

# CITY SG – Nov 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>

**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.

## **Circle of Love** (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**What You Need:** “Circle of Love” and “The Story” Activity Pages (One per child of each), scissors, glue sticks

### **What You Do:**

- Give each kid a “Circle of Love” Activity Page and scissors.
- Kids cut along the dotted lines so they have 4 squares and each square contains a picture.
- Give each kid a “The Story” Activity Page.
- Kids will glue the picture to the corresponding story heading. Make sure you work together as a group to match the picture to the story heading. A sample discussion is listed below:

<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>#1 God Loved Us</b></u></p> <p>Our Christmas story begins with the fact that God loves us. God loves everyone! What would be a good picture to glue in the box to show love? (<i>Encourage kids to think of the boxes during Large Group.</i>)</p> <p>That’s right! It’s a heart. But we have a problem. Sometimes we don’t obey God and when we don’t obey God, that’s called sin. Can anyone give me an example of sin? (<i>When we lie, when we treat others unkindly, etc.</i>) Sin separates us from God, but God doesn’t want us to be separated from Him and that leads us to the next part of our story. What did God do to rescue us from sin? (<i>Point to the heading in the next box: “God Sent Jesus.”</i>)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>#2 God Sent Jesus</b></u></p> <p>That is right! God sent us Jesus! God loves us so much He sent us Jesus and Jesus took care of our sin by dying on the cross. When we believe in Jesus, we experience God’s love and we become friends with God now and forever. What picture do you think we should glue in this box? (<i>Cross</i>)</p> <p>We know God loves us. Should we share God’s love with others? Absolutely! Just like we learned in our story today, God loved us, so ... (<i>point to the heading in the next box: “We should love one another.”</i>)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>#4 God’s Love Spreads to Everyone</b></u></p> <p>What picture should we glue in this box? (<i>Crowd of people</i>) When we love one another, we show people how much God loves them and God’s love spreads.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>#3 We Should Love One Another</b></u></p> <p>“One another” is any person God has put in your life. Can you give me an example of someone God has put in your life? So what picture should we glue in this box? (<i>Stick person</i>) As we show God’s love to one another, what happens? (<i>Point to the heading in the next box: “God’s love spreads to everyone.”</i>)</p>

### What You Say:

"You did a great job remembering our story today. God loves us so much and God wants us to love one another. What are some ways you can show others you love them? (*Treat others the way you want to be treated, be kind, hug someone, share your toys, make them a picture, etc.*) What great ideas! It is important to remember: **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?**" **[Make It Personal]** (*Share an example of when someone showed you love, or share a way you plan to show someone God's love this week.*)

### Heart Relay (Application Activity)

**What you need:** Cardstock Hearts, 2 sets per bin (find a heart template copied onto cardstock and cut out. 5 different ones that say: walk backwards, skip, hop on one foot, run, crawl), a bag to put each set of hearts in, masking tape

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Place a taped line a little ways down from the start of the line.
- Have one child from each team choose at heart out of the bag and go down to the taped line and back in the way the heart tells them to (*walk backwards, skip, crawl, etc.*)
- AFTER the child comes back, they must say one way they can show love to someone else. THEN the next child may pick a heart.
- Continue until all children have a turn

### What You Say:

**[Bottom Line]** "God loved you first. How will you love others? You had some really great ideas of how to show love to others! This week for our Compassion Challenge you could show God's love using one of the ideas mentioned during our game. (*Be sure to use the responses the kids gave during the relay game as examples of how to love others. For example, you could love your mom or dad by putting away your toys without being asked, or you could love your sister or brother by being nice to them even when they are a little bit annoying.*) 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 bring in school supplies for the school, you'll be helping kids your age get the supplies they need for learning. Next week I would love to hear how you loved others during the week."

### Verse in a Heart (memory verse activity)

**What You Need:** "Heart" Activity Page (NIV version- one per child), stickers (enough for each kid to get 10 – heart/love/cross stickers would be good), markers or crayons, piece of cardstock with the verse printed on it (NIV version- 2 per 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade groups)

### What You Do:

#### Third Grade

- Hand out Bibles. Using the tips below, guide kids to look up the memory verse, John 3:16.

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 John

in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that John starts with the letters J-O. When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 3.

- Read John 3:16 out loud, pointing to the words in the Bible as you read them.
- Give kids a “Heart” Activity Page.
- Tell kids to decorate the heart using stickers, markers, etc.

### First-Second Grade

- Hold up the sheet with the memory verse printed on it
- Read it TO the children a few times, pointing to the words on the paper as you read them.
- Try to say it together, breaking it down into sections and having the kids repeat after you:
  - For God so loved the world
  - That he gave his one and only son
  - That whoever believes in him
  - Should not perish
  - But have everlasting life
- Give kids a “Heart” Activity Page.
- Tell kids to decorate the heart using stickers, markers or crayons

### What You Say:

“You did a great job decorating your hearts. Let’s say our memory verse together. God loves everyone and God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to earth. If we believe in Jesus we will be with God now and forever. Take your pictures home and practice the memory verse with your family and remember: **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?**”

### Pray

**What You Need:** a pipe cleaner (one per small group who uses the bin)

### What You Do:

- As you make a heart out of a pipe cleaner, remind kids God loves them.
- Pass the heart to a kid in your group and say, “God loves [kid’s name].”
- The kid who received the heart then passes it to someone else in the group and says, “God loves [kid’s name].”
- The heart continues to travel around the circle until everyone has received it. When it returns to you, close in prayer.

### What You Say:

“Just like we passed the heart around our group, God wants us to pass His love to others. **[Bottom Line] God loved you first. How will you love others?** Let’s pray. God, You are awesome. Thank You for loving us! God, please help us show others how much You love them too!”

### PARENT CONNECTION AT PICK UP

Tell parents this month kids are learning about compassion and their Compassion Challenge this week is to love others. Remind kids you will want to hear how they loved others this week.