

WEEK

ONE

Preteen | W1

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus • *John 3:1-21*

Bottom Line

God loves the whole world.

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

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

| | |
|--|---------|
|  Offering Container | 1 |
|  Craft stick | 1 |
|  Small candy hearts | Several |

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a handful of candy hearts and one craft stick.
- Explain the challenge: Each kid is to place the end of a craft stick in their mouth. They have to see how many candy hearts they can stack on the end of their stick without dropping them.
- Give them a few minutes to try the challenge. It will be tricky and silly.
- Celebrate all attempts, whether they stack one heart or ten.

What You Say:

“That was really tough—and pretty funny to watch! Balancing those hearts took a lot of focus. We use hearts to talk about love all the time. **[Transition]** But in our true story from the Bible today, Jesus talked to a man named Nicodemus about a love that is way bigger than candy hearts. Jesus explained that God sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life—they will be His friend, forever. Let’s go hear about it!”

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask the group: "In the conversation we looked at today, Jesus tells Nicodemus that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world**. Just how big is the 'whole world'?"
- Ask the kids to guess these fun facts, then give them the answer.
 - How many countries are in the whole wide world? (*around 195*)
 - How many people are in the world? (*over 8 billion*)
 - How many different languages are spoken in the world? (*over 7,000*)
- Now, discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Nicodemus, who was a religious leader, might have had a hard time understanding that God's love was for *everyone*?
 - What makes it hard for us sometimes to believe that God loves the *whole* world—even people who are very different from us?
 - How does remembering that God loves everyone change the way you see people at your school or in your neighborhood?

What You Say:

"These numbers are mind-blowing! It's hard to even imagine that many people and places. But the most amazing truth from our story today is that God's love is big enough for every single one of them. Jesus gave Nicodemus a picture of His love by mentioning Moses lifting up a bronze snake in the desert. Just as people looked at the snake to live, Jesus would be lifted up on the cross to bring life to everyone who looks to Him. No matter where you live, what language you speak, or what you've done, God's love is for you. **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world!**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Imagine

What You Need

-  Pretend microphone (or a water bottle, marker, etc) 1
-  Service bell 1

What You Do:

- Say: "You are each going to have a turn being the host of your own online channel!"
- Pass the "microphone" to the first person.
- Place the service bell in the center of the circle.
- Instruct the kids to start by saying, "Welcome to my channel! Today we're talking about love!"
- Then, encourage them to complete the sentence: "This week I can show the love of Jesus by _____." (e.g., by sitting with someone who is alone at lunch, helping my brother with his chores without being asked, etc.)
- Instruct the kids to end their "show" by saying, "If you liked this video, make sure you hit the bell to like and subscribe!"
- Ring the bell for each kid and encourage the rest of the kids to do the same.
- Pass the microphone around the circle until everyone has had a turn.
- **[Make It Personal] Take a turn and share how you plan to show the love of Jesus this week**

What You Say:

"Those were all awesome ideas! You are all ready to be world-changers. Part of spreading Jesus' love is not just about talking about God's love but actually showing it.

"What are some ways you've seen God's love? (*Pause for responses.*) Recognizing ways you've seen God's love will help you do those things yourself. It can help you see God's goodness and give you ideas on how to share His love!

"Maybe someone forgave you when you did something wrong against them, and you can know that other people see God's love when you show forgiveness to someone.

"Maybe you saw God's love when someone helped you, and you can know that other people see God's love when you help someone.

"When we show love to others, we're sharing the good news that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world.** All you have to do is start by showing love to the people right in front of you."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night instead of during the day? What does that tell you about his curiosity or fears?
- Jesus said we need to be “born again.” What do you think that means in your own words, and how might your life look different if you let God’s Spirit make you new?
- John 3:16 says God loved the whole world. What are some groups of people or kinds of situations where it’s hardest for you to believe God loves equally—and why?
- Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to the wind—you can’t see it, but you can see what it does. Can you think of a time when you saw evidence of God’s Spirit working in you or someone else?
- Nicodemus had a lot of questions for Jesus, but he didn’t avoid Jesus—he went right to Him with his questions. What does this story teach you about bringing your doubts or questions to God?

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

What You Need

-  Bibles Several
-  Large piece of butcher paper or poster board 1
-  Coloring supplies Several

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 13:34 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Lay the large paper out on a table or the floor (ensure everyone can reach it).
- Write the verse clearly one time in the center of the paper as a reference.
- Challenge the kids to turn the poster into "Verse Graffiti." They should fill the remaining

What You Say:

"This looks incredible! You took Jesus' command and made it your own. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus taught us that we must be 'born again.' That's not always easy to grasp, but it's the core of what Jesus asked him—and us—to understand. When we follow Jesus, there's a huge change on the inside! And then with that changed inside, we are to live out this verse! And God will help us with His Spirit inside of us!"

February - Week 1

space by rewriting the verse in different ways: huge letters, tiny letters, sideways, drawing symbols (like a heart for "Love" or an arrow for "command"), or using creative fonts.

- Display the finished poster prominently in your small group space

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Allow students to collaborate on a single section or use different colors to express their individual understanding of the verse.*

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

- 👤 Prepared Prayer Journals (from the Prayer Journal Activity Page) 1
- 👤 Coloring supplies Several
- 👤 Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity Page 1

What You Do:

- Give each kid a prayer journal. Set out the coloring supplies.
- Explain that this will be their personal journal for the month to talk to God.
- Encourage the kids to write their names on the front page of their Prayer Journal.
- Instruct the kids to open their journal to page 2 that says, "God Loves the Whole World."
 - *Optional: If you are using the paper instead of the prayer journal, instruct kids to write: "God Loves the Whole World" at the top of the page, and continue the prayer activity as written.*
- Challenge the kids to spend a few minutes quietly writing or drawing pictures of people and places that remind them that **[Bottom Line] God loves the whole world.** They could write "my family," "my friends," "people in Japan," or draw a picture of the earth.
- After a few minutes of quiet reflection, close in prayer.
- Let the kids know they'll add to their journal each week.
- Keep the prayer journals in a safe place for the following weeks.

What You Say:

"It's incredible to stop and think about just how big God's love is. Let's thank Him for that love together.

"God, thank You for loving the whole world. Thank You for loving me. It's the most amazing news ever. Help me not to just know that You love everyone, but to show it in the way I treat people this week. Help me to love others just like You have loved me. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

What to Do:

Print on 8 1/2-inch x 14-inch paper.
One for every kid.

"Prayer Journal" Activity Page

February 2026, Week 1, Small Group Preteen
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PRAYER JOURNAL



FRONT

2

GOD LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD.



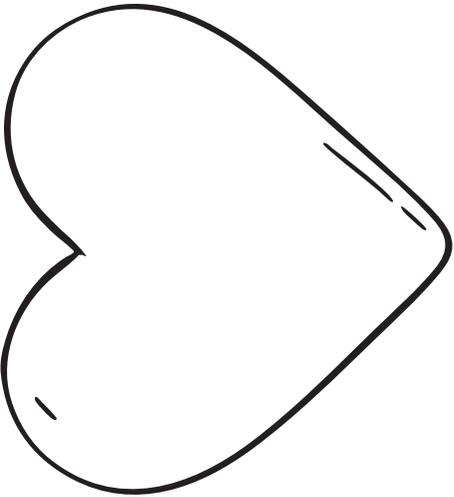
LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE
SHARE **THE LOVE** OF JESUS



BACK

3

LOVE GOD.



4

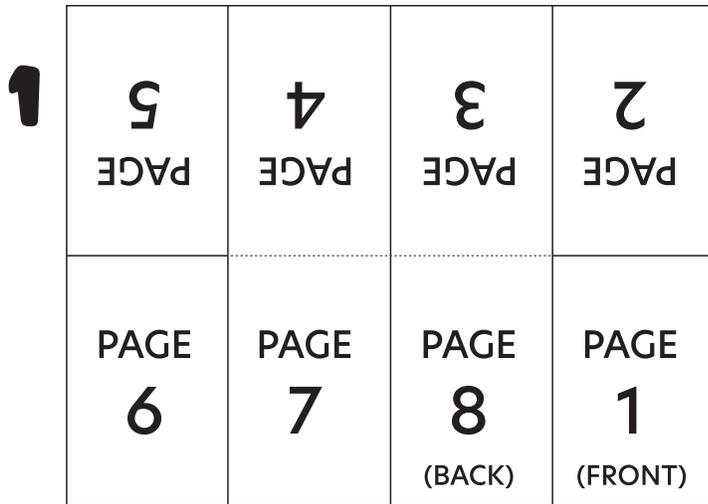
LOVE OTHERS.

9

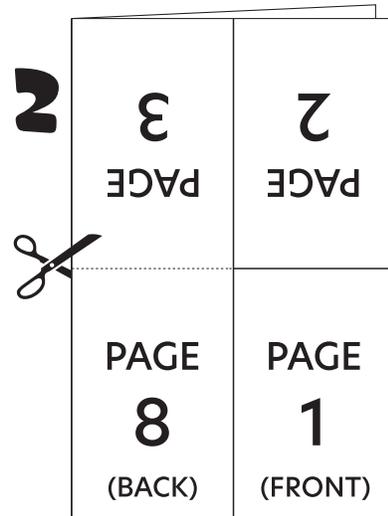
SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

5

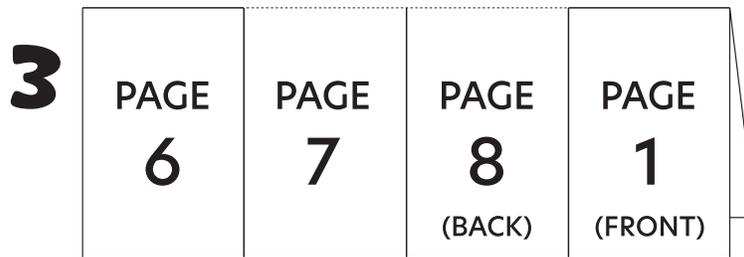
THE LOVE OF JESUS CAN CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER.



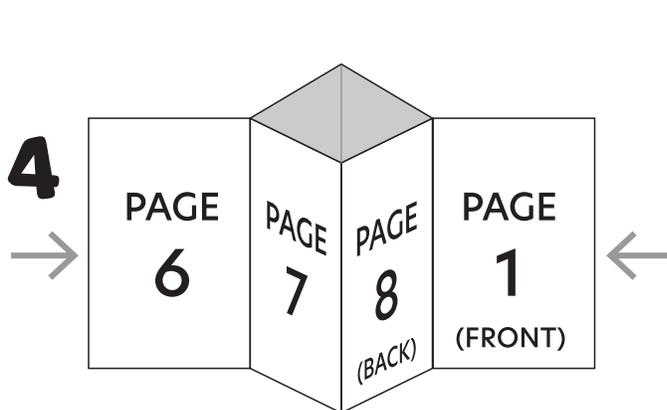
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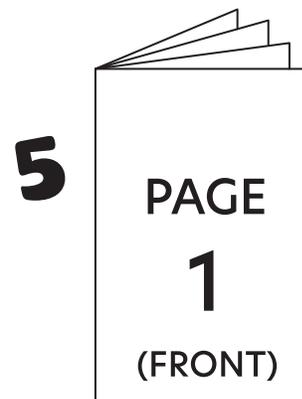
Fold paper in half, then cut along the dotted line as shown above.



Open and fold lengthwise.



Push in on both ends.



Fold the book and close.

WEEK

TWO

Preteen | W2

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review

Application Activity

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Move

What You Need

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 👤 Offering Container | 1 |
| 👤 Chairs | Several |

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Arrange the chairs in a circle, facing in, with one fewer chair than there are kids.
- Instruct one kid to stand in the middle.
- Instruct the kid in the middle to ask someone who is seated, "Do you love your neighbor?"
- If the person answers, "Yes, I love my neighbor," the two people sitting on either side of them must get up and swap seats before the person in the middle can take one of their chairs.
- If the person answers, "No," they must follow up with, "But I love everyone who ..." and name a characteristic (e.g., is wearing blue, has a pet dog).
- Everyone in the circle who has that characteristic must get up and find a new, empty chair. The kid in the middle also tries to find a chair.
- Whoever is left without a chair is the new kid in the middle.

What You Say:

"That was a chaotic and also a fun way to talk about loving our neighbors! It gets you moving, for sure. [Transition] In our Bible Story today, a law expert asked Jesus a trick question. Jesus answered in a way that involves loving our neighbor. Let's go find out what He said!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect

What You Need

-  EveryChild Supplies: Whiteboard 1
-  EveryChild Supplies: Dry erase marker 1

What You Do:

- Start by asking: "What is your favorite thing to do? What is a talent or hobby you have?"
- After a few kids share, transition the conversation by asking: "How can you use that thing you love to do to love God or love others?"
- Give them some examples to get them thinking:
 - "If you love to draw, how could you use that to love God or others?" (You can draw a picture for someone who is sad; you can create art for the church)
 - "If you love playing video games, how could you use that to love others?" (You can be a good sport online; you can invite a new kid to play with you)
 - "If you love to bake, how could you use that to love God or others?" (You can make cookies for a neighbor; you can thank God for the food He provides.)
- Let the kids brainstorm and share their own creative ideas.

What You Say:

"These are incredible ideas! It shows that 'loving God' and 'loving others' isn't just something we do at church. We can do it everywhere, using the exact talents and interests God gave us. Jesus took the massive list of laws and simplified them down to two. Jesus said the most important commandment and the second most important are: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV).

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Create a visual mind map on a whiteboard, with "Love God/Love others" in the center. As kids share their hobbies, write them down and draw lines connecting them to the center, adding their ideas for how they connect.
- If a student struggles to think of a talent, have the group offer positive suggestions about what they see as that person's strengths.

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Play

What You Need

| | |
|---|---------|
|  Clipboard | 1 |
|  Paper | Several |
|  Marker | 1 |
|  Optional: Blindfold or eye mask | 1 |

What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to be the “artist.” Give them a clipboard with paper and a marker. Blindfold them or tell them to close their eyes.
- Tell the rest of the group that you are going to give a secret phrase to get the artist to draw. Encourage the group that they are to guess what the artist is drawing once the artist has finished their drawing.
- Whisper the first phrase to the artist. (Someone is eating lunch alone, so you go eat with them.)
- After they finish (or give it a good try), let the artist see what they drew.
- Show the rest of the group the illustration and invite them to guess what it is.
- After some guesses, share the topic of the illustration.
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Someone fell and you helped them up.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Sharing a snack with someone.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Singing songs to worship God.)
- Choose a new artist and repeat the activity with the new phrase. (Showing someone how to play a game.)

What You Say:

“That was really challenging! Loving God and loving others can sometimes feel like that—it’s not always easy. Jesus tells us this is our main goal, and He said that if we focus on loving God and loving others, then we’ll be living how He wants us to live. We can also show love to others by being kind to someone who has been rude to us or by giving words of encouragement. We can all love God and love others every single day.”

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Create

What You Need

| | |
|---|---|
|  Bible | 1 |
|  Prepared "Memory Verse Puzzle" Activity Page in a zip-top bag | 1 |

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 13:34 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Encourage the kids to set the Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two groups.
- Give each group a zip-top bag containing pieces from the "Memory Verse Puzzle" Activity Page.
- Challenge the kids to pour out the pieces, and be the first group to put the verse in the correct order.
- Recite the verse together as a group once everyone has finished.

What You Say:

"Great job putting all the words to our Memory Verse in order! 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."

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- 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 those “nudges” during your day, and what's one practical way you could respond when you sense one?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from 1 Week 1 with their names on them
-  Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend Week 1
-  Coloring supplies
-  Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity Page

What You Do:

- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Give each kid their "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from the previous week.
 - If a new kid attends this week who didn't attend the week previously, give them a blank "Prayer Journal" Activity Page and instruct them to write their name on the front.
- Encourage the kids to turn to page 3 in their "Prayer Journal."
- On the "Love God." page (page 3), encourage the kids to write or draw one specific way they can show love to God this week (e.g., spend 5 minutes praying each day, sing loudly during worship, thank Him for my family).
- After a few minutes, direct the kids to turn to page 4 of their "Prayer Journal"—the "Love others." page.
- On the "Love others." page, encourage the kids to write or draw one specific way they can show love to someone else (e.g., help my sister with her homework, invite the new kid to sit with me, don't argue with my parents).
 - Optional: If using a blank piece of paper instead of the "Prayer Journals," instruct the kids to create two columns on their page. Label one "Love God" and the other "Love others," and follow the prayer directions above.
- Give the kids a few minutes of quiet to work and reflect.

What You Say:

"These are awesome, practical game plans for loving God and others this week. Let's ask God to help us follow through.

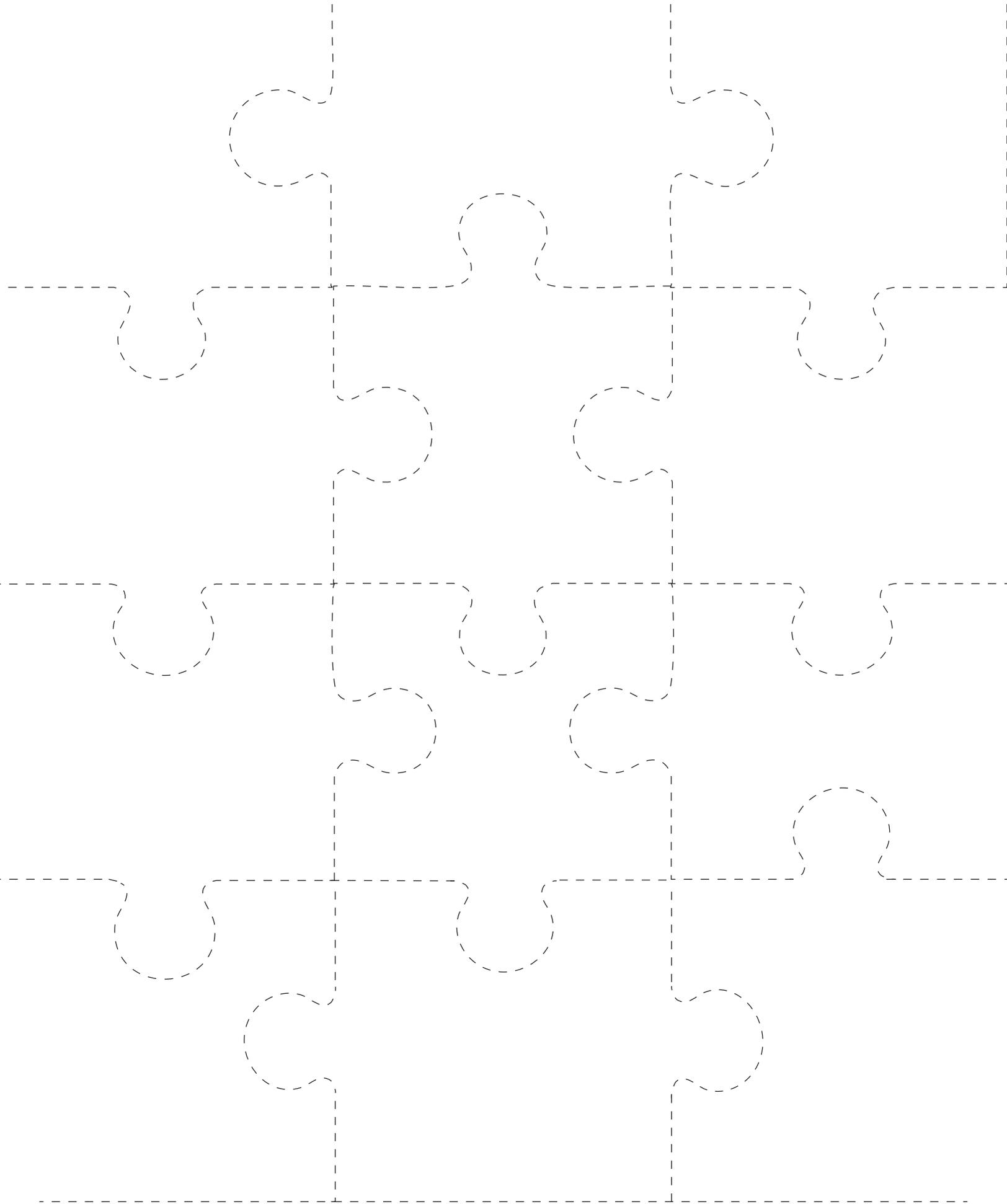
"God, thank You for making it so simple. Thank You for showing us that what matters most is loving You and loving the people around us. Please help us with the things we wrote in our journals today. Give us the strength and the courage to love like Jesus this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

February - Week 2

- Let the kids know they'll add to their journal each week.
- Collect the prayer journals and keep them in a safe place for the following weeks.
- Close in prayer.

**"I give you
a new command.
Love one another.
You must love
one another,
just as I
have loved you."**

John 13:34 NIrV



What to Do:
Print on cardstock and cut.
Two sets for each Small Group.

"Memory Verse Puzzle" Activity Page
February 2026, Week 2, Small Group Preteen
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What to Do:

Print on 8 1/2-inch x 14-inch paper.
One for every kid.

"Prayer Journal" Activity Page

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PRAYER JOURNAL



FRONT

2

GOD LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD.



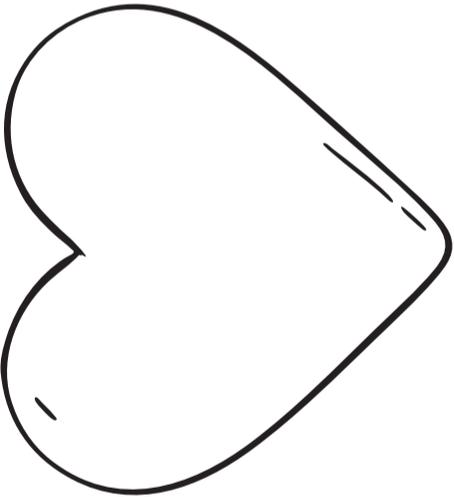
LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE
SHARE **THE LOVE** OF JESUS



BACK

3

LOVE GOD.



4

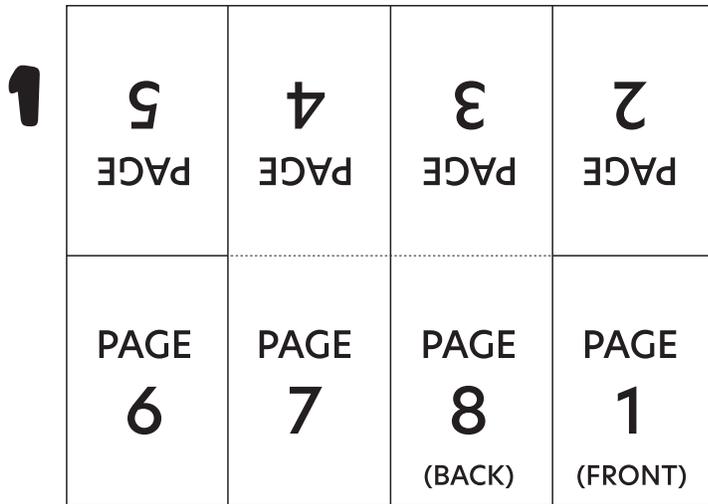
LOVE OTHERS.

9

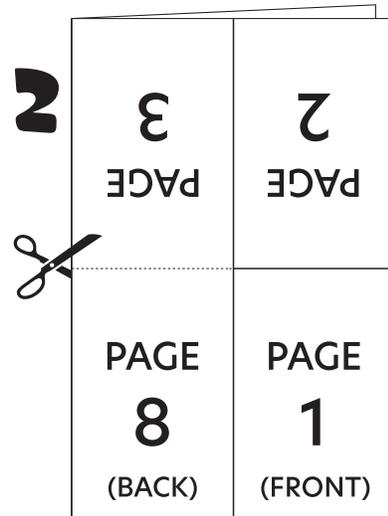
SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

5

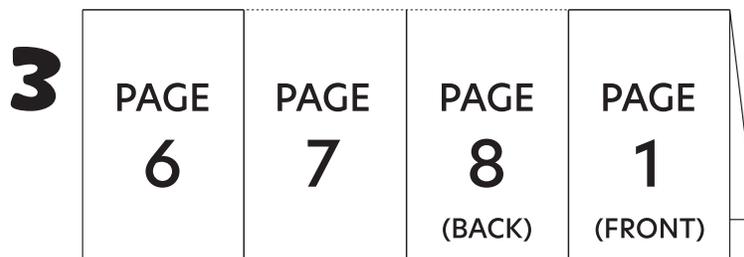
THE LOVE OF JESUS CAN CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER.



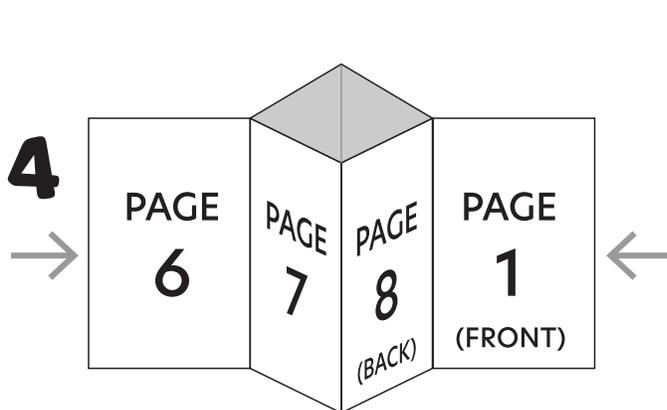
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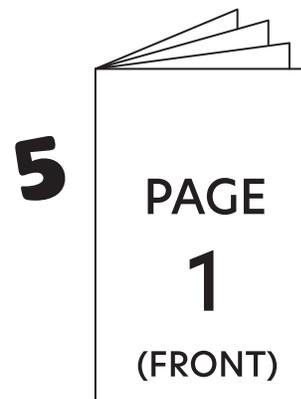
Fold paper in half, then cut along the dotted line as shown above.



Open and fold lengthwise.



Push in on both ends.



Fold the book and close.

WEEK

THREE

Preteen | W3

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Like It or Not (K-1st grade), Unbox the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)

Application Activity: Change for the Better Hanger (K-1st grade),

Respond with Love (2nd-3rd grade),

Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Voice the Verse (K-1st grade), Draw the Verse

(2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Bottom Line

The love of Jesus changes people.

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

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

| | |
|---|---------|
|  Offering Container | 1 |
|  Chopsticks | Several |
|  Bowls | Several |
|  Candy hearts (or small foam hearts) | Several |

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team two bowls—one filled with hearts and one empty—and one pair of chopsticks. Place the bowls two feet apart.
- Explain that this is a race.
- The first kid on each team is to use the chopsticks to pick up one heart, and move it to the empty bowl. They are not allowed to use their hands, only the chopsticks.
- If they drop the heart, instruct them to pick it back up with the chopsticks and try again.
- After they drop their heart in the bowl, direct the first kid to pass the chopsticks to the next kid.
- The first team to move all of their hearts to the new bowl wins.

What You Say:

"Nice work! That required some serious skill and concentration.

[Transition] In our true story from the Bible today, a man named Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who was focused on gaining more and more money. He was very good at taking money from people. But when he met Jesus, his focus completely changed, and he wanted to make things right."

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Play

What You Need

- Prepared bottle of water with "Zacchaeus" label

1

What You Do:

- Ask: "What was the biggest change you saw in Zacchaeus after he met Jesus?" (*He went from selfish and greedy to generous and fair.*)
- Show the group the water bottle. Tell them this is the "Zacchaeus Bottle Flip Challenge."
- Let kids take turns trying to flip the water bottle and have it land standing up.
- Explain that just like flipping the water bottle can completely change its position, Jesus' love completely flipped Zacchaeus's life around.
- Discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Jesus chose to spend time with Zacchaeus when everyone else disliked him?
 - How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by name and wanted to come to his house?
 - What does this story show you about how Jesus sees people—especially those who have made wrong choices?

What You Say:

"It's amazing to think about how much Zacchaeus changed in one day. Jesus didn't condemn him or order him to pay everyone back. Jesus simply made it clear how much He loved him. Jesus looked up into the sycamore-fig tree and said, '*Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today*' (Luke 19:5 NIV). That love transformed him from the inside out. Zacchaeus went from being someone nobody trusted to someone who was making things right and being generous, promising to pay back four times the amount he took. It's proof that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Imagine

What You Need

-  Whiteboard and dry-erase marker (or large paper and marker) 1

What You Do:

- Tell the group that you're going to create a "Top Ten" list together.
- The title of the list is: "Top Ten Ways to Share the Love of Jesus." Write that across the top of the board.
- Challenge the group to brainstorm a list of ten practical, everyday ways they can show Jesus' love to the people around them.
- Write their ideas on the board. Encourage them to be specific.
 - Instead of "be nice," maybe "invite someone new to sit with my group at lunch."
 - Instead of "help people," maybe "ask my parents if I can help with a chore before they ask me."
- Keep brainstorming until you have a solid list of ten great ideas.

What You Say:

"This is an incredible list that we can put into action. Zacchaeus didn't just feel bad about his choices; he made a plan to change. He took action. The people in the crowd who saw Jesus go to a 'sinner's' house didn't understand. But Jesus said He, the Son of Man, came to look for the lost and save them. Every item on this list is a way to show that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

What You Need

| | |
|--|---|
|  Bible | 1 |
|  Paper | 4 |
|  Marker | 1 |
|  Tape | 1 |



EveryChild Tips

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- Pair students up so they can travel to the corners together, providing support and encouragement.
- Make sure you place the numbers in accessible locations for all kids.

What You Do:

- Write the numbers 1 through 4 on the paper.
- Tape one paper in each corner of the room or in your small group space.
- Open the Bible and read John 13:34 to the group.
- Instruct the kids to start in the middle of the room/space.
- Tell them to move to a corner while you count to ten.
- Call out "Corner 1!" and instruct the kids in Corner 1 to say the Memory Verse together.
- Direct the kids to return to the middle of the room/space.
- Tell them to move to a corner while you count to ten.
- Call out "Corner 3!" and instruct the kids in Corner 3 to say the Memory Verse together.
- Continue to play as time allows.

What You Say:

"Great job! You were all over the room for that one. Jesus' command to love is something that should follow us everywhere we go. Jesus showed Zacchaeus unconditional love and gave him an opportunity to make things right. When we obey that command to love others, we see that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to see Jesus. What do you think made him so eager to see Jesus—and what might that say about what was missing in his life?
- Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and wanted to spend time with him, even though others called Zacchaeus a “sinner.” What does this teach you about how Jesus sees people who have messed up or feel left out?
- Zacchaeus didn’t just feel loved—he changed. Why do you think experiencing Jesus’ love made Zacchaeus want to make things right instead of being told to?
- The crowd judged Zacchaeus and whispered about him, but Jesus chose kindness. When have you seen someone judged by others, and how could you respond more like Jesus in that kind of moment?
- The story says that the love of Jesus changes people. How has knowing that Jesus loves you—no matter what—changed the way you see yourself or treat others?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from 1 previous weeks with their names on them
-  Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend previous weeks Several
-  Coloring supplies Several
-  Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity 1

What You Do:

- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Give each kid their "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from the previous week.
 - If a new kid attends this week who didn't attend previously, give them a blank "Prayer Journal" Activity Page and instruct them to write their name on the front.
- Encourage the kids to turn to page 5 in their "Prayer Journal."
 - *Optional: If you are opting not to use the Prayer Journal,* give each kid a piece of paper, and instruct them to write "The Love of Jesus Can Change Things for the Better." along the top. Then follow the prayer prompts below.
- Invite the kids to think about one area in their own life, or in the world, that they wish could be changed for the better, and write or draw about that situation in their journal.
- After they've had a moment to write or draw, encourage the kids to take a moment to pray, inviting Jesus to bring His love into that situation. (e.g., "Jesus, please help my friend who is sad," or "Jesus, please help me to be more patient with my brother.")
- Let the kids know they'll add to their journal each week.
- Collect the prayer journals and keep them in a safe place for the following weeks.

What You Say:

"Zacchaeus's story shows us that no situation is too broken for Jesus' love to fix. He can change hearts, and He can change situations. We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's love and show us ways to love others. Let's trust Him with the things we wrote down or drew today.

"God, thank You for the incredible story of Zacchaeus. It's a powerful reminder that Your love can change absolutely anything for the better. Please help in the situations we wrote about in our journals. We believe that You can bring Your love and peace into each one. Help us to be part of that change by showing Your love to others this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

| | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Offering Container | 1 |
| 2. Chopsticks | Several |
| 3. Bowls | Several |
| 4. Candy hearts (or small foam hearts) | Several |

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Play

| | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Prepared bottle of water with "Zacchaeus" label | 1 |

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Imagine

| | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Whiteboard and dry-erase marker (or large paper and marker) | 1 |

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Move

| | Quantity |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. Bible | 1 |
| 2. Paper | 4 |
| 3. Marker | 1 |
| 4. Tape | 1 |

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

| | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from previous weeks with their names on them | 1 |
| 2. Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend previous weeks | Several |
| 3. Coloring supplies | Several |
| 4. Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity | 1 |



What to Do:
Copy on Avery® Labels #22845 or equivalent.
One label for each Small Group.

What to Do:

Print on 8 1/2-inch x 14-inch paper.
One for every kid.

"Prayer Journal" Activity Page

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PRAYER JOURNAL



FRONT

2

GOD LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD.



SHARE **THE LOVE** OF JESUS

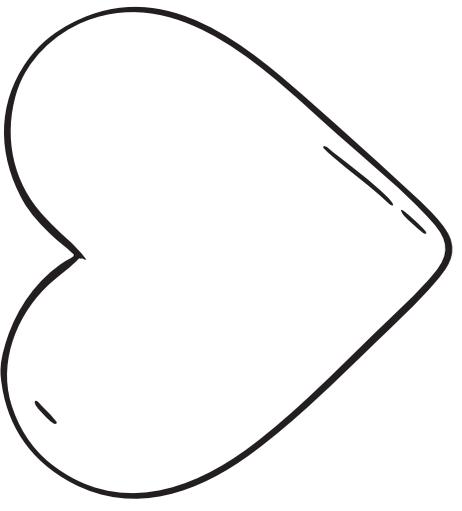
LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE



BACK

3

LOVE GOD.



4

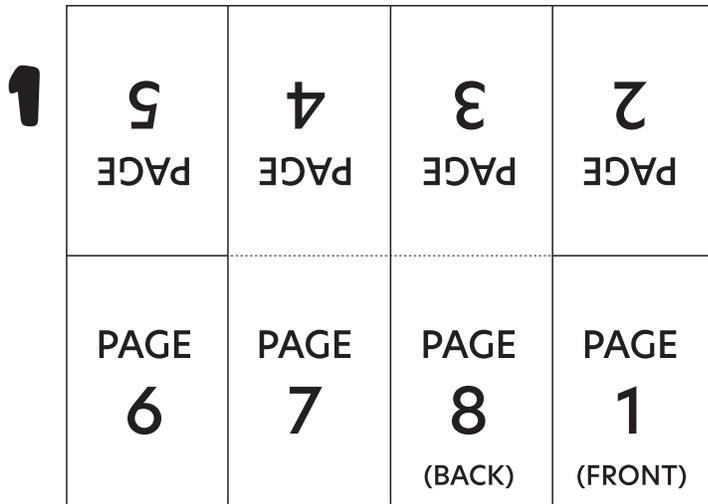
LOVE OTHERS.

6

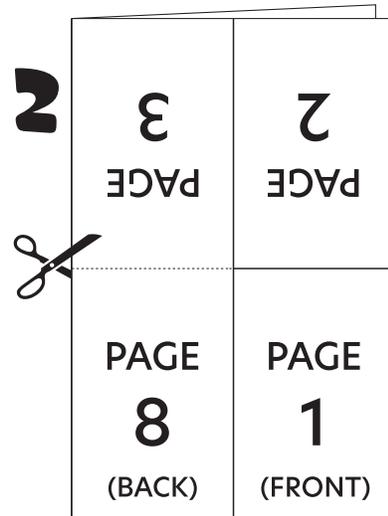
SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

5

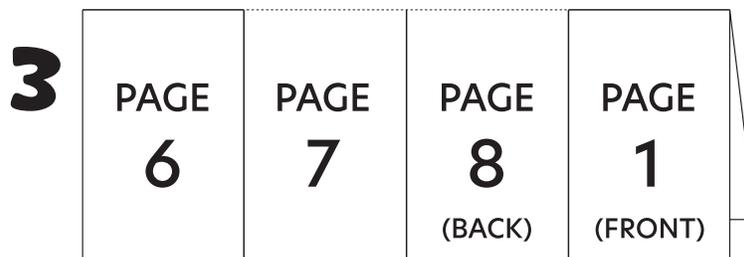
THE LOVE OF JESUS CAN CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER.



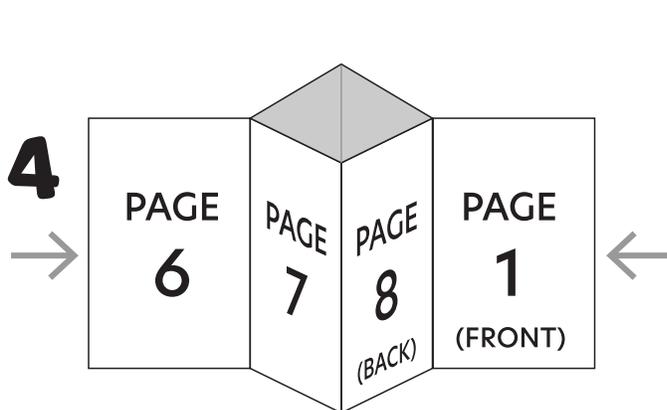
Fold paper on all lines then open.



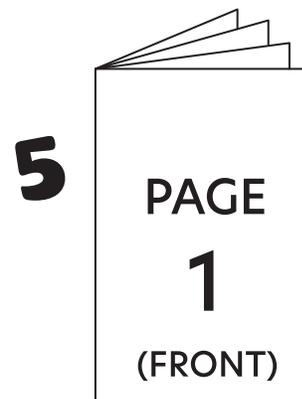
Fold paper in half, then cut along the dotted line as shown above.



Open and fold lengthwise.



Push in on both ends.



Fold the book and close.

WEEK

FOUR

Preteen | W4

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Application Activity

Bible Story Review

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Activity

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter and a Suffering Woman • *Mark 5:21-43*

Conversation Starter

How can you show love to others?

Bottom Line

Jesus shows love to people in need.

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

5 min

Social

5 min

Preteen Social Activity | Made to Play

What You Need

- 👤 Offering Container 1
- 👤 Foam hearts Several

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Encourage two kids to sit facing each other, about an arm's length apart.
- Place a foam heart on the floor between them.
- Explain you are going to play "Boom, Clap, Snatch."
- Explain that when you say "Boom" everyone should slap the floor/table.
- Explain that when you say "Clap" everyone should clap once.
- Explain that when you say "Snatch" everyone should try to grab the heart.
- The kid who grabs the heart first, wins!
- Begin the game by calling out a command (Boom, Clap, or Snatch)
- The kids must do the action you call out.
- If a kid snatches the heart when you didn't say, "Snatch," the other kid wins.
- Let the winners compete with one another.

What You Say:

"That game takes some serious focus and quick reflexes! You have to be ready to act when the moment is right. **[Transition]** In our story today, we'll see Jesus act with love and power to help two people who were in desperate need. Let's go hear about it!"

5 min

Bible Story Review

5 min

Preteen – Bible Story Extension | Made to Connect

What You Need

- 👤 Whiteboard and dry-erase marker (or 1 large paper and marker)

What You Do:

- Draw a Venn diagram (two large overlapping circles) on the board. Label one circle "Jairus's Daughter" and the other "The Sick Woman."
- Ask the group to help you fill in the diagram by comparing and contrasting the two people Jesus helped in the story.
 - **Jairus's Daughter circle:** young, had an important father, people were mourning for her, Jesus took her by the hand
 - **The Sick Woman circle:** had been sick for 12 years, had no money left, was an outcast, reached out to Jesus in secret
 - **Overlapping section:** Both were in great need, both were healed by Jesus' power, both had someone who had faith (Jairus and the sick woman herself)
- Afterfilling out the diagram, discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Jesus stopped to talk to the woman, even though He was in a hurry to get to Jairus's house?
 - What does this story teach you about how Jesus sees people who are hurting or in need?
 - What can we learn from Jesus' example about how we should treat people?

What You Say:

"It's really interesting to see how different these two situations were, but how Jesus responded with the same love and power. Jairus's daughter was dying, and the sick woman had been an outcast for years. It didn't matter if you were the daughter of an important leader or a woman who was weak and alone. Jesus saw their need. The woman felt her suffering was over instantly after she touched Jesus' clothing. That's our example. God wants us to have eyes to see the needs around us and be ready to **[Bottom Line] show the love of Jesus to people in need.**"

5 min

Application Activity

5 min

Preteen – Take a Snapshot | Made to Create

What You Need

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
|  | "Love Game" Activity Page | 1 |
|  | "Love Game Folding Instructions" Activity Page | 1 |
|  | Scissors | 1 |
|  | Coloring supplies | Several |

What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Love Game" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
- Guide them through the process of cutting it, coloring it, and folding it using the "Love Game Folding Instructions" Activity Page.
- Once it's folded, encourage the kids to look at the different sections.
- Let them play with the cootie catchers with a partner. One person picks a letter, spells it out while opening and closing the cootie catcher, picks a number, counts it out, and then reads the message of love inside.

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Folding cootie catchers can be tricky. Work through it step-by-step as a group, and be ready to offer individual help. Pairing kids up can also be very effective.*

What You Say:

"These are fun, but they're also packed with truth! All of these messages point us back to the love of Jesus. In our story, Jesus didn't just feel sorry for the people in need; He did something about it. He stepped in and showed love in a powerful way. For the woman, Jesus stopped because He wanted to look in her eyes and speak with her. For the girl, He used the Aramaic words, 'Talitha koum!' meaning, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!' (Mark 5:41 NIV). This cootie catcher can be a reminder and a tool for you this week to think of ways you can **[Bottom Line] show the love of Jesus to people in need.**"

5 min

Memory Verse Activity

5 min

Preteen – Verses to Take with You | Made to Play

What You Need

| | |
|---|---|
|  Bibles | 2 |
|  "Paper Airplane Instructions" Activity Page | 1 |
|  Paper, two colors | 8 |
|  Writing supplies | 1 |

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up John 13:34 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Encourage the kids to set the Bibles aside.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give one team four sheets of one color of paper, and the other four sheets of a different color.
- Instruct the teams to write part of the Memory Verse on each piece of paper. (Make sure both teams create four pieces of paper with each of the following written on a paper.)
 - I give you a new command

What You Say:

"Awesome job! You worked together to get that verse assembled. Jesus' command to love one another is a message we should want to 'launch' into the world. It's the best news! The woman in the story had faith that healed her, and Jesus told Jairus, 'Don't be afraid. Just believe' (Mark 5:36 NIV) even after his daughter had died. We can share that love by being there for people, just like Jesus was there for the people in our story. We can **[Bottom Line] show the love of Jesus to people in need.**"

February - Week 4

- Love one another.
- You must love one another,
 - just as I have loved you. —John 13:34
- Set out the “Paper Airplane Instructions” Activity Page and instruct the kids to fold the four pieces of paper into a paper airplane following the instruction sheet.
- Instruct the two teams to stand on opposite sides of the room holding their four paper airplanes.
- Try to make sure every kid on each team has at least one paper airplane.
- On “Go,” encourage everyone to launch their team’s paper airplanes toward the other side.
- Once all the planes have been flown, kids on each team are to collect the planes that landed on their side.
- Encourage kids to work together as a team to unfold the planes and put the Memory Verse in the correct order.
- The first team to assemble the verse wins

5 min

Discussion Questions

5 min

Preteen Discussion Questions

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Jesus stopped to help the woman even though He was already on His way to heal Jairus' daughter. What does that tell you about what's important to Jesus—and how can that change the way you think about interruptions in your own life?
- The woman who touched Jesus' clothes had been suffering for 12 years. Why do you think Jesus wanted her to come forward and tell her story instead of just letting her be healed in secret?
- When people told Jairus his daughter was dead, Jesus said, *"Don't be afraid. Just believe"* (Mark 5:36 NIV). What do you think it means to "just believe" when everything feels hopeless or scary?
- Both the woman and Jairus had to push through fear and take a step of faith to reach Jesus. Can you think of a time when you needed to show faith or courage to ask God for help—or to help someone else?
- Jesus made time for people in need, even when others thought it was too late or too small. How can you make time in your own day to notice people who might need love, encouragement, or help?

5 min

Prayer

5 min

Preteen – Make It Personal with Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  Kids' "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from 1 previous weeks with their names on them
-  Extra "Prayer Journal" Activity Pages for kids who didn't attend previous weeks Several
-  Coloring supplies Several
-  Optional: Paper in place of the "Prayer Journal" Activity Page 1

What You Do:

- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Give each kid their "Prayer Journal" Activity Page from the previous week.
 - If a new kid attends this week who didn't attend the previous weeks, give them a blank "Prayer Journal" Activity Page and instruct them to write their name on the front.
- Encourage the kids to turn to page 6 in their "Prayer Journal."
 - *Optional: If using paper instead of the "Prayer Journal," give each kid a piece of paper and instruct them to write: "Show the Love of Jesus to People in Need." Follow the prayer prompts below.*
- Invite the kids to think about a person or a group of people they know who are in need. It could be someone who is sick, someone who is lonely, or a family that is struggling.
- Instruct them to write that person's name or situation in their journal.
- Underneath, encourage the kids to write a simple, one-sentence prayer, asking Jesus to show His love to that person or in that situation. (e.g., "Jesus, please comfort my grandma," or "Jesus, please provide for the homeless people in our city.")
- Give the kids a few minutes of quiet to pray for what they wrote about.
-

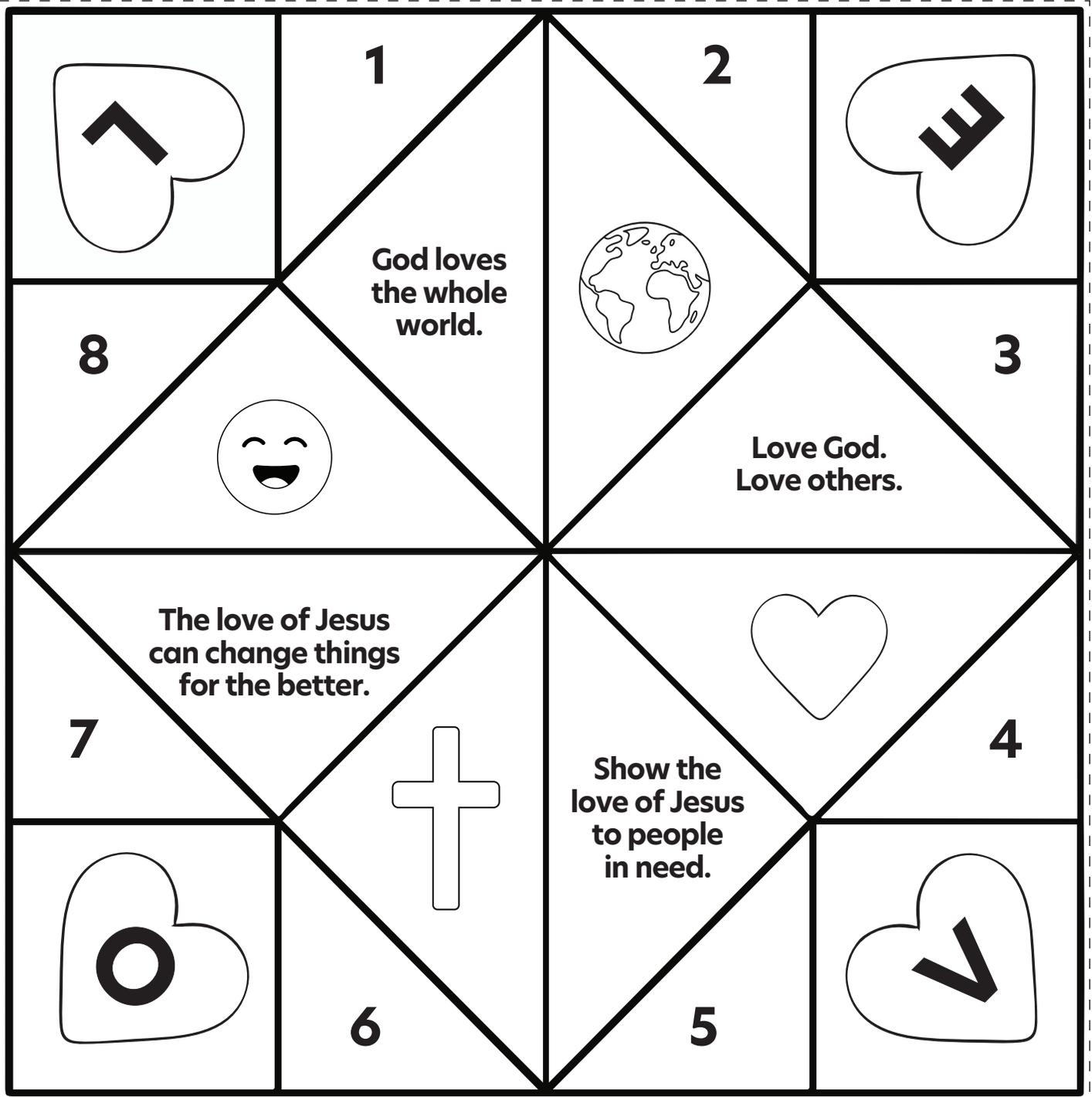
What You Say:

"It's powerful when we take the time to bring the needs of others to God. He hears every one of these prayers. Jesus is loving, and He shows love to people in need. He never saw them as an interruption; He saw them as important. Let's close by praying for our whole group.

"God, thank You for the way Jesus always stopped to care for people in need. He never saw them as an interruption; He saw them as important. Help us to have eyes like Jesus. Show us the people around us who need Your love this week. Give us the courage to not just walk by, but to stop and show them Your love in a real way. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

February - Week 4

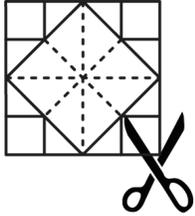
Encourage the kids to take their "Prayer Journal" home and encourage them to show God's love by praying for people.



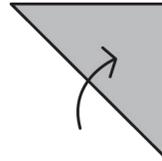
- Choose one of the outside flaps.
- Spell the word while the person holding the cootie catcher moves it open and close according to the number of letters in the word.
- Choose an inner flap number and move it open and closed according to the number selected.
- Open the flap, read and discuss how to implement it in their lives.

What to Do:
 Print on paper.
 One for every kid.

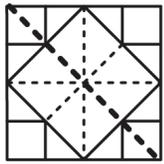
Folding Instructions



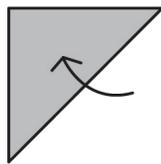
Cut out the square.



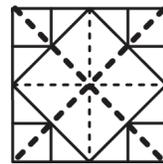
Fold over.



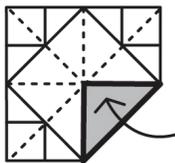
Unfold.



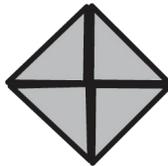
Fold over.



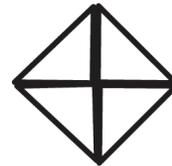
Unfold.



Fold all 4 Corners to Center.



So it Looks Like This.



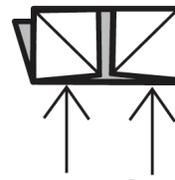
Keep Folds Together & Turn Over.



Now Fold All the Corners in Again.

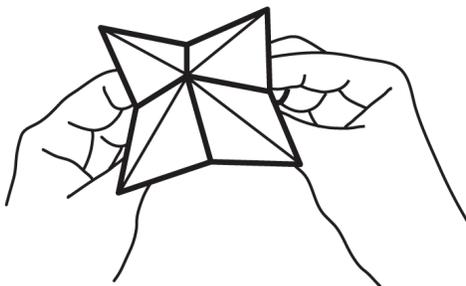


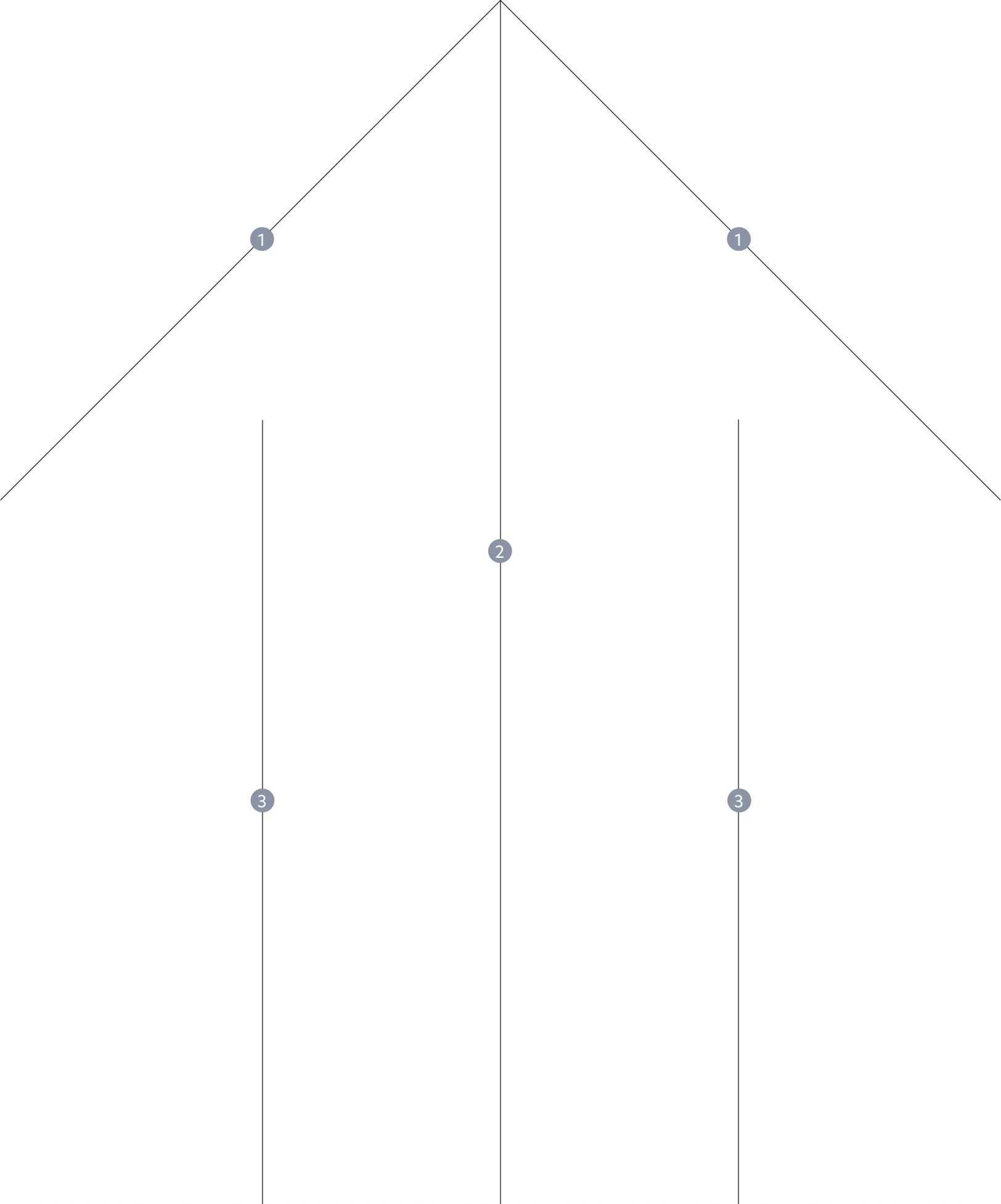
Until it Looks Like This.



insert fingers in pockets

Fold in half inwards.





What to Do:
Print on paper.
One for each Small Group.

"Paper Airplane Instructions" Activity Page
February 2026, Week 4, Small Group Preteen
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What to Do:

Print on 8 1/2-inch x 14-inch paper.
One for every kid.

"Prayer Journal" Activity Page

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PRAYER JOURNAL



FRONT

2

GOD LOVES THE WHOLE WORLD.



SHARE **THE LOVE** OF JESUS

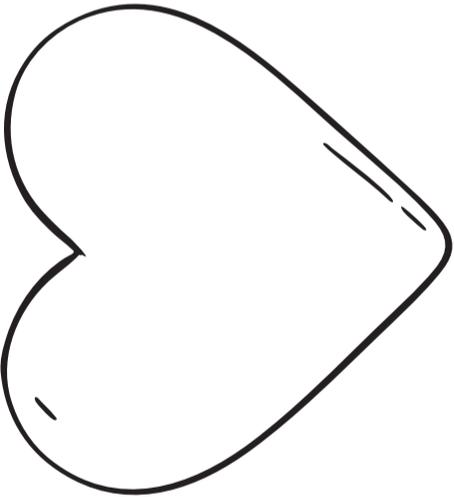
LIKE AND SUBSCRIBE



BACK

3

LOVE GOD.



4

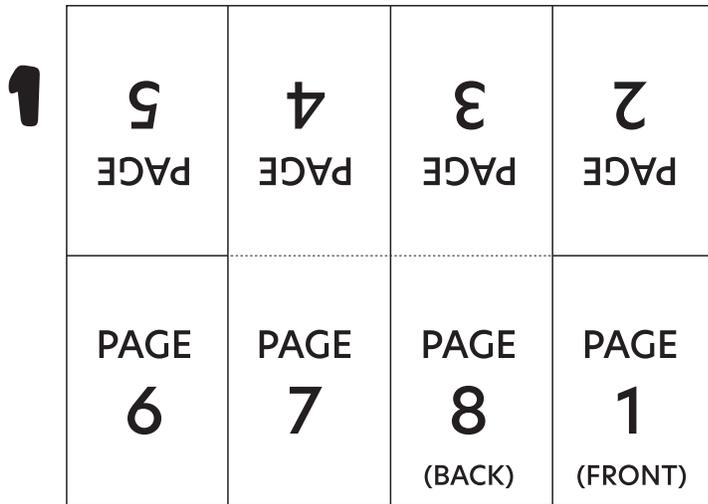
LOVE OTHERS.

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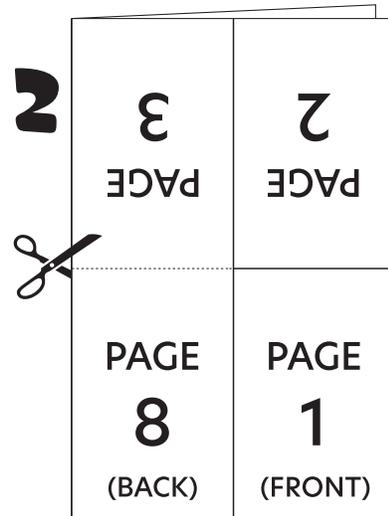
SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS TO PEOPLE IN NEED.

5

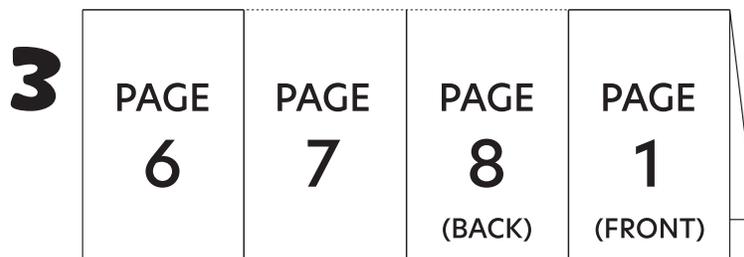
THE LOVE OF JESUS CAN CHANGE THINGS FOR THE BETTER.



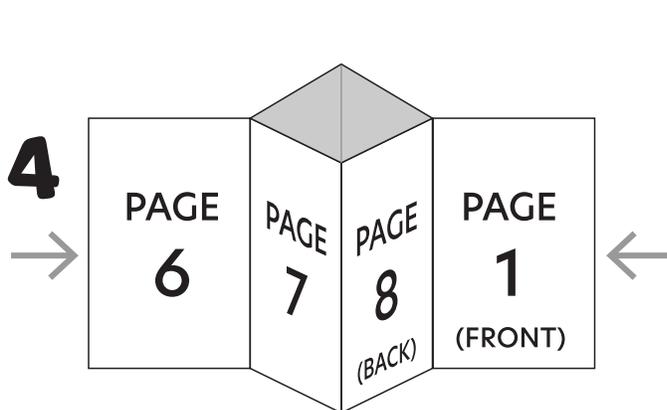
Fold paper on all lines then open.



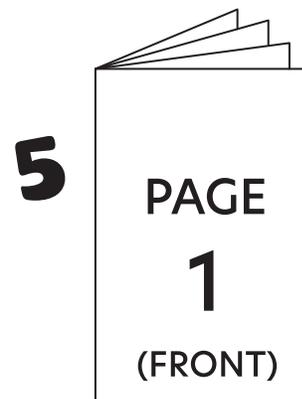
Fold paper in half, then cut along the dotted line as shown above.



Open and fold lengthwise.



Push in on both ends.



Fold the book and close.