

ALLEY SG – 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: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” John 3:16, NIV

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

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for loving us the way He does. Pray that your few would be inspired today to love others because God loved us first. Ask God to give them ideas about how they can answer the Compassion Challenge and love those around them.

Picture Boxes (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: “Picture Boxes” Activity Pages (one per child), scissors, clear tape, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Picture Box” Activity Page.
- Tell them to cut it out by cutting along the outside lines.
- Show them how to fold the boxes on the lines, tuck the flaps in, and tape them.
- Point to each picture in order (heart, manger/cross, stick figure, multiple stick figures) and ask kids what they are and what they might represent.
 - Heart: God LOVED. God loves everyone. But it doesn’t stop there. God didn’t just make us and love us and leave us alone. There was a problem—and that problem was our sin. It separated us from God.
 - Manger/cross: God loved us so much and He wanted us to live with Him forever. But our sin was getting in the way of that, so God sent us Jesus to be our Savior. His death on the cross means that if we put our faith in Jesus, we can live with God forever. And not only that, but that new life we experience in Jesus can lead to something else really important.
 - Stick figure: Since God loved us, we should love others. Just like it says in 1 John 4:11: “Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another.” That’s who this person is—the “one another.” It’s anyone God puts in your life.
 - Multiple stick figures: When we start loving all the “one anothers” in our life, something really great happens. All of that love—that love that started with God—points people TO God.
- Then ask kids to pair up and use the boxes to share with each other about Jesus.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “God loved you first. How will you love others? You can love others in many, many ways. One way you can love others is by telling them about Jesus. You can use these boxes to tell people the story about Jesus. Take a moment to think about who you can tell about Jesus this week. (Pause.) Great! Now look for a time that you can talk to that person this week.”

Compassion Challenge *(application activity)*

What You Need: “Compassion Challenge” Activity Pages (One per child), markers or pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Compassion Challenge” Activity Page.
- Point out the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?**
- Tell kids to each think of two people they can show love to this week and write down what they will do to show love to each person.
- **[Make It Personal] (Do this activity along with the kids. Share your ideas with them. (Make sure they are age-appropriate.)**
- Ask if a few kids would like to share their ideas with the group.

What You Say:

“Those are all great ideas of ways to show love to others this week. Your challenge is to show love to two people, but I have a feeling you’ll be able to show love to more than two people. Another great way you can love others is by participating in the Parkview Kids Challenge that we heard about in Large Group today. If you help bring in school supplies for this project, you’ll be helping kids your age get the supplies they need help them learn at school. I’ll be praying that God will give you plenty of opportunities to show others how much you love them!”

Fast Pass *(memory verse activity)*

What You Need: Bibles, Christmas gift box or wrapped gift box (One per bin)

What You Do:

- Form a circle and make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Explain that this month’s memory verse is John 3:16. For many kids, this will be a familiar verse. Remind them that it’s in the New Testament, which is toward the back of their Bibles. Challenge kids to open their Bibles and see who comes the closest to John 3:16 without turning any pages.
- Locate and say the memory verse together as a group. Use the following Navigation Tip if kids need help finding the verse.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from John. Ask kids to tell you whether that’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. *(New)* So we know it’s toward the back of the Bible. It’s the fourth of the four gospels *(Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)*. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 16 in chapter 3.

- Play a game to help kids memorize John 3:16. Hand the gift box to a kid and explain that he will say the first three words of the verse and then pass the box to the left. That kid will say the next three words. Keep passing the box until the group has said the whole verse as well as the reference.
- Next, repeat the game, saying two words this time and then pass the box.
- Play again and have kids pass the box after saying just one word each.
- Discuss the verse by letting kids answer the following question: When you think about what God did for you—how He loved you even when you didn’t love Him and how He gave His Son to save you—how does that help you love others?

What You Say:

“Eternal life is a gift from God to every single person. It didn’t come in a box; it came in a manger. Jesus, God’s Son, came to earth in order to rescue us from our sin. He died to take the punishment we deserved. But He didn’t stay dead. He conquered sin and death and came back to life. That’s what the Bible calls the gospel—the good news. God wants us to receive His gift of salvation and share that gift with others. **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?**”

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to turn today’s Bottom Line into a prayer.
- Explain that you will say the first part of today’s Bottom Line out loud (**God loved you first.**) and then give them a few minutes to share their praise to God (silently or aloud) for the way He has shown us His amazing love.
- After a few minutes you’ll say the second part of today’s Bottom Line (**How will you love others?**) and they can spend a few minutes asking God to help them answer the question of how they can show love to others this week.
- Encourage kids to ask God for ideas and a willingness to shine for Him this week.

5-6 Challenge

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids paper and a pen.
- Remind your group that often Santa Claus gets more attention at Christmas than Jesus does. A lot of little kids write Santa letters, visit him at the mall, and wait for him to squeeze down the chimney to leave them their favorite gifts.
- Instead of writing a letter to Santa or focusing on the lesser side of Christmas, have kids write a letter to God, thanking Him for the amazing gift of Jesus.
- Ask if anyone is willing to share his or her letter with the group.

What You Say:

“Dear God, we’re so grateful that You have shown Your compassion to us. You saw our sin problem and gave us Jesus so we could be forgiven. This Christmas, please help those who don’t know You to understand and gladly receive Your gift of forgiveness. Help us to show Your love to others in ways that will draw them to You. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

PARENT CONNECTION FOR PICK UP

Tell parents that kids are learning about compassion this month and today’s challenge is to show love to others because God loves us so much.