



God Loves The Whole World

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 1 • January 31/February 1/2
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Acting in the image of God can be difficult for older elementary schoolers. Ask them to share about situations they have encountered at school, practice, or with friends. Invite others to share ways they could act in the image of God in those moments and share age-appropriate ways you have reacted in similar situations.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- If you could like anything in the world with a giant thumbs-up button, what would you like first— pizza, puppies, or your own face?
- Last week you were challenged to (Review the challenge your Group came up with and have a discussion about how it went).



PRAY

Say: We are going to send our prayers up to God like rockets. Does anyone have anything they would like to launch up to God today?

Pray: Dear God, thank you for loving us so much! Help us 'like' the things you like—being kind, helping others, and spreading joy. And help our hearts 'subscribe' to you every day, so we can follow you and shine your light. Amen!



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- Get ready, because Jesus gives us a mission that can change the whole world. And guess what? It starts with YOU. In John 13:34, Jesus gives His followers a brand-new rule, and it's kind of like a secret code for how to live. It's all about love... but not just regular love. Super-powered, Jesus-sized love!
- Wanna hear what it is? Grab a Bible, open your eyes big, and get ready, because this Verse shows us how to love people the way Jesus loves us. Let's read it together and find out what our mission is!

Read:

- John 13:34

Review:

- What did Jesus command US to do?
- Who does Jesus say we should love?
- How would home/school/church feel if everyone followed this Verse?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



God Loves The Whole World

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 1 • January 31/February 1/2

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Take out the Snowball.

- Encourage the kids to stand in a single file line. Instruct them to stand with their legs shoulder-width apart, creating a tunnel with their legs.
- *We are going to work together to make sure this ball can get through everyone in our line. This game helps us remember that God's love is for everyone, everywhere! No one is left out.*
- Stand at the front of the line and gently roll the ball so it goes through every kid's legs.
- After the first roll through the tunnel, move to a different starting spot- maybe off to the side. Explain that the group has to move together to make sure the ball can still roll through everyone's legs.
- Roll the snowball again. The kids will need to shuffle and work together as they adjust their positions to create a new tunnel for the ball.
- To add an extra challenge for older kids, you can add multiple balls, create a time challenge, 'freeze' some kids so they are unable to move, or make some kids close their eyes and play blind!
- **Say:** *God loves people who are different from you, who live in different places, and people who do wrong things! [Bottom Line] God loves the whole world, and he wants his love to reach every single person. Because you and I are made in God's image—we reflect who God is to the world—we can show his love to others.*



CHALLENGE

Give everyone a Like And Subscribe Devotion.

Say: *I have something super exciting for you. It's 4 days of a special adventure and learning about God's love! Each day, you'll get a chance to discover just how much God loves YOU. Think of it like a treasure hunt where every day you'll learn something new, and by the end, you'll know four amazing ways God shows his love to you. Are you ready to go on this adventure? Let's focus on accomplishing all 4 days of this Devotion because God's love is huge, and you get to learn all about it!*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Say:** *Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus. But he didn't avoid Jesus. He went right to him with his questions.*
- *What does today's story teach you about bringing your doubts or questions to God?*
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Like And Subscribe Devotion (1 per kid, in Small Group)

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34



Love God Love Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • February 7/8/9

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Elementary schoolers can have amazing empathy! Take note of the people they are caring for, pray for them during the week, and bring it up in the future. When you do this, you are caring for others and recognizing their amazing empathy.



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- If hitting 'subscribe' made confetti explode every time, what would you subscribe to?
- Last week you got Devotionals to complete! Who completed them? What was your favorite day? What day was difficult to understand?



PRAY

Say: We are going to send our prayers up to God like rockets. Does anyone have anything they would like to launch up to God today?

Pray: Dear God, thank you for loving us so much! Help us love you with all our hearts and show your love to everyone around us. Make our hearts big and our smiles bright so we can share your love every day. Amen!



BIBLE

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- We are going to dive into reading this month's Memory Verse again. Last week we focused on God loving us.
- We have a great opportunity today to dive a little deeper into the concepts of how we can love others.

Read:

- John 13:34

Review:

- What are some ways Jesus shows love to us? Ex. Through family, friends, nature like rainbows and the amazing things God made, safety and protection, the Bible and stories, talents and gifts, or peace and comfort
- Can we love people like that?
- What is one loving thing you can do for someone today?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



Love God Love Others

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 2 • February 7/8/9

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Say: *I bet we can all think of someone who needs to hear that God loves them. Maybe you know someone who has been feeling down in the dumps, or lonely, sick, someone who made a mistake, or someone who is lonely or is feeling left out, or someone who doesn't know about Jesus at all! Who can you think of?*

Take out the Card Making Supplies and help kids make one card for the person they thought of. Help them make the card to clearly share with that person that God loves them!



CHALLENGE

Say: *I bet you can all guess what today's challenge is! It is to give this card to your person! You can hide it somewhere for them to find it, or you can give it to them with a big hug! I can't wait to hear how you all are making the world a better place by making these cards and sharing God's love!*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus asked us to love our neighbor as yourself.
- What are some ways we love ourselves?
- How can we love our neighbor like that?
- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Valentines Day Card (1 per kid, made in Small Group)

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34



The Love Of Jesus Can Change Things For The Better

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • February 14/15/16

Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Help to build the foundation of your group's faith through prayer. If anyone shares something to pray about, celebrate it! Ask if anyone in your group feels comfortable praying aloud for everyone. When someone is brave enough to take this step, celebrate it!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- *If you could subscribe to a channel that sends you a surprise every morning, what would it be—donuts, jokes, or tiny llamas?*
- *Last week you were challenged to hand out the Valentines Day card to the person you made it for. How did it go?*



PRAY

Say: Let's be prayer detectives today. Does anyone have any clues about things we should pray about?

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us so much. Your love is strong, kind, and always with us. Help us remember that your love can change things for the better. It can turn sad days into hopeful ones, lonely moments into moments of friendship, and hard times into times we grow stronger. Fill our hearts with your love so we can shine it everywhere we go. Amen!

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- *We are going to keep reviewing our Memory Verse and today, we are going to really work on memorizing it.*
- *Every month we learn a Memory Verse. Learning verses helps us remember how much God loves us. When you remember a verse, you're keeping God close to you.*
- *Let's get it down so that when we see it in our video, we can say it loud and proud!*

Read:

- John 13:34

Review:

- Say the Verse out loud a few times as a Group.
- Practice in different voices. Ex. Like opera singers with big booming voices, like a coach of a football team, like robots

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



BIBLE



The Love Of Jesus Can Change Things For The Better

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 3 • February 14/15/16

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Stand in the center of your Group.

- Let your Group know that you will share a statement, and if it is something your Group likes, they should stand on your left side, and if it is something that they dislike, they should stand on your right.
- Ask silly questions, or questions about today's Bible story, Memory Verse, or general questions about applying these concepts to everyday life!
 - Pineapple on pizza
 - Touching slime
 - Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house for dinner
 - Zacchaeus gave all the money back
 - Someone says mean words to you
 - Someone helped you when you fell during a game



CHALLENGE

Say: This week, your mission is to use Jesus' love to change something for the better—just like a kindness superhero with a goofy sidekick energy.

Try something silly-but-loving like:

- Telling the grumpiest kid at recess a joke so funny they snort-laugh.
- Helping a friend pick up their crayons—even the ones rolling under the table like runaway noodles.
- Inviting someone to play, even if they usually stand on the playground like a lonely potato.
- Using kind words when you feel mad... instead of exploding like a screaming pineapple.
- Drawing a tiny smiley face on someone's notebook to make them grin.

One silly, loving choice can turn someone's whole day from "meh" to "YAY!" So go spread Jesus' love, one goofy moment at a time!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share with your Group an age-appropriate example of how Jesus' love has changed things for the better in your life

- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

Remind kids to accomplish this week's Challenge and share the Challenge with their grown-ups

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34



Show The Love Of Jesus To People In Need

Older Elementary Small Group Guide
Week 4 • February 21/22/23
Side 1 • Small Group # 1 • 10 minutes



PRO TIP

Parents love to hear about the amazing things their kids are doing. Listen to the ways your group plans on caring for others and mention it to their parents at pick up. This tells kids you are listening, lets parents know you care, and helps families to build deeper relationships with each other and their faith!



WELCOME

Welcome each kid by name.

Ask:

- If your friend had a channel called 'The Adventures of (their name),' what funny thing would be in their first episode?
- Last week you were challenged to use Jesus' love to change something for the better. How did that go?



PRAY

Say: I want everyone to tell me one word for something I can pray about. It can be a person, place, thing, or feeling, but only ONE word. Go!

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for your HUGE love! Help us see people who need a little extra love. The sad ones, the lonely ones, the 'had-a-bad-day' ones. Give us superhero-sized kindness, extra-strong helping hands, and super-bright smiles so we can show your love to everyone who needs it. Make us love-spreaders everywhere we go! Amen!

Give each kid a Bible.

Say:

- This will be the last week we dive into our Memory Verse. For those of us who have been here every week this month, I hope you have it down! For us who might be hearing it for the first time today, let's all hear it with a fresh slate with you!

Read:

- Instruct your Group, on "Go," to race and find this month's Memory Verse.
- As kids find it, ask them to help someone else in your Group who is still looking.
- John 13:34

Review:

- If you could have one superpower that you could only use to love others, what would it be?
- If you could invent a "Love-O-Meter," what would it measure? High-fives, kindness, or number of times you didn't yell "MOOOVE!" at your brother?
- If your pet (real or imaginary) tried to follow this Verse, how would THEY show love?

Continue to review and discuss until Large Group.



BIBLE



Show The Love Of Jesus To People In Need

Older Elementary Small Group Guide

Week 4 • February 21/22/23

Side 2 • Small Group # 2 • 15 minutes



ACTIVITY

Give everyone a Word Search Activity Sheet.

- Spend some time finding the words from this month's Memory Verse in the search. Help any kids who have trouble with letters and spelling.
- When everyone finishes, **Say:** *Sometimes the people who need the love of Jesus aren't easy to spot. They don't walk around with big signs that say 'Help! I need love!' So, we get to be detectives! Just like you searched for those hidden words today, we can look for people who need kindness, encouragement, or a friend. And guess what? They're all around you—waiting for someone like YOU to bring Jesus' love their way!*



CHALLENGE

Ask everyone to flip over their Word Search to the Devotion on the opposite side.

Say: *Hey friends! Are you ready for an awesome challenge? This devotional is all about putting the love of Jesus into action! That means we're not just going to talk about love—we're going to DO it!*

Each day, you'll get a fun activity and a simple way to show God's love to the people around you. Think of it like a superpower—you can make someone smile, help a friend, or even cheer someone up just by sharing Jesus' love.

Are you ready to see how your heart can shine and make a difference?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share one age-appropriate way someone showed the love of Jesus to you when you needed it most.

- Review the Bottom Line
- Review the Memory Verse

Remain in Small Group until Parent Pick Up.



TAKE HOME

- Word Search Activity Sheet (1 per kid, in Small Group)

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34