



WEEK THREE – FEBRUARY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Never Gonna Give You Up* • Matthew 5:43–47

Bottom Line: *Love others because they matter to God*

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: Jesus brought His followers to a mountain to explain to them what it means to live as part of God’s kingdom. During that message, He said something surprising about love. In Matthew 5:43–47 Jesus said: *“You’ve heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.’ But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you.”* Jesus wanted to be sure that love is bigger than we think, and everyone deserves love.

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: White Butcher Paper; markers

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
- Make a list of all the reasons kids love the people in their lives.
- You might need to prompt them with questions like: Why do you love your mom?

What You Say:

*“When you help others, you show love to them. [Transition] **Let’s go to Large Group, where we’ll hear about why we should love others no matter who they are or what they’ve done.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: ***Love others because they matter to God.** We tend to make judgement calls on who deserves to receive love. But that’s not the way God works. All people are created in God’s image, and regardless of how much we get along or not, we should work to be nice and show God’s love to them. We’ll help kids understand how they can do this for the people in their life.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Mean Match

[Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Mean Match Cards” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

- Shuffle the cards and place them face down in a three-by-four grid in the middle of your space.
- Guide the kids to gather around the cards.
- Play a memory match game with the cards.
- When a kid finds a match:
 - Talk about what’s happening in the picture and how someone is being mean.
 - Guide kids to think of ways the other kid can be kind to that person instead of being mean back to them. For example:
 - If another kid tears their paper on purpose, they can say, “I forgive you,” and walk away instead of yelling at them.
 - If someone screams at them for breaking a toy, they can stay calm, not scream back, and apologize for breaking the toy.
- Play until all matches have been found and all scenarios have been discussed.
 - **NOTE:** *When talking about how to respond to people who are mean to them, you will want to be sensitive to kids who might be bullied or abused. Tell kids that if someone hurts them, they should talk to a trusted adult about it. Explain that we’re all mean to others sometimes, but most of us aren’t mean all the time. But if someone is mean to them over and over again, they should tell a parent, a teacher, or someone else they trust.*

What You Say:

“All of us experience times when people are mean to us. But that doesn’t mean we need to be mean back to them. [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time someone was mean to you when you were a kid and how you responded in a kind way. If your response made the person change their attitude or actions in a positive way, even better!) God doesn’t want us to be mean back to people when they’re mean to us. Even if we don’t like someone, we should be kind to them. We should [Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God.”

2. Memory Verse Puzzle

[Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Memory Verse Puzzle” Activity Pages, scissors, plastic baggies, Bibles, crayons

What You Do:

- Help kids look up 1 John 4:10 in their Bibles. Use the tips from Week 1 if needed.
- Say the verse together a few times.

- Give each kid an Activity Page.
 - *Optional: Let kids color their pages.*
- Hand out scissors, and guide kids to cut out their puzzles on the dashed lines.
- Tell them to mix up their puzzle pieces and then put the puzzle back together.
- Give each kid a baggie to take their puzzle pieces home in.

What You Say:

*“I’m so glad that God loved us enough to send Jesus, aren’t you? God made every single one of us, which means we all matter! You matter (point to kid), and you matter (continue with each kid). Everyone matters! **[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.**”*

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:

- Tell kids to close their eyes and think about someone who has been mean to them recently.
- Encourage them to take a few seconds and silently pray for that person.
- Instruct them to ask God to help them be kind in the future when someone is mean to them.
- Close with the prayer below.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for making all of us and loving us. We’re so glad we all matter to You. Help us to remember that EVERYONE matters to You—even people who aren’t kind to us. Help us to always be kind back to people who are mean to us. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Let’s say the Bottom Line together one more time. Repeat it after me. **[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God!**”*

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure they get the baggies with their kids’ puzzles in them. If you have time, show them how to do the experiment, and tell them to ask kids about letting go of meanness.

