



BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.

ROMANS | LIFE | WEEK 4 OF 5

Action

GOD STORY

Action

Romans 12:9–21

KEY VERSE

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me...from one end of the earth to the other.”

Acts 1:8 (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

If one of your group's regular leaders is away, take the time to help anyone who fills in become familiar with your usual routines.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

To lead into today's lesson, chat about what the word “love” means and the kinds of love we feel. Introduce the Big Idea.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Work in blindfolded-and-guide pairs to complete a challenge.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss them together.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Guide everyone to consider how difficult it is to love different kinds of people in their lives.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Prepare bags holding the names of people the kids will pray for and ask Jesus to help them love in the week ahead.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone together in a group.
- Ask:
 - What does the word “love” make you think of?
 - Are there different kinds of love? If so, what are they?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Blindfolds
- Plastic interlocking bricks

LEADER TIP

- Spread the toy bricks around your group's space. Be sure to keep two of each colour stacked together.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Guide everyone to find a partner.
- Give each pair of kids a blindfold.
- Instruct the partners to decide who will be blindfolded and who will be the guide.
- Once the blindfolds are on, assign each pair a brick colour.
- Explain that the guides may only use words to help their partners locate a brick stack that matches their colour.
- When everyone has found their bricks, gather the kids in the middle of your space.
- Direct the blindfolded kids to take apart their two bricks.
- Instruct the guides to help their partners work together to stack the pieces in an order of your choosing (e.g., blue, green, red, red, yellow, green, blue, yellow). Once again, the guides may help with words only.
- When they're done the challenge, ask the kids how difficult it was.
- Emphasize how much more difficult it would have been without their guides!
- Explain that Jesus is our guide when things are difficult.



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Get the kids' initial reactions right after watching the video. Ask what stood out to them and clarify ideas as needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Action, Romans 12:9–21)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Kids share about how they love others, even when it's hard.)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? (Acts 1:8)
 - What stood out to you from the Life Story in today's video?
 - Why does Jesus want us to love everyone?
 - How can we love others when it's difficult?
 - Does showing love to someone mean they will love us back?
 - Think back to the last few weeks—who can help us? (Holy Spirit!)

My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Heart cutouts
- Signs

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Place the hearts around your group's space.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Describe three kinds of people: a best friend, a new student at school, and a bully.
- Use the signs to designate a spot for each of these people in your space.
- Explain that everyone will find a heart, then take it to the spot for whichever of these kinds of people they'd like to show love to.
- Discuss:
 - Why do you think the hearts were distributed this way?
 - Which of the groups is easiest to love? Why?
 - Which is hardest? Why?
- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Assign each group one of the three kinds of people you just discussed.
- Direct them to brainstorm ways they could show love to their person. Help each group as needed.
- Instruct the groups to take a few minutes to come up with a scenario to act out based on their ideas.
- Invite them to share their ideas and scenario with the other groups.
- If time allows, prompt the kids to come up with other people they could show love to (e.g., parents, teachers, neighbours, etc.), and encourage them to brainstorm more ideas.
- Challenge everyone to put one of their ideas into practice in the week ahead.



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Paper bags
- Labels
- Paper squares
- Markers
- Stickers

LEADER TIP

- Make sure everyone's names are on their bags.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Remain in your small group.
- Give each person a paper bag, a label, and seven paper squares.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can share them.
- Direct the kids to stick their labels onto their bags.
- Encourage them to use the markers and stickers to decorate their bags. This could include descriptions or pictures showing how we can love others.
- Guide the kids to write the names of people they want to pray for on their pieces of paper. Encourage them to include at least two people they find difficult to love.
- Ask them to pull a new name out of their bag each day this week. Then they should ask for Jesus' help to love that person.
- Try it together now! Prompt everyone to pull a name out of their bag and ask Jesus to help them love that person even when it's hard.
- To wrap up, pray for each of the kids by name.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

LEADER TIP

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

INSTRUCTIONS

- If parents pick up their kids in your setting, take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.