

# City SG—August 7th, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** L-O-V-E (Greatest Commandment) • *Matthew 22:34-40*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Love God by loving others.

**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)

## 1. What Is the Greatest Commandment?

**What You Need:** "Review Questions" Activity Page (1 per Group), buzzer (1 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Set the buzzer or bell at the front.
- Direct the two teams to sit on either side of the buzzer.
- Instruct the teams to send one team member to answer a review question.
- Ask one of the review questions from the Activity Page.
- Direct the team member who knows the answer to hit the buzzer and answer. If it seems to be a close call, you can determine who hit the buzzer first.
- Make sure each kid from both teams gets a chance to answer a question.
- Continue until all questions have been answered!

### What You Say:

"I don't know about you, but I needed a good reminder that it's not about the long list of rules in life, it's about following Jesus. It takes so much pressure off when we just focus on loving God and loving others. Of course, it's still important to follow the rules that our teachers, coaches, parents, and other trusted people in our life have given us. But just like our story taught us today, when we make it a priority to **[Bottom Line] love God by loving others**, our hearts will be motivated to do the right thing. We don't have to be overwhelmed with all of the rules of life. We can focus on the greatest commandment, loving God and loving others, and know that our hearts will be set on the right path to make the right choices."

## 2. Bookmark My Love

**What You Need:** "Bookmark My Love" Strip (1 per kid), markers, pens

### What You Do:

- Give each kid one bookmark page and set the markers where everyone can reach them.
- Together, read through all four sections on the bookmarks so kids understand what they should fill in.
- Invite the kids to fill in their bookmarks (1 for each week of the month). (Remind the kids that they can choose people from the neighborhood, school, park, church, or family members.)
- Allow time for kids to decorate their bookmarks and get creative.
- Invite the kids to take their bookmark home and put it in a book they're currently reading so they'll see it and be reminded of all the different ways they can show love to the people on their bookmark!

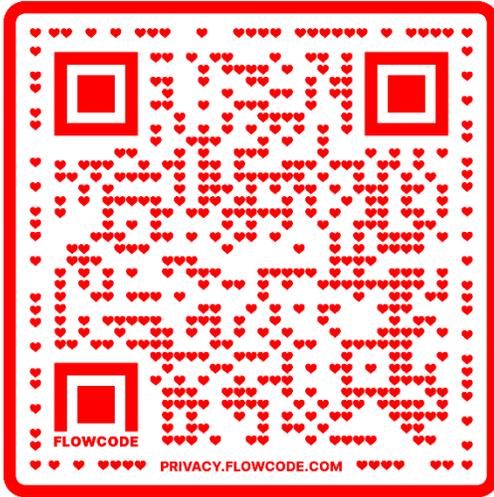
### What You Say:

"What are some ideas for how you can love people this week? (*Allow time for ideas and responses.*) Those are all great ideas! It may seem small to share a toy or to let someone go in front of you in line, but today we are reminded that showing love is so much bigger than us. We can **[Bottom Line] love God by loving others**. We can show our love to the God of the universe by simply loving the people in our world. **[Make It Personal] (Share a personal story about a time someone showed you love and how you saw God's love through their actions towards you.)** I can't wait for you to come back and tell me how you showed love to the people around you this week!"

### 3. Hot Potato

**What You Need:** Ball, smartphone to scan QR code (below)

**NOTE:** *Non-Music Option highlighted below*



#### What You Do:

- As you start the activity, direct the kids to sit in a circle facing each other.
- Tell kids that you're going to play a game of "Hot Potato" with the ball and the kid holding the "hot potato" when the music stops gets to share something they love.
- Give one kid in the circle the ball.
- Instruct the kids to pass the ball around the circle as the music plays, pretending it's hot and giving it to the next kid in the circle as quickly as possible.
- Stop the music.
  - *NOTE: If you do not have a smartphone that can scan the QR code above, simply close your eyes/turn your back to the circle and shout "STOP!" at a random point as the kids are passing the ball around.*
- Direct the kid holding the "hot potato" to name something they love from the following options:
  - color they love
  - movie they love
  - song they love
  - food they love
  - place they love
  - hobby they love
  - game they love
  - team they love
  - or anything else fun you can come up with!
- Continue until each kid has had a turn to share something they love.

## 4. Categories

**What You Need:** Bible marked at 1 John 4:10

*Non-Reader Option highlighted below*

### What You Do:

- Use the Bible to look up 1 John 4:10.
- Review the verse several times as a group.
- Divide your group into teams of two or three.
- Assign each team a category. (See the list below.)
- Instruct each team to use their category to state the memory verse as a team.
- For example:
  - If a team is assigned “superhero,” that group can recite their memory verse using their favorite superhero voices *or acting the verse out pretending to use superhero powers.*
  - If a team is assigned “farm animal,” that group can use a cowboy voice *or pretend to be farm animals as you recite the verse.*
- Invite the kids to get as creative as they want to as they say the verse. (Remind them that they can use their Bibles for help.)
- Provide teams with enough time to plan their memory verse voices.
- Allow each team to perform in front of the group.
- Categories:
  - Villain scientist
  - Superhero
  - Farm animals
  - Disney® princesses/heroes
  - Athletes

### What You Say:

“I love the way you brought our memory verse to life using your voices and acting skills! You did an awesome job of using your character voice to say the verse.

“In our verse this month we can see what love looks like in our everyday lives. It gives us a picture that because Jesus loved us so much, He saved us from the consequences of sin. As a result, He calls us to **[Bottom Line] love God by loving others.** This week, let’s remember to look at each and every day as an endless chance to love God by loving others and let Jesus’ love for us motivate us to love everyone we see!”

## 5. Pray and Dismiss

### What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for the love You have given us that encourages us to love the people You placed around us. Please help everyone we encounter to feel Your love through the way we treat them this week. Please show us the chances we have to **[Bottom Line] love God by loving others** whether it’s at school, home, sports practice, or even at the store. Thank You for letting us be a part of Your big story! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”