

KIDS Community Group Lesson
1.11.15
When we Love God we Love People
Leader's Guide

Engaging one another: Name five things or people you really love and tell what you love about them.

Engaging God:

- Through Worship

John 15:13 NLT *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Give the children an opportunity to thank God for what He has done for them this week. If some of them can't think of anything, remind them of all that God does each day.

- Through Prayer

1 John 5:14-1 NIV *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

Give each of the children an opportunity to pray. Talk to the children about prayer; that when they pray they are talking to a friend. It's just that this friend created the universe and that's why it's important to show respect to Him. Talk with them about how they would feel as a friend if someone only talked to them when they needed something. Remind them that although God loves to hear from us about our needs, it's also important to Praise God for who He is, ask God to help others, and thank God for hearing our prayer.

Try a popcorn style prayer. Tell the children that you will open and close the prayer and give time in between for them to say something to God. Explain that it doesn't have to be anything special or big. They can just share something they're worried about or just thank God for something good in their lives.

-Through the Word

Read: Review how Paul became a follower of Jesus, paraphrase Acts 9, and explain that he went on to be the first great missionary sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul's letters to the Ephesians show a changed man who loved the Lord and wanted others to know Him.

Read: Ephesians 3:14-21 to understand Paul's deep devotion to God and how much he wanted others to have God's love in their lives.

Discuss: After Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he spent the rest of his life telling others about God's great love and plan for their lives. He dedicated his life to showing God's love to others by sharing His word. In the book of Matthew, Jesus was asked, Which is the greatest commandment? He answered this way. *"Jesus replied, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."*

Do: Write or print the memory verse and decorate a wall hanging or cut it into pieces of a puzzle to help them learn it.

Start a challenge with a reward system for memory verses in your group. Find out how most of the children learn verses best. Some do well with hand motions of sign language, through songs or beats or art/drawing. Here are some ideas:

<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/1243/teaching-aids/assorted-ideas-for-memorizing-verses-part-1.php>

-Scripture Meditation

"You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

Explain the context of the verse so that the children understand how important it is to know God's word.

Supplies: Crayons/Paper

Activity: Have the children write out the verse on a sheet of paper. Pray with them asking that the Holy Spirit reveal the truth of this verse.

Give the children 5-10 minutes to draw pictures and/or write words about what God is sharing with them. After they have time to color/draw/write, have the children explain what God has shared with them.

***If children explain the pictures in ways that are not Biblical (lovingly), help them understand what the verse means.**

Engaging the World:

Isaiah 58:7 NLT *Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.*

What's your next step? Baptism? Serving? Inviting a friend? Using your gifts? Think about it. Pray about it. Next week share with the group what your next step will be.

Pray for someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus. Draw them a picture or write them a letter letting them know that God loves them.