



FEBRUARY THEME
BEHIND THE SCENES

BIBLE STORY

Luke 10:25-37

Roadside Assistance | The Good Samaritan
Spark Story Bible | pg. 360-365

BOTTOM LINE

Love others because they matter to God

MEMORY VERSE

“Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.”

1 John 4:10, NIV

LIFE APP

Love | Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **LOVE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

This WEEK: We finish the month in **Luke 10:25-37**. When Jesus told the Pharisee’s “Love your neighbor as you love yourself,” they shot back with another question. “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus went on to tell the story of the Good Samaritan. When faced with the decision to ignore an enemy or have compassion, the Samaritan chose to set aside his differences and show love.

Bottom Line: Love others because they matter to God. We won’t always get along with everyone we meet, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t deserving of God’s love. Through this story, we pray that kids will see that all people matter to God, and we should show God’s love to everyone we meet.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Each and every person matters because he or she was made by God. Pray for the kids who tend to have a hard time being loving and kind to others. Pray that God would change their hearts and open their eyes to a world in need of God’s love.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk about favorite moments in movies involving road trips, driving, or car chases. For example: when Doc teaches Lightning to drift through the turns in Cars, when Kermit and Fozzie set out to drive their Studebaker across the country in The Muppet Movie, or when the T-Rex is chasing the Jeep in Jurassic Park.

•• **I’M GOING ON A TRIP**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Explain that the group will take turns listing things you could take on a trip. The trick is that each thing has to start with the next letter of the alphabet.
- For added difficulty, you can add a category if you wish. In the below example the category would be animals.



• For example:

—The first person might say, “We are going on a trip and we are taking an aardvark.”

—The next person would add something that starts with the letter B. “We are going on a trip and we are taking an aardvark and a billy goat.”

—The next person would add something that starts with the letter C. “We’re going on a trip and we’re taking an aardvark, a billy goat, and a cat.”

• Keep going until someone can’t remember the whole list or can’t think of something to take.

What You Say: “We talked about things we would want to take on a trip. Sometimes trips turn out great. Sometimes trips turn out terrible. [Transition] In Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we are going to hear/we hear about someone who had a terrible trip, but in the end it turned out better than he could have hoped.”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?** (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: A large piece of butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

• On the butcher paper, ask the kids to make a list of people they like in the center of the paper: friends, teachers, family members, coaches, or anyone they like.

• When they are finished, draw a big heart around all of these people.

• Then in the middle write: “The Samaritan.” On the outside of the circle, write: “The Traveler.”

• Point out that the Samaritan and the traveler were not in each other’s groups. They weren’t friends.

• Ask kids if they can think of anyone who’s “outside” their own circle. (Remind them not to name names. Guide them not to gossip about anyone, but to have a serious conversation about their circle and who they consider “in” it or “out” of it.) Ask if anyone would like to share about a time when they remember treating someone differently because they were outside the circle.

What You Say: “In the story Jesus told, he wants us to be like the Samaritan. The traveler who got robbed was outside of the Samaritan’s circle of people he would be expected to love and to help. The people in the circle are people who are like us or who LIKE us. They’re our friends, family members, older kids who we think are cool, and people who go to this church. These are the people anyone would expect us to love.

“But the traveler was someone NO ONE would have expected the Samaritan to help. It’s good to do good things for people we like, for people who are like us, and for people who are kind to us. But that’s not what this story is about. The kind of love Jesus is talking about is when we love people OUTSIDE our circle of love. We should love people who it would be ‘normal’ for us to dislike, like the kid who’s constantly pushing others around and making kids do what he wants them to do, or the kid who you just have nothing in common with and haven’t really ever played with. We aren’t supposed to just love others because we like them or they like us. We are supposed to **[Bottom Line] love others because they matter to God.** And everyone you will EVER meet matters to God!”

•• **ALIKE AND NOT ALIKE** (application activity)



What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Choose one kid. Give the kid a quality and ask the kid to sort the group into kids who are like or not like him or her. For example: “You have a shirt with Elsa on it. Sort the group into people who are like you because they have clothing with a Disney character on it, and people who are not like you because they don’t have a Disney character on their clothing.”
- Make sure there are no personal qualities that could be sensitive such as weight, race, or disabilities.
- Some examples include: type of shoes (*laces or no laces*), type of shirt (*collar or no collar*), color of pants, color of eyes, color of hair, wearing socks or not wearing socks, people with a certain category of character on their clothing.

What You Say: “What if I asked you to sort the group into people who matter to God and people who don’t? (*Pause for a moment to let that sink in.*) You couldn’t do it, could you? That is because all of us matter to God! When Jesus taught that we should show love to our neighbors, he did not mean just people next door to us, or just people who are like us, or just the people we actually like and enjoy hanging out with. He meant everyone. **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time someone reached out to help you, even though you were different from them.) [Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.**”

•• **VERSE AID** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bible, BAND-AIDS

What You Do:

- Look up this month’s memory verse (*1 John 4:10*) and ask for a volunteer to read it out loud.
- Then, say the verse together multiple times as a group.
- Hand out the BAND-AIDS and let kids choose where to put them on themselves. Tell them they can put the BAND-AID anywhere, but it has to be somewhere that can be seen and a place they can “raise up.” (*Could be arm, hand, foot, etc. But also could be forehead; the kid would just have to stand up or get on tiptoes in order to “raise” that body part.*)
- Gather the group together in a circle.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the verse and every time the word “love/loved” is said, kids have to raise the part of their body that has the BAND-AID on it.
- Do this a few times, with different volunteers reading the verse.

What You Say: “We matter so much that God sent Jesus to earth for us. Isn’t that amazing? Everyone matters to God, and everyone should matter to us. **[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.**”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of one person (*without saying it aloud*) they find hard to love.
- Tell kids that the person they find hard to love matters to God just as much as any of the people in your small group.
- Lead the kids in a prayer, asking God to remind them that every person they meet matters to God.

What You Say: “It is natural for people closest to us to matter to us. That is a natural kind of love. But God wants to show a supernatural kind of love through us. God’s kind of love helps us to treat those who naturally wouldn’t matter to us as people who do matter. **[Bottom Line] Love others because they matter to God.**”

