

ALLEY LG – Nov 28th/29th

Bible Story: God Loves Us, Everyone (God showed His love) • 1 John 4:9-12

Bottom Line: God loved you first. How will you love others?

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16, NIV

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Host enters wearing a Santa Jacket and green gloves

Opener

HOST: “Hello, and early merry Christmas, everyone! I’m [Host’s name] and I love everything about Christmas. I love the decorations, the presents, the food, and, of course, I love the Christmas movies. And you might not have noticed, but I am dressed as one of the characters from my all-time favorite Christmas movie. Who can guess who I am and who can name the movie I’m from?”

Host takes a few suggestions from the kids.

Let’s take a look at this movie clip to see if any of you are right...

Video: How the Grinch stole Christmas clip

“So the correct answer is that I’m the Grinch from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*! I love that the Grinch learns a lesson in the end, but it always bothers me when I see him taking all the presents and decorations. So, I’ve got a game where we will put the presents back. It’s called ‘Give It Back!’

CG: “Give It Back!” Slide

“As you can see, there are two Christmas trees up here with me—one for each team. And at the back of the room are 10 presents for each team. When I say, “Go,” each team will race to pass the presents from the back of the room through the rows and up to the front of the room and put them under the tree. The first team to get all of their presents under their tree will win. Remember, you have to pass the present by handing it to the next person. And everyone needs to touch the presents. No throwing them. On your marks ... get set ... go!

SFX: Play fast music during the game.

Note: You can have the kids stand up and get in lines or have them stay in their seats and pass them down the rows...whatever works for you.

“Wow! I have never seen Christmas trees get presents that fast before. Everyone did an amazing job! One of the reasons I love presents at Christmas is that giving presents is one of the ways we show

others that we love them. And Christmas is a wonderful time to show love and compassion to everyone around us.

CG: Compassion Slide

“Compassion is caring enough to do something about someone else's need. I know that at Christmas we spend a lot of time thinking about what we want, but it is also important to think about other people's needs. And when we take the time to help meet the needs of other people, we're showing compassion.

“So this month we all have a dare in front of us. Not a normal dare, not a double dare, not even a triple dare ...

Video: The Christmas story clip

CG: Triple Dog Dare Theme Slide

“Yes, I'm talking about a triple dog dare! That's right: the daringest of dares. We have all been triple dog dared to show compassion. And we'll talk about where that dare comes from and who is daring us a little bit later.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “I have been looking forward to this all year because I get to tell the Christmas story! But before we get to that, let's take a look at our memory verse.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (NIV) I love this verse because it tells us so many amazing things about God. It tells us that He loves us and that He showed His love through giving. And that's what the Christmas story is all about.”

Storyteller pulls out a dry erase board on an easel and opens a Bible.

STORYTELLER: “You may be thinking....UGH! I have heard the Christmas story SOOOOOOOO many times ever since I was a kid and I can tell you the whole thing right now from memory.”

Storyteller speaks very quickly. (Note: The following text is written as one sentence and should be spoken as one long continuous thought.)

STORYTELLER: (*Speaking quickly*) “It all started a long, long time ago with a young woman named Mary who was engaged to a young man named Joseph, but then an angel visited Mary and said, ‘You're going to have a baby and the baby will be God's Son,’ and Mary was confused, and so was Joseph, but the angel told Joseph it would be okay, and then there was a census, and they had to travel to Bethlehem, but there was no place for them to stay, so they had to stay where the animals slept, and then Mary had the baby, which was Jesus, and they wrapped Him in some swaddling

clothes, whatever those are, and then some shepherds came, and it was good news, and everyone was happy. The end.”

ST is out of breath.

STORYTELLER: “BUT... that’s actually not the Christmas story I had in mind. I wanted to tell the version of the Christmas story that is found in 1 John 4:9-12. I need a volunteer to come up and help me read it”

Storyteller picks a child and hands the Bible to him/her.

STORYTELLER: “Here. Go ahead and read it out loud.”

VOLUNTEER: *(Read 1 John 4:9-12 from the Bible.)* ““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.” *(NIV)*

STORYTELLER: “Thanks. Good job!” So all of those things you mentioned earlier—Mary, Joseph, Jesus’ birth and the shepherds—all of that happened. That was the Christmas story. But this passage reminds us what the Christmas story is all about.”

Storyteller draws on the dry erase board, dividing it into four separate panels. A heart is drawn in the first panel

GOD LOVED US

STORYTELLER: “This passage starts off by telling us something awesome: God loves us! He loves us so much that He gave us something better and more amazing than anything else!”

Storyteller draws an arrow from the heart to the second panel and draws a cross in the second panel.

GOD SENT US JESUS

STORYTELLER: “And what God gave us was His Son, Jesus. Jesus came into this world. He taught us who God is, how much God loves us, and how to live the best life possible. Then He died on a cross to pay the price for our sins.”

Storyteller draws an arrow from the cross to the third panel and draws a stick figure person in the third panel.

“And because Jesus paid for our sins, He took away everything that stood between us and God. Now we can be close with God forever! That’s what love really is.”

Storyteller draws an arrow from the person in the third panel to the fourth panel and draws multiple stick figure people in the fourth panel.

WE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER

STORYTELLER: “And because God showed such amazing love to us, we need to show love to other people as well. Like the passage says, none of us have seen God, but people will see God living in us if we show love. His love is made complete in us.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The Christmas story is all about how God saw that we were in need and He gave to us. We had a problem with sin and we needed God to rescue us because we couldn’t rescue ourselves. And because God loved us, He gave Jesus to pay for our sin so we could be close to God forever!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“And that brings us to the one thing we should remember today: **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?**” Can you say that with me?

STORYTELLER: “God showed us compassion, and we can show compassion to others. It’s as simple as keeping your eyes open so you can see what other people around you need. And then you can take that next step and try to help them with their needs.

“That’s awesome that God loves us and had compassion on us. In fact, I’d like us to look at our memory verse one more time.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life,’ John 3:16 (NirV).

Salvation Message:

“Because of God’s love, we can believe that God sent His Son, Jesus, to give His life and pay the price for our sins. God loves us and gave us Jesus, and when we believe, we will receive His forgiveness for our sins and we will get to spend forever with Him in heaven. Let’s pray.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for having compassion on us. Thank You for seeing that we had a problem with sin and thank You for giving us Jesus so we could be forgiven and be close with You forever. If anyone here has never accepted what Jesus did on the cross for their sins, help them to have the courage to do so. Thank You for everything You have done. And please help us to show Your love to others. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

CG: Parkview Kids Challenge

ST “Before you go, we are Triple Dog Daring you to help kids your age in our area! All month long we’ll be collecting school supplies for the teachers at Taft School in Lockport. This school does not have a lot of money so they are not able to buy supplies for the teachers and they need them very badly to help the kids learn. We are collecting these three things:

- Markers for their dry erase boards
- Post it notes
- Paper clips

You can bring these things when you come to church one of the next 3 weeks and can put them_____. And our challenge will be_____ and they will win_____.

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.