

City SG - December 1-2, 2018

Bible Story: The Greatest Love of All (God Loves the World) • *John 3:16*

Bottom Line: God did something about our greatest need.

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 (NirV)*

1. Wants vs. Needs

What You Need: Slips of paper (3 per child), pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid three slips of paper and a pen.
- Instruct them to write down three things in their house—they can be anything from snacks to toys to furniture.
- Collect the slips of paper.
- Designate one side of your space to be the “WANTS” side and the other side to be the “NEEDS” side.
- Read the slips one by one.
- After you read one, kids will stand on the side of your space that they think the item on the slip fits into.
- If there are kids on both sides for the same item, ask a volunteer from each side to explain why they chose the side they did.
- Continue play as time and interest allows.

What You Say:

“We all have stuff, but there’s a difference between things we WANT and things we really NEED. We need food. We don’t need video games. We need shoes. We don’t need 15 pairs of shoes. **[Transition] Today we learned that what we really need is JESUS!**”

2. Clock-centration

What You Need: “Clock-centration” Activity Pages (1 set per bin)

What You Do:

- Sequentially place the “Clock-centration” cards face down (numbers up) in a circle on the floor, creating a large “clock.”
- Invite kids to take turns calling out two numbers.
- Turn over the corresponding cards.
- If the pictures match an animal to something it needs, place the matches to the side.
- If the pictures don’t make a match, turn them face down again.
- Continue until kids match all the cards.

What You Say:

“Animals need many things. They need food, the right kind of home, shelter, and friends. What are some things that PEOPLE need? (*food, water, clothing, shoes, friends, places to live*) Yes, people need all these things. But did you know that there’s something people need more than anything else? JESUS!”

3. Show Compassion

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read a scenario, and guide kids to act out ways they could help the people described.
 - Scenario 1: Your best friend's dog died. She's very upset, because her family has had the dog since before she was born.
 - Scenario 2: Your mom is upset because she burned the hamburgers for dinner and your dad got home two hours later than he had planned.
- Challenge kids to think of someone in their life who might need compassion. It could be a parent, a sibling, a friend, a teacher, a neighbor, an aunt, etc.
- Then pair kids up and encourage them to help each other think of a way they could show compassion to that person.

What You Say:

"Everyone needs compassion sometimes—even all of us here in this small group. We all have needs, and God always meets our needs, but most of the time He uses other people to do that. He can use all of us. So let's open our eyes and see the needs of the people around us who need compassion. **[Bottom Line] God did something about our greatest need** when He sent us Jesus. And we can do something about the needs of the people around us. My challenge to you is to actually do the thing you thought of in this activity. When you come back next week, I'd love to hear all about it!"

4. God So Loved the World

What You Need: Bibles, inflatable globe (one per group)

What You Do:

- Give each child a Bible. Help kids look up John 3:16 using the navigation tips below.

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 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. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Briefly unpack the concept that "the world" means EVERYONE God made: people in your town, your state or province, your country, and around the world—people everywhere!
- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Begin passing the ball. Guide each child to say a word of the verse when he holds the ball. (Provide as much help as needed.)
- When it's a child's turn to say, "world," guide that child to hold the globe over her head as she says the word.
- Lead kids to quote the verse up to "only Son" and then begin again. (They'll learn the rest of the verse later this month.)

- As kids become more comfortable saying the verse, encourage them to pass the globe more quickly.
- For variety, guide kids to pass the globe different ways: standing in a straight line, alternating over their heads and between their legs; using only their elbows; sitting and using only their feet; etc.

What You Say:

“God had compassion on us and did something about our greatest need. He gave His one and only Son to be our Savior. So if you truly believe that Jesus is God’s Son and that God sent Jesus to live on earth, die on the cross for your sins, and come back to life, then you’ll live FOREVER with God.

[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell how you came to believe in Jesus and follow Him. Be sure to use words and phrases the kids can understand.)

(Note: Depending on what you know about your kids, it might be a good idea to simply “plant the seeds” and have a conversation about salvation, without explicitly leading kids to take the step of faith. If a child’s parents are already believers, they will probably want to be present for the moment when their child accepts the gift of salvation. Use your judgment and your knowledge of your kids’ home lives when having this conversation.)

“So always remember: ***[Bottom Line]*** God did something about our greatest need. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior!”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids to think about the person they were thinking about in the “Show Compassion” activity.
- Explain that you will say a prayer.
- After each sentence, you’ll pause and give them time to silently repeat the prayer for their person.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for putting this person in my life. *(Pause.)* Help me to show compassion to them the way You show compassion to me. *(Pause.)* Give me the strength I need to say and do what I need to. *(Pause.)* In Jesus’ name, amen.

[Bottom Line] “God did something about our greatest need. Let’s remember to thank Him for that every day. Let’s also remember to show compassion to the people around us just like God shows us compassion.”

**BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”
HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN
WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY**

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!