



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

What Is Love?

We Love Because God Loved Us
1 John 4:9-13

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

HOST

- DIGITAL GAME

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- SUMMER IS HERE!!!!
- MAKE WAVES Ñ What you do today can change the world around you
 - All month long, we will be talking about what it would look like if we could CHANGE the world around us
 - To MAKE WAVES means that we are being intentional about what we do each day because it can have bigger effects than we could ever imagine
- BACKPACK DRIVE ANNOUNCEMENT VID
- Baptisms
Something important to us at MISSION is recognizing when people are growing in their faith and being transformed by the love of Jesus. One of the ways that we express that at MISSION is through Baptism. It is an outward expression of an inward change/commitment to following Jesus.
- Every month, we host a class that focuses on taking the next step in your faith. Baptism is a step people take when they want to tell others they are serious about following Jesus. If you want to attend this class June 19th and learn more, let your SGL know.
- MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:
 Week 1 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Let Go
 Week 2 - This is Living & Graves Into Gardens
 Week 3 - The Best Is Yet to Come & Who You Say I Am
 Week 4 - Real Love & Waymaker

STORRY SUPPLIES TBD by COMMUNICATOR

- Lemon Juice
- Cup
- Cotton swab
- Candle, lighter, light bulb, or heat gun—some kind of heat source
- Clothesline (See "What You Do")
- Clothespins (or some other way of hanging things on the line)
- Pair of pants
- Gallon-size zip-top bags
- Bible
- Three identical smiley face emojis printed out on papers, one with girl's hair
- Wallet with accordion-style photo holder
- Two "tablets," could be printed on paper
- Long wig
- Scissors
- Slingshot
- Shackles
- Five papers with hidden "JESUS" letters in lemon juice on them (See "What You Do")



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

What Is Love?
We Love Because God Loved Us
1 John 4:9-13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you love others like God does?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love others because God loves you.

MONTHLY 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

MAKE WAVES

What you do today can change the world around you.

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO: NEVER GONNA STOP SINGING

AUDIO: LET GO

Before kids arrive, set up a clothes line on stage but out off to the side. This is used for both the game and the Communicator Script.

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that is happening culturally or currently, the latest video game or movie launches, and so on. Host tells them how excited they are that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Welcome everyone! It's FINALLY June, time to start thinking about summer! The time has come to let loose and have a little fun with our friends!"

"Speaking of friends, there's one friend that I'd like to introduce to you. He's a bit shy, but, honestly, he's the closest friend I have. He always listens, is willing to dive right in and do the craziest stuff, and never complains about anything. (Pause dramatically.) Everyone . . . I'd like you to meet . . .



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10 MINUTES

Hold up Pool Buddy. It's a pool towel folded and rolled up, held together by a pair of swim goggles.

"Pool Buddy. Now, I know what you're thinking: how did I get to meet such a good-looking friend as him? Well, I found him in my swim bag, just hanging out, and we found we had so much in common that we've been best friends ever since.

"Hey! I just realized. YOU can have your own Pool Buddy, too! He's the best! And he's always up for games, relays, the occasional cross-country trip, whatever!

"But, I will say, one of his favorite things to do is swim. Let's give that a try right now with a game I like to call the "Pool Buddy Wet 'N Wild Relay!"

SLIDE: "POOL BUDDY WET 'N WILD RELAY!"

Choose two small groups and give them a towel and a pair of swim goggles.

"Okay, here's how we do the Pool Buddy Wet 'N Wild Relay. Teams, you'll assemble your Pool Buddy (*and I won't mind if you give them a cool name*) and line up between the buckets. You'll notice that one bucket is filled with water and the other one isn't. It's your job—and Pool Buddy's job—to get as much water from one bucket to the other! Dunk your Pool Buddy in the water and pass him down the line, the last person squeezing him out in to the empty bucket. Chuck Pool Buddy back to the beginning of the line and dunk him all over again! Repeat this for 60 seconds, and at the end we'll see whose Pool Buddy filled up the bucket with the most water!

"Oh gosh, I almost forgot. Pool Buddy needs to see where he's going, so the only way to pass Pool Buddy down the line when he's full of water is over your head.

"Assemble your Pool Buddies . . . and let's go!"

OPTION: You can forego having kids pass Pool Buddy over their heads if getting them wet is an issue.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN

Play the game. At the end of 60 seconds, measure the water level and declare a winner. Time permitting, play the game several times.

"Excellent job! High five your Pool Buddy around your team, he loves it!"

Collect the Pool Buddies, open them up, and hang the towels on the clothesline. Then wrap the goggles around the towel to make it look like the hung-up towel has eyes.

"There. Pool Buddy needs a little time-out. Sheesh, it looks like he wasn't very careful with getting water everywhere. Pool Buddy spread water all over the place! Later we're going to check out how to spread something else all over the place—God's love—



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

As Communicator comes out, bring out the dry erase board and set it up towards center stage.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hi, everyone! Wow, I love getting the chance to worship with you all. Especially that last song we sang—I just love the words. Anyone else love that song? Or have another song they LOVE?”

“I’ve got an idea: let’s make a few lists of things you love! We’ll do it by category. Let’s start with . . . Foods. What foods do you all love?”

Take answers from the group. Write the list down on the large board or typed up on a projected screen. Then share an odd food craving that you loved when you were younger, something similar to the following paragraph.

“When I was your age, I loved putting Doritos on my turkey sandwiches. My mom always put both in my lunch, but I would open up the sandwich, spread out the Doritos like pepperoni, then eat the whole thing that way. And only Cool Ranch Doritos. All other flavors are inferior.

“What about movies? What movies do you love? (*Write down responses*). What YouTubers do you love? MrBeast? Mark Rober? That one guy who uses a hydraulic press to crush everything? (*Write down responses.*) Last one, what about mobile or video games? Which ones do you absolutely love?”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Okay, so it’s obvious we love all kinds of things. Pizza, Marvel movies, Minecraft, getting our nails done, just to name a few.

“How about people? I’m not just talking about people in your family; you kind of have to love those people by default, even though your brother or sister might frustrate you from time to time. No, I’m talking about PEOPLE, OTHERS, in the general sense. Like, we SAY that we love others; in fact, that’s what Jesus tells us we should do. But what does it mean to LOVE others? After all, some people are hard to love. And even the people we WANT to love, we might not know how to even do that.

“Since this is something Jesus talked about, it’s definitely an important question to figure out. Thankfully, we can look in the Bible and discover more about what it means to love others the way God loves us. Let’s head there now.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “I thought the best way to unpack this is by combining our Bible story with a thing you all love the absolute most: CHORES.

“I know, I know, chores are (*sing-song*) a-MA-zing; just simmer down. Ok, seriously though. We can learn something from the work we need to get done from time to time. Some of your chores might include emptying the dishwasher, vacuuming the living room, or taking out the garbage. Sometimes we even hang up clothes outside on a line. Like so.



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Walk to the clothesline hanging on the stage. Take a pair of pants and hang them on the line.

"We can use this clothes line to explore the idea of love. (Choose a volunteer.) Can you hang this up for me?"

Hand the volunteer a zip-top gallon bag with a Bible inside.

"Now, God has been showing us crazy love from the very beginning. (Point to the Bible on the clothesline.) From the first pages of Genesis all the way through to the end of Revelation, people wrote about God's love for creation throughout every book in the Bible.

Hang a smiley face emoji on the clothesline. This has two other faces stacked behind it, but don't reveal them yet.

"God, represented by this smiley face because reasons, created the heavens and the earth. God lovingly crafted the petals on a tulip, burst open the sky with stars, and then, in an outpouring of creativity and love, created us, people. And people are created in God's own image!

Take the smiley face off the clothesline to reveal two more smiley faces, one with girl's hair, and re-hang all three.

"In Genesis we read how God lovingly created Adam and Eve and placed them in paradise. God saw creation, and it was very good. Unfortunately, many of us know how that turned out. One bitten fruit later, Adam and Eve chose to break the one promise that would keep them safe. With that, sin entered the world.

"Has anyone ever had someone break a promise? Or have you had a friend do something that breaks your trust? Like someone promising that they'd never tell a secret, only for them to turn around five seconds later and invent a dance about it on TikTok? What would be your reaction to that?"

Take a few responses.

"Yeah, forgiveness is hard sometimes, right? You'd be totally mad, maybe even write them off as a so-called friend. But God didn't do that. Adam and Eve's choices shattered their friendship with God. But God wasn't finished with Adam and Eve. God had a plan to make a way for not just Adam and Eve, but all people to have a forever relationship with Him. Could someone hang this on the line for me?"

Choose a volunteer to hang a wallet with an accordion-style picture holder hanging down from it on the clothesline.

"Thanks! God promised Abraham (Point to the wallet.) that his family would be blessed. That included him, and all of his people, his kids, his kids' kids, and their kids' kids' kids. That's a lot of blessings and certainly a lot of kids. We can read about Abraham's family in Genesis: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and his brothers and sons who eventually became the 12 tribes of Israel—and through those tribes of Israel we got Moses from the tribe of Levi . . .

Hang two "tablets" on the clothesline.

"Samson from the tribe of Dan . . .



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Hang a long-haired wig from the clothesline, then take a pair of scissors and cut off some of the hair.

"And King David from the tribe of Judah.

Hang a slingshot from the clothesline.

"God kept sending amazing prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah and Micah to try to get the Israelite people back on track, back into a hand-in-hand relationship with Him. God showed His love for His people; I mean, sometimes it was tough love; God allowed the Israelites to be captured and put into captivity for a time.

Hang a pair of shackles on the clothesline.

"But even still, through all of biblical history, through leaders and through prophets, God was dropping hints at the ultimate plan. God was giving clues about a Rescuer who would come to earth and save people once and for all. Listen to what some of them said.

"The prophet Isaiah dropped the biggest clue of them all. He said:

Open the Bible to Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NirV) and read.

"The people who are now living in darkness will see a great light . . . A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us . . . There will be no limit to how great his authority is . . . His rule will be based on what is fair and right. It will last forever. The Lord's great love will make sure that happens.

"The prophet Micah wrote:"

Open the Bible to Micah 5:2 (NirV) and read.

"The Lord says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel. His family line goes back to the early years of your nation. It goes all the way back to days of long ago."

"The prophet Zechariah said:

Open the Bible to Zechariah 2:10 (NirV) and read.

"People of Zion, shout and be glad! I am coming to live among you," announces the Lord.

"Can you see what everyone is saying? All of these prophecies, all of these people, they're all pointing to one thing. Someone is coming to save everyone. The only problem is that we don't know when, or how, or even who.

Hand five volunteers each one of five sheets of paper, numbered 1-5 in the top left-hand corner on the back. These are seemingly blank on the front.

"Here, can you guys hang these up? They go one through five, left to right as the audience sees them.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

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After the volunteers hang the papers, double-check that they are ordered 1-5 from left to right, as the audience sees them. The numbers are on the backside of the papers, so they will be 5-1 looking at them from the back.

“Following these prophets, though, not a word from God, through a prophet, a leader, king or maidservant, was recorded for hundreds of years afterward. But that didn’t mean that God wasn’t working things out. You have to remember: God’s timing is perfect. It’s hardly ever on our timeline, because we want things, like, immediately, but God’s timing is always at just the right time.

“And at exactly the right moment in time, God’s love was brought to earth in a huge way.

“Some call Him the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The Bread of Life, the Deliverer, and the Good Shepherd. He is the Holy Righteous One, the Lamb of God, and in this case . . .

Light a candle, click on a lighter, or turn on another heat source. It can even be a light bulb. Begin to heat up the blank pieces of paper, one at a time, as you say the following paragraph.

“The LIGHT OF THE WORLD. He’s the Master, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, the Resurrection and the Life. The Son of Man, the Son of God—His name is . . .

Finish revealing the hidden letters.

“Jesus. At the perfect moment in history, God sent Jesus. Jesus was the perfect messenger at the perfect time, and He showed everyone what it truly meant to love God and be loved BY God. Not only that, but a huge part of Jesus’ message was about how to show God’s love to others. Check this out:

Open the Bible to 1 John 4:9-13 (NIRV) and read.

“Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. 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. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. Here’s how we know that we are joined to him and he to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “God sent Jesus because He loved us. At its most basic level, God’s love is a gift. When you think more about it, it’s also a template, or an example, of what love actually, truly is. God loved us, so God gave.

“Since God loves you that much, you can ‘make waves’ by showing love to others. You can totally apply that to your lives. You can show others you love them by giving. Time, talent, first controller on the Switch, a better seat at the movies, whatever. Love is all about giving. Plain and simple. At its core, it’s treating others how you want to be treated, but it’s more than that. You show love by giving without thought or expectation of return.

“God loved you enough to send Jesus to the world. Jesus showed how great His love was by giving His life for your sins. When you believe in Jesus, not only do you have a relationship with God that lasts forever, but God gives you the Holy Spirit to help you through life.



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“Remember, No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. It’s right there in 1 John 4:12. Other people can see God though US when we show them love. And that love will spread.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

“How can you love others like God does?” How can you give like God gives? How can you care like God cares? If you’re not sure how to answer that, don’t worry. You’ll talk more about that when you get to Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus. Let’s ask God to help us figure out how we can love others! Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS EXIT.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP