

# ALLEY SG – February 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** The Most Important Commandment • *Matthew 22:34-40*

**Bottom Line:** Love God. Love others.

**Conversation Starter:** How have others shown love to you?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** “*I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.*” • *John 13:34 NIV*

## 1. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story review*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Start by asking: “What is your favorite thing to do? What is a talent or hobby you have?”
- After a few kids share, transition the conversation by asking: “How can you use that thing you love to do to love God or love others?”
- Give them some examples to get them thinking:
  - “If you love to draw, how could you use that to love God or others?” (*You can draw a picture for someone who is sad; you can create art for the church*)
  - “If you love playing video games, how could you use that to love others?” (*You can be a good sport online; you can invite a new kid to play with you*)
  - “If you love to bake, how could you use that to love God or others?” (*You can make cookies for a neighbor; you can thank God for the food He provides.*)
- Let the kids brainstorm and share their own creative ideas.
- **Say:** “These are incredible ideas! It shows that ‘loving God’ and ‘loving others’ isn’t just something we do at church. We can do it everywhere, using the exact talents and interests God gave us.”

## 2. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Clipboard (one per bin), Paper, Markers, Blindfold (a few per bin)

### What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to be the “artist.” Give them a clipboard with paper and a marker. Blindfold them or tell them to close their eyes.
- Tell the rest of the group that you are going to give a secret phrase to get the artist to draw. Encourage the group that they are to guess what the artist is drawing once the artist has finished their drawing.
- Whisper the first phrase to the artist. (*Someone is eating lunch alone, so you go eat with them.*)
- After they finish (or give it a good try), let the artist see what they drew.
- Show the rest of the group the illustration and invite them to guess what it is.
- After some guesses, share the topic of the illustration.

- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (*Someone fell and you helped them up.*)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (*Sharing a snack with someone.*)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (*Singing songs to worship God.*)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (*Showing someone how to play a game.*)
- **Say:** “Loving God and loving others can sometimes feel like that—it’s not always easy. Jesus tells us this is our main goal, and He said that if we focus on loving God and loving others, then we’ll be living how He wants us to live. We can also show love to others by being kind to someone who has been rude to us or by giving words of encouragement. We can all love God and love others every single day.”

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does it look like to love God with all of who you are—not just your words, but your thoughts, choices, and feelings?
- The second most important commandment says to love your neighbor as yourself. What are some ways it might actually be hard to love yourself—or hard to love others the same way? How can God help you do both?
- Jesus simplified over 600 laws into two commands—love God and love others. Why do you think love was the foundation of everything God wanted His people to do?
- When you think about your normal day—school, friends, family—where do you think it’s easiest for you to show love, and where is it hardest? What could help you love better in the hard places?
- The story says the Holy Spirit can nudge us to notice people who need love. How can you stay aware of those “nudges” during your day, and what’s one practical way you could respond when you sense one?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

#### Memory Verse Activity

**What You Need:** Bibles, Prepared “Memory Verse Puzzle” Activity Page (2 sets per group)

#### What You Do:

- Depending on time you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse to the group.
  - *“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.”* • John 13:34 NIV
- Divide the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a zip-top bag containing pieces from the “Memory Verse Puzzle” Activity Page.

- Challenge the kids to pour out the pieces, and be the first group to put the verse in the correct order.
- Recite the verse together as a group once everyone has finished.

## AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- “God, thank You for making it so simple. Thank You for showing us that what matters most is loving You and loving the people around us. Please help us with the things we wrote in our journals today. Give us the strength and the courage to love like Jesus this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the Alley for a 3 Alley Cash!

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can show someone they love them this week.