



FEBRUARY THEME

PLAYLIST

Put Love into the Mix

BIBLE STORY

John 15:12-13

You're the Inspiration | No Greater Love
Spark Story Bible, pg. 452-453
Jesus the Vine

BOTTOM LINE

Love others because Jesus loves you

MEMORY VERSE

"Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you."
John 15:12, 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.

Key Question: What makes you feel loved? We start with this question because when we start to understand the times when we feel loved, we'll be more aware of how our actions can help someone else feel loved.

We start the month with something Jesus said in **John 15:12**, "Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you" (NIV). Jesus proved this to us with his whole life, including when he put us first by giving his life for us. If we say that we follow Jesus, then we should show others how much we love them.

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you. More than anything, we want families to know that Jesus loves them. When we understand how much Jesus loves us, we can see how important it is to share that love with others and point them back to Jesus.

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 group member by name. Pray that kids begin to understand how much God loves them and that God's love for them is more than any other love they could ever experience. Pray that kids will be inspired by God's love to love others.

●● **EARLY ARRIVER**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk about favorite moments in a movie when someone gives up something tangible or non-tangible for someone else.
- Some suggestions might be:
 - In Aladdin, when Aladdin gave bread to the younger orphans
 - In Frozen, when Olaf chose to stay with sick Anna even though he would melt
 - In Cinderella, when Cinderella showed kindness to her stepmother and stepsisters, even though they did not treat her well
 - In Finding Nemo, when Marlin had to search an entire ocean for his son in spite of his fears, the adversity he faced, or the harsh reality that he may never see Nemo again
 - In Star Wars: The Force Awakens, when Poe gave Finn his jacket

●● **TOP OF THE PLAYLIST**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding



What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out copy paper and pens.
- Instruct kids to brainstorm some of their favorite songs, and write them on their paper.
- Let kids share their lists with the group. Encourage them to sing a sample of songs that others are not familiar with.
- After hearing everybody's favorite songs, give kids a few minutes to rank their top 5 all-time favorite songs. They can be from their original lists, or songs that their friends recommended.

What You Say: "When we put together a list of songs, it's called a playlist. We often put the songs we like best at the top—or the beginning—of a playlist. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to find out/we found out that Jesus always put love on the top of his list, and he wants us to do the same!**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to Fellowship Hall for Children's Ministry 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.

●● **CONNECTED TO THE HEART OF JESUS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: "Heart Templates" activity page, cardstock, markers, masking tape, scissors

What You Do:

- Give each group member a "Heart Templates" activity page and a blank piece of cardstock.
- Set out markers, masking tape, and scissors where everybody can share them.
- Instruct kids to cut out the hearts from the template, and attach them in whatever pattern they choose to their blank cardstock. They should use loops of masking tape to attach the hearts, making sure the hearts stick flat to the paper.
- Then, kids should use markers to color their cardstock as follows: use short strokes to scribble around the hearts in such a way that the marks are half on and half off the heart templates. They can use any combination of colors that they want. The most important thing is to make sure that the marks surround the templates completely.
- As kids finish coloring, they should remove the templates from their papers.

What You Say: "Those are some super-cool hearts, aren't they? When you removed the templates, you ended up with heart shapes on your paper! When you connected your marker marks to the heart, you were left with the image of a heart. We're learning that you should **[Bottom Line] love others because Jesus loves you.** This artwork can remind us that when we stay connected to Jesus, we can love others the way he taught us to love. When we do this, Jesus' heart is revealed in our lives!

●● **LOVE CONNECTION** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: "Love Chain" activity pages, scissors, markers, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out a "Love Chain" activity page to each kid.



- Instruct the kids to follow your instructions as you demonstrate how to cut out the silhouettes.
 - Cut out the large rectangle
 - Fold, accordion-style along the light gray lines, so you end up with 8 folds.
 - Cut out the top, middle, and bottom shape. DO NOT cut the linking pieces (*which will end up being the part where the arms and legs connect*).
- When finished cutting, show kids how to unfold their ‘Love Chain’ to display four silhouettes connected by three hearts.
- Tell the kids to think of four people they can show love to.
- Encourage them to take a moment to think quietly and come up with one person they may not know that well and one person they have a hard time getting along with. The other two people can be anyone they choose.
- Instruct the kids to assign each silhouette to one of the four people they thought of by writing names in the blank spaces provided.
- Brainstorm with your group different ways the kids can show love to others.
- As you talk through the ideas, encourage kids to choose one or two ideas to write on their silhouettes.
- Kids can use the markers to decorate their chains.

What You Say: “What’s holding the people in the chain together? (*hearts, love*) We all want to be loved, don’t we? Sometimes it’s easy to love someone, while at other times it’s really hard. The more we stay connected to Jesus the easier it is to love others. When we stay connected to Jesus, we are reminded of how much Jesus loves us. Passing on the love Jesus gave to us doesn’t always have to be as big or complicated as it sounds. It can be as simple as paying attention to what others need and doing something to help them. **[Make it Personal] (Share stories of different ways you show or have shown love to a few people in your life.)** This week, I would like to challenge you to show love to the people on your ‘Love Chain.’ **[Bottom Line] Love others because Jesus loves you.”**

●● **STAY CONNECTED** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Help kids look up John 15:12 using the tips below.

Finding verses with 2nd + 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 15. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 12 in chapter 15.

- Ask for a volunteer to read the verse, and then spend some time trying to memorize it.
- After memorizing the verse, look back in John 15 and read verse 5. This verse tells us what we need to do to be able to love others the same way that Jesus does.
- Ask kids to stand in a line and link arms.
- Let them know you will be giving them a few commands they need to follow.
- The object of this game is for kids to stay connected throughout the entire game, no matter how fast or challenging it becomes. (*Make sure they understand that they do need to stay safe and help their friends stay safe as well. Feel free to pause the game if kids get too crazy!*)
- Some suggestions might be:
 - Take two steps forward.
 - Take eight steps to your left.
 - Hop on your right foot three times.
 - Turn around and face backward.
 - Touch your knees with your chin.

