



FEBRUARY THEME
**BEHIND THE
SCENES**

BIBLE STORY

John 15:12-13

Power of Love | No Greater Love

BOTTOM LINE

Love others because Jesus loves you

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 start off the month learning about God’s perfect love. In **John 15:12-13**, we discover that Jesus showed us love in the most sacrificial way possible, by laying down his life for us. Jesus asks us to love one another, just as he loved us, in the way we sacrifice for our friends.

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you. As kids learn about Jesus’ sacrificial love for us, we pray they will start to understand how they can show love sacrificially to the people in their lives. Showing love to others will not always be convenient. When we begin to see our potential to love in light of Jesus’ love for us, we will understand that showing love, even when it’s difficult, is worth all the effort.

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. There is no better reason to love others than because Jesus loved us first. Pray that your few would start to understand that they can love others not through their own power, but through the power of the love Jesus gives to us.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

What You Need: “Hearts” coloring page, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out “Hearts” coloring page and crayons.
- As kids color, ask them to talk about the people they love.
 - Who do they love?
 - Why do they love those people?
 - How do they show love to those people?

•• **I LOVE IT BECAUSE...**

What You Need: “Random Items” activity pages

What You Do:

- Hold up one of the “Random Items” activity pages.
- As a group finish this sentence, “I love this [insert name of item] because . . .”
- Help them come up with something lovable about each item. (For example: “I love this pencil because I can draw things with it.” “I love books because I like to look at the



pictures in them.”)

- Continue until they tire of the activity.

What You Say: “So that was kind of silly, wasn’t it? *[Insert the names of some of the random items]* aren’t things we usually LOVE, are they? But just think: If we can find something to love about these things that are eventually going to be lost or worn out, think about how much more important it is to find something to love about the people you know—the people who God created and loves! **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we’re going to learn/we learned about the greatest kind of love.”**

[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.

•• VICTORIA’S STORY *(application activity / review the Bible story)*

What You Need: “Story Book” activity pages

What You Do:

- Tell kids that you are going to read them a story. Explain that every once in awhile during the story, you’ll do a thumb up or thumb down. When you do a thumb up, they should do a thumb up and say, “Yay!” When you do a thumb down, they should do a thumb down and say, “Oh, no!”
- Read the story and do the thumbs up and thumbs down as noted.

What You Say: “Victoria gave up something important to her so that her friend could have something instead. That’s the kind of thing that Jesus was talking about when he told us that real love means giving up your life for your friends. You probably won’t have to give up your actual life for someone like Jesus did, but you will have lots of chances to give up things that are important to you in order to help someone else, like Victoria did. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you gave up something in order to help someone else OR when someone else gave up something for you.)** We show love to others when we give things up for them. **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.”**

•• VALENTINE CRAFT *(application activity)*

What You Need: “Valentine” activity page, crayons

What You Do:

- Ask kids to each think of someone they can show love to this week.
- Explain that kids will be making a valentine to give to someone to show love to them.
- Set out the supplies.
- Hold up a valentine and read it aloud.
- Allow time for kids to create their valentines.

What You Say: “We can show love to people in many different ways, including giving them cards like we do on Valentine’s Day. I want you to give your valentine to the person you want to show love to this week, and read it to them. We want people to know that not only do WE love them, but Jesus does, too! Jesus loves all of us so much, and he wants us to love others as well. **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.”**



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

What You Need: Bible, construction paper heart

What You Do:

- Read this month's memory verse to your group. NOTE: the memory verse can be found on the left column of the first page of this study.
- Tell kids you'll be reading it several more times. When you read the word "love" or "loved" hold up the construction paper heart. When you do this, kids should say the word and make a heart shape with their fingers or arms.
- If you have some good readers in your group, you can let them read the verse and hold up the heart while the others make the heart shape.

What You Say: "God loved us SO much that God sent God's Son, Jesus, to earth so that he could show us how to live, and how to love with our whole beings. That's some great love, isn't it? Jesus was willing to die for us because he loves us so much. Since he loves us so much, we should love others too, and show them God's love. **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.**"

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: Valentines kids made in "Valentine Craft"

What You Do:

- Tell kids to hold their valentines and think about the person they're going to give it to as you close with the prayer below..

What You Say: "God, thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to show us how to live and love. Help us to love others like you love us. In Jesus' name. Amen."

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids why we should love others. Help them to remember today's **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.** Also encourage kids to show their parents the valentine they made and tell them who they're going to give it to.