

Alley SG—June 5th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: What Is Love? (We Love Because God Loved Us) • 1 John 4:9-13

Today's Key Question: How can you love others like God does?

Today's Bottom Line: Love others because God loves you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a (NIRV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: "Love is Huge" Page (1 per kid), markers, pens, Bibles

What You Do:

- Give everyone a copy of the activity page and supplies to color with.
- Ask a kid to read Galatians 5:22-23a for the group and explain that this will be one of the verses we will be talking about all summer long.
- Invite kids to creatively decorate and doodle on the "LOVE" lettering while you discuss the verse as a group.
- Be sure to mention that:
 - The theme for the summer is "Make Waves," and we'll be learning how the things we do today can change the world around us.
 - We can make waves and impact the world by showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Ask:
 - Does anyone notice that love is the first thing mentioned in the verse? Why do you think that is?
 - What is the most important thing God asks us to do?
 - Why do you think everything else comes as a result of loving God and others?
- As kids finish decorating their verse posters, invite them to pair up.
- Give pairs a couple minutes to work together to use their Bibles or Bible Apps to look up another verse about love.
- Tell them to choose one that they will share with the group.
- Then let pairs take turns reading the verses they found.
- Encourage kids to hang up their decorated page somewhere at home so they can see them all summer long as you continue discussing this verse and learning how to make an impact on the world.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Strip of dot stickers (1 per student), paper plate (1 per group, per service), Heart Sticker (1 per group, per service)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and give each kid a strip of dot stickers.
- Get one plate and place a heart sticker in the center of it.
- Tell them that they are going to take turns sharing small ways they can show love to others.
 - For example: Taking the trash out without being asked, asking a cashier at the grocery store how their day is going, helping a younger sibling get a snack, folding someone else's laundry, etc.
- Every time kids share an example of how they can show love, they should place a single Dot Sticker anywhere on the plate, around the heart.
- Go around the circle as many times as it takes for the kids to use all of their stickers.

- Explain how the Dot Stickers represent all the little things we can do to show love.
- But just like there are all different kinds of Dot Stickers on the plate, the love we choose to show to others can be very different, and personal to us, making the world around us a better and more beautiful place!
- And when we begin to care about how we're changing the world around us for the better, it makes a lasting impact.

3. Discussion Questions

- Is it difficult to love others? If so, why?
- What are some things that show you God loves you?
- What motivates you to love others?
- What are some ways you can love others like God does?
- How can God's love make a lasting impact on the world?

4. Fun Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Ask each kid to place both hands on the floor in front of them.
- Instruct kids to each cross their left hand under the arm of the kid sitting to their left, so that no one ends up with their own hands next to each other.
- Choose one kid to start the game. They will slap the floor once with either hand.
- The person who "owns" the hand just left of the hand that slapped the floor will then slap the floor with that hand.
- Play continues around the circle in a clockwise motion, with hands slapping the floor once each time.
- Explain that on during each person's turn, they may choose to slap the floor twice, rather than once.
- If someone slaps the floor twice, the motion of the circle immediately reverses direction, and the hand slapping continues in a counterclockwise motion.
- Encourage kids to go around the circle quickly.
- If someone makes a mistake and messes up the pattern (or hesitates too long before slapping the floor), that hand is removed from the circle (player puts their hand behind their back).
- Once a person makes two mistakes, they are completely out of the game.
- Play until there is one person remaining.
- *Note: For a visual of how this game works, watch this video <https://bit.ly/3GQvykw> or search for "hand slap circle game" for other examples.*

What You Say:

"That was pretty fun to watch! It was like a constant wave going around and around. And all it took was that first hand slap in order to cause a continuous ripple effect of motion around the circle. This reminds me about how God's love for us since the very beginning of time is STILL making an ongoing impact on the world."

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: index cards (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Give everyone an index card and something to write with.
- Ask kids to think of five people in their lives, and list their names on the index card, leaving space beside each name.

- Tell kids to think of one way they can show love to each of the people on their lists and write it down next to that person's name.
- Invite kids to spread out and ask them to spend a few minutes individually praying for the people on their lists.
- Encourage them to take a moment to ask God for help with remembering to show love this week.
- Close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for the love You have had for each of us since the very beginning of time. The stories of Your people are evidence of all the many ways You have loved this world unconditionally. Thank You, also, for all the people You have put in our lives. We pray for each of the names listed on these cards, and we ask that You will help us to show love to them in the week ahead. Please help us remember that we can change the world for the better by how we choose to love. We love You, God. In Jesus, name, amen.”