

City SG—June 5th, 2022

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

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. The Domino Effect

What You Need: Bible, Dominoes (30 Dominoes per Group)

What You Do:

- Form teams of three kids.
- Give each team 10 Dominoes.
- Demonstrate how to arrange a row of dominoes about an inch apart in a line.
- Explain that you will read aloud the verses from today's story, 1 John 4:9-13.
- Whenever you come to the word "LOVE" you'll pause and give them time to add one domino to their line, being very careful not to knock them over.
- After you finish reading, let kids tap a domino at the end of their row and watch what happens.
- Invite kids to share their observations of how ONE domino changed everything.
- Remind them that God's love should spread out to others like a wave of dominoes.
- Ask kids to share examples of ways God has loved us and how we can love others.
 - For each example, tell them to reset one of the dominoes in their pile.
 - Or have teams each add a domino to make one very long and winding row.
- Challenge kids to knock over their rows of dominoes and finish saying today's Bottom Line before the last domino falls.

What You Say:

"When you choose to **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you**, it can really make a difference. Being kind, generous, and helpful spreads God's love to those around you. Sometimes that's hard to do. It helps to remember how much God always loves you, no matter what. When you think about how much God has done to show love for you, it makes it easier to love others. God cares for you every day. God even gave you Jesus to die for you. That's a LOT of love. God loved you first, and God will keep loving you for as long as you live. Let's keep the wave of love going this week by showing God's love to others."

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you were shown love by someone and it encouraged you to follow their example by showing love to someone else.)

2. Dual Race

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: "Dual Race" strips in 2 containers (1 set per Group), Bible, red cardstock (10 per Group), blue cardstock (10 per Group)

What You Do:

- Read the memory verse, Galatians 5:22-23, out loud to your Group.
- Split kids into two even teams.
- Direct the kids in each team to line up behind one another.
- Set a container of memory verse phrases across from each team.
- Assign each team a color of cardstock and give the first kid in each line the two pieces of cardstock that correspond to their team's color.
- Direct the kids to use the two pieces to walk across the room without touching the floor.
 - Each kid will have to stand on one of the pieces of paper, lay down the second piece of paper, step onto that piece of paper, pick up the previous piece of paper, then lay it down to take their next step.

- Direct each kid to travel this way across the room to their team's container.
- Once they get to their team's container, instruct the kids to pick up one phrase or word from their container and run it back to the next kid in line. Make sure they bring the cardstock with them too.
- Direct the next kid in line to travel the same way with the two pieces of cardstock.
- Once a team has retrieved all of their phrases and words for the memory verse, instruct them to put the verse in the correct order.
 - **Each strip will have numbers on it (1 through 13), to guide the kids to place the verse in the correct order.**

What You Say:

"When we decide to follow Jesus and believe that He died for us then was raised from the dead, our whole lives change. Jesus promised to give those who follow Him the power of the Holy Spirit. One way people can know we are followers of Jesus is when these characteristics of the Spirit show up in us.

"What are some things that grow on trees? (*Invite responses.*) Those are all good answers. A healthy living tree will produce things like fruit, leaves, flowers, nuts, and lots of other things, too. But if a tree is dead, what does it look like? (*Invite responses.*) It's bare and withers, right? When we follow Jesus and have the Holy Spirit leading us and guiding us, we will grow things in our life just like a tree does. Not fruit and nuts but things like joy, patience, peace, and love! Like we have been talking about all day, you can **[Bottom Line] love others because God loves you.**"

3. Roll the Dice

What You Need: Foam Dice (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid the foam die and have them roll it.
- Based on the Number kids roll, they will answer the following questions:
 - 1 - Furthest from home you've ever been? (Disney World, Wisconsin Dells, etc.)
 - 2 - What is the most fun thing you've ever done?
 - 3 - What is something that you love?
 - 4 - Who is someone you love? Why?
 - 5 - Tell me about something/show me something really cool that you can do!
 - 6 - How do we know that God loves us? (He gave us Jesus!)
- Play as long as time and interest allow.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Lead kids in saying today's Bottom Line together several times. **[Bottom Line] Love others because God loves you.**
- Explain that you will begin a prayer then each time you pause, it's their turn to say this variation of today's Bottom Line together as part of the prayer: Love others because God loves me.

What You Say:

"Dear God, when I feel like getting mad at someone, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me. When I don't feel like being kind, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me. When someone else gets to be first and I have to go last, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me.

"When someone needs help, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me. When someone is being mean to me, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me. When I feel like getting even, remind me to (*pause*) love others because God loves me. Thank You for Your love and for showing us how to love others. In Jesus' name, amen."