



WEEK
ONE
AUGUST 2022

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Storybook" Activity Pages, markers, gallon-sized plastic zipper bags, permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a half "Storybook" page and set the markers where everyone can reach.
- Invite the kids to think of ideas of them showing love to someone that they can illustrate.
- Share examples to get their ideas flowing: baking cookies for someone, sharing toys with a sibling, inviting someone to sit at lunch with them, etc.
- Explain that these illustrations will be the start of the storybook they will be illustrating all month long!
- Invite the kids to illustrate the pictures with the markers.
- Provide the kids with additional pages and allow them to draw more pictures of themselves showing love if they'd like and time allows.
- After kids are finished, place their storybook pages in a bag.
- Write each kid's name on their bag.
- Keep the bags so you can continue to add pages and keep them together throughout the month.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

L-O-V-E

Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God by loving others.

MONTHLY 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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I see some very skilled storybook illustrators in our group. Very cool! I can't wait to see what your storybooks will look like as we keep adding to them all month long. I also appreciated the awesome examples you drew of how we can love others. *(Allow time for a few kids to share their drawings.)* These give me some good ideas for how I can show the people around me that I love them! **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we'll learn about one key way we can always show love to others."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment



WAYS TO LOVE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Ways to Love" Activity Pages, markers, floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the "Ways to Love" pages for kids to color.
- As they're coloring, tape three or four large hearts on the floor in the center of your Small Group area.
- Ask, "What do you see in the picture you're coloring? Is the person in the picture showing love? How?"
- Once most kids have finished coloring, invite the kids to stand outside one of the hearts.
- Encourage them to spread out so you have only a few kids per heart.
- Select a picture.
- Direct all of the kids holding that picture to step into the heart, hold the picture in front of them, and repeat the Bottom Line together. **Love God by loving others.**
- Repeat with the remaining pictures.
- Leave the tape hearts on the floor for the "Hop to It Verse" Activity and "Pray and Dismiss."

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MONTHLY VIRTUE

Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

BASIC TRUTH

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These are just a few examples of ways we can show love! But there are SO many more. Every day, we have lots of opportunities to **love God by loving others**. We can be kind to someone even when don't feel like being kind. We can let someone go before us when we want to be first. We can encourage someone having a bad day, or just give a hug or a high-five. Remember, you LOVE God by showing others how much they matter to you. So let's make sure to **love God by loving others** this week!"





CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



HOP TO IT VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, tape hearts on the floor

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pass out the Bibles, one for every two or three kids.
- Using the navigation tips below, help the kids look out

up 1 John 4:10.

***Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide kids to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to "1 John" at the top of the page as you say, "First John." Then guide kids 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, the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.*

***Finding verses with 1st 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." You can help by telling them that 1 John starts with the number one then the letters J-O. 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.*

- Read the verse aloud together two or three times.
- Have the kids gather around the hearts, three or four kids per heart.
- Encourage the kids jump to a new heart for each verse phrase below, moving clockwise so that the kids don't run into each other!
- Verse phrases (NIRV):
 - "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
- Repeat two or three times until the kids can say the verse.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"How do we know what love is? Because God sent us Jesus! And Jesus told us that the number one thing we can do is what? (Pause.) Love! That's right. That's the most important thing we can do. God loved us and sent us Jesus. And we can share that love with others. So this week, when you have an opportunity, let's choose to **love God by loving others.**"

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TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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1 John 4:10, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group in a circle for prayer.
- Instruct the kids to put a hand in the circle and name one way they will **love God by loving others** this week.
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

L-O-V-E

Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Thank You, God, that You loved us first and that Your love can lead us to love others. Please show us how to let Your love shine through us this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Love God by loving others.

As adults arrive to pick up, make sure the kids have their craft and prompt them to open it to show the adults how the Greatest Commandments "pop" out.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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