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K-1st Small Group

Bible Story: You're the Inspiration (No Greater Love) • John 15:12-13

Key Question: What makes you feel loved?

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.

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 NIV

Life App: Love - Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Preservice Activities:

When kids are first arriving have a few toys out for kids to play with before you start the activity below. Use the time for casual conversation, connection, and to have fun. Before you go to large group spend a few minutes reviewing the bible story and getting them ready for large group.

Give Away Your Hearts

Give each kid two hearts with their name on them. Set out markers and crayons for the kids to decorate their hearts. Then tape the hearts to the window outside the classroom.

Those are some super-cool heart decorations, aren't they? These are really neat. We're learning that you should love others because Jesus loves you. One way to love others is to make cool things for them, and that's what you just did! I want you to each take a little time right now to think of someone you can give your decorated heart to. It might be your mom, your grandpa, or the new kid down the street. (Pause for fifteen seconds or so. Let kids share who they're going to give their heart to, if they would like.) Great! The other heart will be yours to keep to remind you of how much Jesus loves you. When you leave today, you'll take your hearts with you, and I want you to give it to that person this week!

If kids come after large group starts, give them two hearts to take home and decorate and give away.

Go to large group time at 5 mins after the service begins. (5:35, 9:05, 11:05) The manager will give you direction.

Small Group Time

When kids come back into small group time, **set out the rubber dots** so every child and yourself has a place to sit in a circle.

Discussion Questions (Give each kid an opportunity to answer and have some time to reflect on their answers. Don't rush and remember to ask follow up questions when appropriate.)

- What makes you feel loved?
- What is love? Read 1 John 4:10, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind; unconditional, always. The greatest example of love is when God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. Even though we do wrong things sometimes, (that's called sin) God loves us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us so our sins can be forgiven and we can have a friendship with Him. Isn't that amazing? And because He loves us so much, we can also love others—not just the people we know, but also people we don't know very well or people we've never even met. God gives us the ability to love others. You can love others because Jesus loves you.
- What's something you love ALL of the time? (Parents, siblings, dog, cat, pizza, favorite shirt)
- When do you feel most loved? (being told I love you, hugged by a parent, snuggling with a pet, when people are kind to me or help me in difficult situations)
- What are some ways your parents show that they love you?
- Why do we not always show love toward others?
- How does Jesus show you that He loves you?
- How can you show love to others this week?

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!

Bible Memory Verse Activity:

Review the Bible memory verse and motions you learned in large group time.

Review the following motions with the children to help them memorize this month's memory verse.

- **Here is what love is.** (use your pointer finger to point down for "here"; then crisscross your arms across your chest for "love")
- **It is not that we loved God.** (use your pointer finger back and forth indicating "It is not"; then use thumb, index and middle finger to point to yourself "we"; then crisscross your arms across your chest for "loved"; then point upward for "God")
- **It is that he loved us** (point upward to indicate "he"; then crisscross your arms across your chest to indicate "loved"; then use thumb to point at chest indicate "us")
- **and sent his Son** (hold left hand parallel to the floor with palm down and brush the top of your hand with the fingers of the other hand for "sent"; then point to upward for "his"; then salute with your right hand and then cradle a baby with your arms for "Son")
- **to give his life** (hold your thumb to your fingers and move your hand away from your body for "give"; point upward for "his"; index finger and thumb on each hand facing each other like two guns pointing at each other for "life")
- **to pay for our sins.** (use your right index finger to point to the palm of your left hand for "pay"; then use thumb to point at chest indicate "our"; use index finger on both hands to make downward spirals for "sin".
- **1 John 4:10** (cup hands like a book and then hold up the numbers)

Pray and Dismiss:

Ask your kids if they have anything they would like you to pray for. Ask the kids to think about what makes them feel loved and how they can show love to one person this week.

As you pray together you might say, Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to live and to die for our sins so that we can be forgiven and live with You forever! Help everyone here—(name each kid)—understand how much you love them. I pray that each of them will decide to follow You and give their lives to You. In Jesus' name, amen. Remember, kids, [Bottom Line] love others because Jesus loves you.

As parents arrive to pick up, give them the decorated hearts the kids made today, and encourage them to help the kids give the hearts away to the person of their choice.

Parent Pick Up:

- When parents are picking up kids be sure to:
- Say the kid's name. Introduce yourself to the parent picking up child.
- Check the numbers on tags to make sure they match.
- Give each parent a God Time card to do with their child this week.
- Ask child if they remember the bottom line/memory verse:
- Have a great week, see you next time.

Clean up:

- Please put any supplies back in your bins.
- Please put any toys you chose back in the resource room. You know where you got them from so it's easiest for you to return them, and the next small group leader might want to choose a different set of toys to play with.
- Check in with the manager before you leave to let them know all your kids have been picked up, any issues that need to be addressed, or anything amazing that needs to be celebrated.