



UPPER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- STARTER



Activity Name: God Loves the Whole World

What You Need: small heart or globe ball

What You 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. When we're kind, we show the world God's love. When we're compassionate, we show the world God's love.

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle
- Explain that you will toss the ball to one kid to start the game. When a kid catches the ball, he/she will share with one person they want to tell about God or to pray for.
- Continue until all kids have a turn to catch/toss the ball and share.

This game helps us remember that God's love is for everyone, everywhere! No one is left out. In our Bible Story today, we're going to hear about just how far God's love goes. Let's go find out!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2- SMALL GROUP

Discussion Questions:

- Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does it look like to love God with all of who you are—not just your words, but your thoughts, choices, and feelings?
- The second most important commandment says to love your neighbor as yourself. What are some ways it might actually be hard to love yourself—or hard to love others the same way? How can God help you do both?
- Jesus simplified over 600 laws into two commands: love God and love others. Why do you think love was the foundation of everything God wanted His people to do?
- When you think about your normal day—school, friends, family—where do you think it’s easiest for you to show love, and where is it hardest? What could help you love better in the hard places?
- The story says the Holy Spirit can nudge us to notice people who need love. How can you stay aware of practical way you could respond when you sense one?



Bible Story

The Most Important Commandment • *Matthew 22:34-40*

Bottom Line

Love God. Love others.

Monthly Memory Verse

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

Conversation Starter

How have others shown love to you?

Activity Name: Memory Puzzle

What You Need: Cardstock puzzle sets Bottom Line puzzle set Permanent or acrylic markers or crayon Ziplock baggies & permanent marker

What You Do:

- Invite them to look up John 13:34 and read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Give out the pieces of Bottom Line puzzle. Work together to assemble.
- Repeat the Bottom Line together: **“Love God, Love Others.”**
- Give each kid a puzzle set and a baggie
- Instruct kids to write their names on the baggie
- Encourage kids to write the Bottom Line on the puzzle and decorate as they like.
- Kids will place the pieces of their puzzles into the baggie to take home.

What You Say:

Great job! Jesus’ new command in our verse is the same as one of the greatest commandments from our story. He wants us to love one another, because that’s how He loves us. When we love each other, we are showing the world what God is like. We can love God by getting to know Him through His Word, the Bible. Our goal is to: **[Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.**

****Close in Prayer****

KEEP GROUP TOGETHER UNTIL PICK UP