

City SG—August 28th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: I Choose You (God Chooses Abram) • *Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-6*

Today's Bottom Line: God has a plan to show love to the world.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

1. Find the Heart Verse

What You Need: Bible marked at 1 John 4:10, floor tape

What You Do:

- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to 1 John 4:10.
- Review the verse together.
- Tape four large hearts around your Small Group area. (Or if the heart from the earlier activity is big enough, you can create a couple of smaller hearts, just to make the game more fun.)
- Invite the kids to walk around your Small Group area as you all repeat the verse together, BUT every time they hear “love” or “loved,” they must go stand in a heart.
- Pause each time you get to “love” or “loved” to make sure everyone makes it into a heart.
- As soon as you move to the next word, kids can continue walking around the space.
- Repeat in the same way for two more rounds.
- On the fourth round, the rules are the same EXCEPT you’ll choose a heart, and kids all have to squeeze into the same one.

What You Say:

“That was so fun! It’s been a great month of learning about God’s EPIC love for us. It’s a love SO big, we can’t even understand it. And God proved that great big EPIC love by sending Jesus. I’m so glad to know that because of what Jesus has done we can be sure that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan to show love to the world.**”

2. And Then

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Story Starter Strips” (1 set per Group), paper (5 pieces per service), pens

What You Do:

- Invite your group to sit in a circle.
- Read one of the story starters below:
 - Once upon a time, a bird flew into my window, picked me up, and carried me to a magical forest. And then . . .
 - One day, I was walking down the sidewalk and noticed a big, beautiful chalk creation. Suddenly, the wind blew me INTO the chalk creation. And then . . .
- Choose one kid to continue the story by using their imaginations and coming up with what happens next.
- Instruct them to say, “And then” when they are finished with their portion of the story. (To keep things moving, only let each kid come up with one or two sentences.)
- Direct the kid to the right of them to listen for the “And then . . .” as a cue to continue the story.
- Tell kids that anyone can say, “The end” if their portion of the story is the end.
- Once a story has ended, begin the next story starter.
- Once you have gone through the two starters and your group understands the concept of the game, invite your kids to get into pairs.

- Give each pair a Story Starter Strip, a piece of paper, and a pen.
- Instruct the pairs to write **or draw** the rest of their story for these real-life scenarios.
- Remind the pairs to create positive endings!
- Allow the pairs to share their stories with the group when they are finished.

What You Say:

“Wow! You all have some pretty incredible imaginations! How many of you wish you could jump into a chalk drawing though? *(Allow time for responses.)* I especially loved getting to see the stories you created with your partners.

“Can we all agree that sometimes life isn’t magical chalk creation stories and trips to the forest on top of giant birds? Sometimes, life can be tough. Maybe you just moved schools or even cities. Perhaps you’re struggling with a subject in school or you’re fighting with a friend. Maybe you’re trying out for the soccer team again and it seems impossible to make it. Or you might be bummed out lately because you miss someone who was close to you.

“Here’s the truth we learned about today. **[Bottom Line] God has a plan to show love to the world.** God fulfilled this plan long ago, and is still showing love to the world, no matter what is going on around us. **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a hard time when you were able to feel God’s love.)** No matter what we are facing, we have a God who will make things right! That’s why we can celebrate God’s epic love in our world today!”

3. Love Limbo

What You Need: Yard stick (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story with your group using the review questions below.
- Line up the kids in a single file line.
- Stand at the end of your area holding out the limbo stick for the kids to limbo under after they answer the question correctly.
- The goal is to have every kid go under the limbo stick!
 - **NOTE: After every kid passes under the limbo stick for each question, scramble your kids up with a new line leader that answers the question for their group.**
- Review questions:
 - Where did God tell Abram to go to? *(a place that God would show him)*
 - God wanted to tell a story through Abram’s large family so that many people across time could see how big God’s love is. Why did Abram think this couldn’t happen? *(because he and Sarai were old and they didn’t have any kids yet)*
 - How do you think Abram and Sarai felt when God made a promise for them to have kids but it seemed impossible to them? *(Answers will vary.)*
 - Has anything ever seemed impossible to you? *(Answers will vary.)*
 - How many kids did God say would be born into Abram’s family? *(as many as there are stars in the sky)*
 - Did God keep the promise to Abram and Sarai although things seemed completely impossible? *(yes)*
 - How do you think Abram and Sarai felt when God kept the promise to show love to the world through their really big family? *(Answers will vary.)*
 - God may not be sending you to an unknown land, but God still has a plan to show love to the world around you, through you! What are some ways people could see God’s love through you? *(Answers will vary.)*

What You Say:

"I can't imagine how crazy it must have been for Abram and Sarai to hear that God wanted to use them in this big and awesome way. They probably couldn't even comprehend it at the time. I don't know about you, but sometimes I read stories like this in the Bible and I wonder if God could use me in big and awesome ways, too.

"The truth is, **[Bottom Line] God has a plan to show love to the world** with our lives, too. God doesn't just use people like Abram and Sarai. WE are a part of God's big story, too. God wants to show people love through you by the way you treat someone who is feeling left out at school; when you give up the swing at the park for the kid who is waiting, or when you bake cookies or make soup for a neighbor who is sick.

"God may not have a star-filled sky number of kids born into your family to show love through you but **[Bottom Line] God has a plan to show love to the world** through your everyday opportunities. As you head into your week, remember that every place you go and every person you come across is a chance for God to show love in your world!"

4. Pray and Dismiss**What You Say:**

"Dear God, thank You for being the God of good plans. Thank You that we can trust that Your plans are for good and are ultimately for showing Your love to everyone. Help us be a light this week to the people we come across and remind them that **[Bottom Line] God has a plan to show love to the world**. Use us to be encouragers and helpers for others who may be walking through hard times. Thank You for using us and wanting us to be a part of Your big story. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."