



God is Love – We Serve Others Because We Love

Galatians 5:13-18

God Statement: God is the One True God

KEY VERSE: “Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God. There is no other God. I am God. There is no one like me.”

(Isaiah 46:9, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

OPENING FREE TIME ACTIVITY

MISSION FOCUS – TEACHER APPRECIATION BAGS:

As part of our current mission focus, kids can decorate bags during the opening free time prior to starting the explore activity.

Supplies: white paper bags, stickers, markers, crayons

Directions: Encourage kids to decorate a bag for teachers around our city. They can write an encouraging note, put a funny joke, or draw a picture. This is an optional activity for kids as they arrive, so kids are welcome to do more than one bag.

Say: *Remember how we talked about teachers last week for our mission focus? Well, these are the special bags that we get to decorate for teachers. They will be filled with goodies and treats to encourage teachers for all their hard work. This is one way we can show love to others!*

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Love

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is Love!

SAY:

We've been learning how God is the one true God. Let's say that together. What does that mean? **Let kids respond.** Those are all great ideas. It means that there is no other like our God – He is the only God and His Word is true. Today, we're going to see another example of why God is the one true God, and that is God is love!

What do you think of when you hear the word love? **Let kids respond – i.e. hearts, kindness, friendship, hugs, family, etc.** Those are all great ideas. Love is not just a feeling, but an action too! Love is an action like when your brother/sister is sad and you give them your toy to cheer them up – that's love. Or when you get hurt outside and your grownup cleans up your ouchie and gives you a hug – that's love. But do you know what the greatest love of all is? That Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for you and for me... Because He loves us!

God is love! God loves us so much, and He wants us to share that love with others! We can love others because God loves us. Let's do this activity and think more about how we can love others.

MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Love Your Neighbor Coloring Page

Supplies: one coloring page per child

Directions: Pass out coloring page and crayons, etc. for kids to color. This can also be sent home if there is not enough time in class to complete.

Say: *Today we get to learn about something very important! We get to learn about loving one another! God calls us to love each other, as we love ourselves. Before we start our lesson, let's color a special poster!*

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES*Worship Leader & Host***WORSHIP**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Waymaker
- Child of God

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER*Host***MAIL TIME!**

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

"Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God. There is no other God. I am God. There is no one like me."

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WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: HEART

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

This looks familiar. Do you know what this is? It’s a **heart**! When I see a heart, I always think about love. Can you give yourself a big hug? That reminds me of our God Statement today – God is love! I wonder what this has to do with our story today. Let’s find out! Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: God is Love – We Serve Others Because We Love

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: *Serving cards, markers/pens*

I have a question for you – who does God tell us to love? ***Let kids respond – our neighbors, everyone, all people.*** God tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but when He says neighbors, does He just mean the people right next door to us? No! He means everyone!

Last week, we learned that God uses the Holy Spirit to bring us all together, and today, we learned that the Holy Spirit also helps us to love everyone! Does that mean I even have to love that kid at school who wasn't nice to me? Or my brother after he steals my toys? Or the new kid I haven't met? Yes! God is love and He wants us to show others His love, and that means everyone!

SERVE IN LOVE CARDS ACTIVITY:

One way we can show love is through our actions. Sometimes we call it serving. When we serve someone, we put their needs or wants ahead of our own. Like if we really want to eat the last cookie after dinner, but instead we serve our brother/sister by giving them the last cookie - that is love!

In a minute, you are going to get a chance to pick a card off the board with a way you can serve someone in love this week. When you grab a card, your teachers will help you read what it says, and then on the back you can draw yourself doing it.

Release kids by class/group to pick a card. Remind them to wait quietly for their teachers to read the card. Then, allow kids to take a few minutes to draw themselves on the other side of the card. Once everyone is finished, gather back together and say:

Now that you have a special card to remind you, your challenge is to take it home and try to do that act of service! And when you come back next week, tell your teachers how it went.

God is love and He wants us to share His love with everyone. Let's thank God for His love!

Close in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Teacher Appreciation Bags

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Raise your hand if you are excited that school is almost over. Raise your hand if you are sad that school is almost over. Well, as we wrap up the school year, we have a mission focus to get ready for next year!

Does anyone remember the paper bags we decorated last August for teachers in our schools? ***Let kids respond.*** If you decorated one of these bags in your classroom today, raise your hand. These bags are a special way to love and thank teachers for all they do for us. Would we be able to learn without our teachers? No! Teachers do so much for us, and we want to do something kind for them to show them Jesus’ love.

Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for teachers to finish the school year strong and for the bags that will be decorated next week to celebrate teachers.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you know that God loves you. May you find a way to show God’s love to someone else this week!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Galatians 5:13-18**
 - a. **How should we treat others?** (We should love them as ourselves. We should be kind to them)
 - b. **What does God give us to help us live for Him and be more like Him?** (The Holy Spirit)
 - c. **Should we treat others harshly and mean?** (No!)
3. **We should show proof that we are followers of Christ, by treating others kindly and with love. We should love one another! What is one way you can show love or kindness to someone else?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Toss the Heart!

Supplies: one squish heart, music on Plex/Spotify in classroom

Directions: Have children stand in a circle. Take turns tossing the heart from child to child, while the music plays. Pause the music and have the children freeze when the music stops. When the music stops, the child that catches the heart can share something they love about someone they know or have them share one way they love someone else. Continue playing until most or all children have had a turn.

***Say:** We are called to love one another, like Christ loves us. Let's play a special game to share ways we love others.*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.