



WEEK 5

The Greatest Commandment

Bible Story: The Greatest Commandment • *Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13*

Bottom Line: You can LIVE for God by loving others.

Memory Verse: “Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.” *Hebrews 12:2a (NirV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

ACTIVITY 1. Living for God

SOME SUPPLIES ARE IN BOX

What You Need: Chairs or stools; container of props (whatever food props happens to be in your box, use it in place of mashed potatoes that is mentioned in the scenario below.)

What You Do:

- Read and act out the scenes below.
- Encourage kids to act out what it would look like to show love to others in each scenario.
 - If kids are stuck, ask questions and lead kids to come up with a way to love others, rather than telling kids what to do.
 - We have provided potential responses to help prompt kids.

SCENES

- Scene One: Put on a hairnet and fill a tray with a plate and pretend food. As you are getting the tray ready, say, “There is a volunteer who works in the lunch line. She is so nice to you every day. She always smiles and says hi as you go through the lunch line. She remembers you love mashed potatoes, so she always gives you an extra scoop of potatoes on mashed potato day.”
 - Act the role of the nice volunteer. As you hand a kid the tray with extra mashed potatoes, encourage him to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like as he takes the tray.
 - Responses could include: thanking her, telling her you appreciate the time she spends volunteering, smiling, etc.
- Scene Two: Set a few glasses in front of you and pretend to fill them with imaginary milk. Say, “The volunteer who gives you your drink at lunch is not friendly at all. She never smiles; she doesn't even look at you. And she always gives you chocolate milk, and you HATE chocolate milk.”
 - Act the role of the unfriendly volunteer. As you hand a kid the tray with chocolate milk, encourage him to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like as he takes the tray.

- Responses could include: thanking her, telling her you appreciate the time she spends volunteering, smiling, etc.
- Scene Three: Lay out a tablecloth or blanket. Give paper sacks to several kids. Say, “You are eating lunch with your friends; you have known each other a really long time and you are trying to figure out what to do at recess.”
 - Guide them to sit down and unpack their lunches and pretend to eat. Encourage them to have a “lunchtime” conversation.
 - As they are role playing, write on a piece of paper, “New Kid” and stick it to your shirt.
 - Grab a lunch sack and wander around looking for a place to sit down and eat.
 - See if any of the kids show you love.
 - If necessary, prompt them to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like to a new kid at school who doesn’t know anyone.
 - Responses could include: asking the new kid to sit and eat with them, including the new kid in the conversation, introducing themselves, etc.
- Scene Four: Say, “Now lunch is over and you are at recess. Three of your friends want to play kickball, and three kids you don’t know well want to play four square. You only have one ball.”
 - Hand kids a ball.
 - Encourage them to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like as they work out what to do at recess with kids they don’t know well.
 - Responses could include: all playing one activity and playing the other game at the next recess, doing “Rock, Paper, Scissors” to decide.
- Scene Five: Place three chairs in a row. Say, “You and your friend are sitting on the bus discussing your favorite movie when a girl who gets on your nerves sits down next to you and starts talking.”
 - Choose two kids to sit in two of the chairs.
 - Play the role of the annoying person and just start asking them questions or telling irrelevant stories.
 - Encourage the kids to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like when dealing with someone who is being annoying.
- Scene Six: Say, “You have a friend over after school. You and your friend are building a fortress and having a grand time. Your little brother wants to play, but you know he isn’t very good at putting blocks on the tower without knocking the whole thing over.”
 - Dump a bunch of blocks on the floor.
 - Encourage the kids to act out what LOVING OTHERS looks like in this situation.

What You Say:

“What did Jesus say is the greatest commandment? (*Love God with all your heart and soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself.*) You did a great job acting out ways to LIVE for God by loving others! It is easy to show love to your friends and family, but there will be times you will have to LIVE for God by showing love to people who aren’t friendly or who are annoying to you or who you may not know really well. God made us all in His image, and when you remember everyone matters to God, **[Bottom Line] you can LIVE for God by loving others**, especially in situations when it is hard to do.”

[Make It Personal] (Share a story about when someone who didn’t know you well showed you love. Maybe you were struggling to carry your groceries and they offered to help. Maybe you were new to a Bible study that had been meeting for years and the members made you feel welcome. Maybe you broke your arm and your neighbor shoveled snow out of your driveway for you. Or perhaps you just moved and the neighbors stopped by to introduce themselves to you.)

Amazing Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you have 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Finish this sentence: “When I think of love, the first thing that comes to mind is . . .”
- How can you tell when someone genuinely loves you?
- How might the world be different if everyone loved God first and showed unselfish love to others?
- When is it easiest for you to love others? When is it hard?
- How can you show love to people when it’s difficult?
- What’s one way you can focus on others this week?

ACTIVITY 2. Reflection

ALL SUPPLIES ARE IN BOX

What You Need: Mirrors, “Reflect Cards” (Activity Page), Bibles

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Tell teams to select one kid to be the actor.
- Give everyone a mirror, except for the actors.
- Explain teams will compete in a game of charades. To play:
 - All teams will be competing simultaneously.
 - Teams must have their back facing their team’s actor.
 - Kids will use the mirror to see their team’s actor.
 - Actors will act out words from the “Reflect Cards” without making a sound.
 - The first team to guess the word gets a point.
 - Switch actors each round, making sure everyone gets a chance to be an actor.
 - The team with the most points wins.
- When you are finished playing, gather kids in a circle.

What You Say:

“When you look in a mirror, what do you see? (*Encourage kids to look in the mirrors.*) You see yourself, right? But in our game of charades, if you focused on yourself, you couldn’t see the actor. It is like that when we want to LIVE for God. We have to look past ourselves and focus on ways to love others. When you look beyond yourselves, **[Bottom Line] you can LIVE for God by loving others.** But what does it look like to love others? Can anyone remember some of the ways Paul described love in our story today? (*To prompt kids, open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 and read verses 4-8a. Love is patient, kind, not selfish, not boastful, looks out for others, treats others with respect.*) When we love others and put others before ourselves, we are actually reflecting God’s love to them.”

ACTIVITY 3. Balloon Relay

SUPPLIES ARE IN BOX YOU HAVE TO BLOW UP BALLOONS AND ATTACH VERSES

What You Need: “Verse Balloons” (blow up balloons and tape a part of the verse to each balloon, cups, masking tape

What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams of three. Or you play with your child or you could time their fastest time
Note: In order to make teams of three, Leaders may also need to play.
- Give each team three cups.

- Create a line with masking tape.
- Instruct teams to place their cups on the line and to stand behind their cups.
- Across from the teams, dump out a container of balloons.
- Explain teams will compete in a relay race. To race:
 - Teams will race to collect all three sentences of the memory verse and set the balloons on their teams' cups in the correct order.
 - Kids can only touch the balloons with their elbows.
 - Kids can pick up the balloons using their elbows as "chopsticks."
 - Each kid from the team must pick up one balloon and set it on the cup.
 - The first team to set all three balloons on their teams' cups in the correct order wins.

What You Say:

"Let's say the verse together: *Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith (Hebrews 12:2 NIV).* When you focus on Jesus and take a closer look at the stories in the Bible, you see how Jesus lived for God by loving others. Jesus was kind to other people. Jesus looked out for other people. Jesus served other people. Jesus treated others with respect. *(Allow kids to give examples of how Jesus lived.)* The more you know Jesus, the more you know ways that **[Bottom Line] you can LIVE for God by loving others.**"

ACTIVITY 4. Wrap Up w Focus Notebooks and 3D glasses

What You Need: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) markers/pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook
- Encourage kids to use the 3D glasses and look on page 18 to read the Bottom Line for today.
- Ask kids to turn to page 19 in their Focus Notebooks.
- Ask kids to write on the top of page 19, "One way I can show love to someone this week is . . ." *Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.*
- Encourage kids to think of something they can do this week to love others.
- Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.

What You Say:

"When you take a closer look at the people around you, you see ways **[Bottom Line] you can LIVE for God by loving others.** Maybe you love others by encouraging them with a kind note, or you love others by baking them cookies to let them know you were thinking of them. Maybe you show love to a friend by helping them with homework or show love to your sibling by spending time with them. Spend time this week looking for ways **[Bottom Line] you can LIVE for God by loving others.** Let's pray.

"God, You love us so much! Every one of us is important to You! Help us to see ways we can love others. Open our eyes to ways we can show people they matter to us and—more importantly—that they matter to You. Amen!"

KIDS CAN NOW HAVE THEIR FOCUS BOOKS AND 3D GLASSES TO USE WHENEVER!