



## WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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## PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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### 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
- Guide kids to sing songs together. The songs can be from Large Group, classic kids' songs, songs from movies, etc.
- If kids don't want to sing, they can list favorite songs and see how many lyrics they can quote.
- Alternately, and if appropriate for your group, challenge kids to a sing-off.
  - Trios or pairs of kids compete against each other.
  - The other kids vote on their favorites.

### 2. Top of the Playlist

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

**What You Need:** Prepared 1, 2, and 3 papers

**What You Do:**

- Set the papers on the floor in different spots in your small group area.
- Name three different songs kids would be familiar with (you can use songs they sang or mentioned in Early Arriver), and designate a number for each one. For example:
  - "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"
  - "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"
  - "The Alphabet Song"
- Tell kids to run to the number of the song they like best or that they'd put at the top of their playlist.
- For the second round, you can either replace one of the initial songs with a new one, and see if any kids change their minds, OR you can name three completely different songs.
- Play as many rounds as you have time for. If interest starts to wane, allow kids to take turns calling out the songs (or singing a portion of the song, if they don't know the titles).

**What You Say:**

*“When we put together a list of songs, it’s called a playlist. We often put the songs we like best at the top—or the beginning—of a playlist. So what does a playlist have to do with what we’re learning today? [Transition] Let’s go to Large Group and find out!”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

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**LARGE GROUP**

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**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.*

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**SMALL GROUP**

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**1. Give It Up**

**[Bible Story Review]**

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

**What You Need:** Bag or box containing the “Give It Up Picture Cards” (Activity Page); items that are illustrated on the cards; Bible

**What You Do:**

- Hand out the items to the kids.
- Make sure each kid gets at least two items. It’s okay if some kids have one more item than others, if you think your group can handle it.
- Give the bag full of cards to one kid.
- Explain how the game will work:
  - The kid will pull one card out of the bag and hold it up for the group to see.
  - Kids who have that item will race to see who can give their item to the kid with the card first.
  - The kid who “wins” gets to pull the next card out of the bag.
- Play until each kid has gotten a turn to pull out a card.
  - You may need to change the rules at some point to make sure this can happen. You can simply move the bag one kid to the right, instead of to the “winner” of the previous round.

**What You Say:**

*“Giving things up for your friends shows you love them. Remember the verses from our Bible story in Large Group today? Let me read them to you again. **(Read John 15:12–13.)** Jesus gave up His life for His friends. Did you know that means me and you? Yes, it does! We are Jesus’ friends! And we can love others the way Jesus loves us when we give up things for them, like we did in our game just now. Why are we able to show love to others, even when we don’t always want to? Because Jesus loves us! **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.**”*

## 2. What Is Love?

### [Memory Verse Activity]

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

### What You Need: Bibles

### What You Do:

- Introduce kids to the concept of a definition: it describes something; it tells you what a word means.
- Ask kids to describe various things: a table, a rainbow, a strawberry, etc.
- Encourage them to also use their bodies to help describe the shapes of the items.
- Help kids look up this month’s memory verse: 1 John 4:10.
  - **Finding verses with kindergartners:** *Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word 1 John at the top of the page as you say “First John” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 4 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 4 for the little 10; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud.*
- Read the first part aloud: “Here is what love is.”
- Tell kids that the rest of the verse tells us what love means—it defines or describes love.
- Read the verse several times.

### What You Say:

*“Since God is perfect and we’re not, that means we can’t have a friendship with Him. So what is love? It is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. But even though we do wrong things sometimes, God loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so our sins can be forgiven and we can have a friendship with Him. Isn’t that amazing? And because He loves us so much, we can also love others—not just the people we know, but also people we don’t know very well or people we’ve never even met. God gives us the ability to 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:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Remind kids:
  - God loves us so much that He gave Jesus for us so that our sins can be forgiven.
  - When we believe this and choose to follow and love Jesus, God forgives our sins and makes it possible for us to have a friendship with Him forever.
    - ***[Make It Personal] (Briefly share your salvation story. Keep it short and appropriate for young children, but make sure to hit the high points.)***
- Close with the prayer below.

#### **What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to live and to die for our sins so that we can be forgiven and live with You forever! Help everyone here—(name each kid)—understand how much you love them. I pray that each of them will decide to follow You and give their lives to You. In Jesus’ name, amen. Remember, kids, **[Bottom Line] love others because Jesus loves you.**”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!***