to this week. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!