



GOD IS LOVING

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *How can you tell when someone loves you? What does the person say or do?*
- Interactive Game: Pass It Along
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Arms Out
- Blessing Your Kids

GOD IS LOVING

LESSON 4

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21,](#)

[23-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#)

[ID 2, 4, 6](#) [IIA 2, 3, 5, 6,](#)

[8, 10](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

Love Comes from God

SCRIPTURE:

[1 John 4](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

John explains that God's love changes us, and it changes how we relate to others. God is loving, and through His Spirit, we can be loving too.

WORD OF WONDER:

[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "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."



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FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Love isn't just something we say—it's what overflows from our hearts when we're pressed.

[1 John 4:19](#) reminds us, **"We love because He first loved us."** God didn't wait for us to be perfect before loving us—He loved us while we were still sinners. And as we accept more of His love, it changes our hearts, making it possible for us to love others like Christ.

Think of your heart as a cup. If it's filled with frustration, impatience, or bitterness, then when life jostles you—through a challenging child, an unexpected problem, or an exhausting day—what spills out? But if we allow God's love to pour in like crystal-clear water, it begins to displace everything else. When we're pressed, what overflows is His love.

As you teach this week, some children may test your patience. But God has placed them in your care for a reason. Let His love fill your heart so fully that when you're jostled, what overflows is kindness, patience, and grace. Through you, these children will see what Christlike love really looks like.

You are planting seeds of love that will grow for eternity!

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

Though the author of [1 John](#) isn't named in the epistle, tradition holds that the apostle John wrote the letter. The author was an eyewitness to Jesus ([1 John 1:1-3](#)), and the letter is similar in style and theology to the Gospel of John.

WHAT?

God is love. It is in His nature to love us. Jesus' death on the cross shows us what love is like. Those who follow Jesus should love others in this way. We cannot claim to love God unless we love each other like Jesus.

WHERE?

First John doesn't name its recipients. It may have been a circular letter passed around to multiple church communities. It was written to believers encountering false teaching that denied the incarnation—the belief that the eternal Son of God became a man.

WHEN?

First John was written in the first century; however, there is little consensus on its date. It is unclear whether it was written before or after the Gospel of John. Some scholars suggest it was written between AD 65–100.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

On the cross, Jesus loved us with the kind of love that only comes from God. This love changes us and empowers us to love like Jesus. Now we can give of ourselves for the good of others, reflecting the goodness of our Lord.

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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), [Welcome Question Slide](#)

Before kids arrive, display the [Welcome Question Slide](#), or write the following question on a whiteboard: “How can you tell when someone loves you? What does the person say or do?” Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking “How are you?” as children may be accustomed to responding with “fine”). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask “Why are you angry?” or “What made you sad?”.
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the [Welcome Question](#). Read aloud the question for younger kids and help them start thinking about their answers by sharing your own. Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they’d rather let their art do the talking.

At your start time...

Signal it’s time to get started, and tell the kids you’re excited to be at church together. Ask for several volunteers to share their answers to the Welcome Question: ***How can you tell when someone loves you? What does the person say or do?***

People show love in lots of ways. Some use words and say they love you. Others do loving things. Some people do both. Today we’ll consider how God is loving and how He shows His love, but first, it’s time to be curious.

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



INTERACTIVE GAME: PASS IT ALONG

SUPPLIES: beach balls (2), [Pass It Along Slide](#), [Love Wonder Truth Slide](#), [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Display the [Pass It Along Slide](#). Invite kids to stand and form a circle. Explain that they'll pass two beach balls around the circle in opposite directions and as fast as possible. When you call out, "Switch" at random times, it'll be their cue to reverse the direction of both beach balls. To keep the game interesting, randomly announce that kids must play while standing on one foot, while bouncing up and down, while facing outward (passing the ball behind their backs), or while keeping their eyes shut. When a ball is dropped, the closest kid can pick it up and start passing it again. Give the beach balls to two kids and begin! Consider playing an upbeat song, such as "Hey Jesus Loves Me" from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids play.

Alternatively, if you have mostly older kids in your group, have kids toss the balls across the circle rather than around it. Kids will toss the ball to anyone in the circle who isn't standing directly next to them. And if your group is made up of mostly younger kids, start by having them pass just one beach ball quickly around the circle, switching direction when you call, "Switch." If they get that down, then you can add a second beach ball.

Make It Inclusive: *If there are kids who have physical limitations, consider having kids sit in a circle (in chairs possibly) instead of standing. Also, if needed, consider leaving out the direction to pass the ball "as fast as possible" and just pass at a leisurely, slower pace.*

Play for several minutes, then gather kids together. Display the [Wonder Truth Slide](#). **God is loving, and love comes to us from God—and that's amazing! Remember how you passed along the beach balls in our game? Well, God's love shapes how those who follow Jesus treat other people, starting with the decision to *pass along* His love with the help of the Holy Spirit. Today's Wonder Truth is: **LOVE COMES FROM GOD.****

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Love comes from You, God. (Kids repeat.)

I receive Your love and share it joyfully! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for loving us! Help us, through Your Spirit, to know, follow, and love You more deeply today. We’re listening for Your voice, God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **Love Title Slide**

Display the **Love Title Slide**. Using the table of contents in their Bibles, have kids find [1 John](#). Explain that [1 John](#) is one of several books or letters in the Bible that is believed to have been written by Jesus’ disciple named John. This letter is all about God’s love and how we can share God’s love with others.

Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we’ll watch and experience more of the story!

Invite all the kids to stand and read [1 John 4:7](#) out loud together. (Younger kids and pre-readers can put their fingers on the page and listen carefully while it’s read.) Then read [verses 8–21](#) as kids remain standing.

Watch It!

Watch the [God Is Loving God’s Big Story!](#)

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Experience It!

SUPPLIES: pencils (1 per kid plus 1), table, chair, trash can, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, notepad, Bible, clipboards (1 per kid, optional), cardstock (optional), coloring utensils (optional), Card Designer costume (optional), **New Ideas Sheet** (1 per kid), **Rejected Love Cards Slides**, **God Is Loving Experience It! Script** (1 extra copy)

Ahead of time, print a **New Ideas Sheet** for each kid. Attach them to clipboards, if possible, or you may want to print them on cardstock. Set the pencils and sheets somewhere accessible, as you will hand them out during the story.

Set the scene: Your teaching area is now the office of a newly hired Card Designer at a greeting card company. In the center of the room, set a table to use as a desk along with a chair. Place a trash can next to the desk. Set a whiteboard, preferably self-standing, and a dry-erase marker nearby. On the desk, set a notepad and a pencil. Fill the trash can with crumpled pieces of paper so that it's nearly overflowing before you start.

Consider recruiting a leader to play the part of the Card Designer and give her a copy of the **Experience It! Script** ahead of time. She needn't memorize all her lines but should become familiar with the script.

Encourage her to fully embrace the role, having fun with it and acting with lots of expression! Or if you plan on filling the role yourself, prepare accordingly. Consider a costume for the newly hired Card Designer: any clothing that emphasizes creativity or a certain "effortless cool." You could go "sleek" with minimalistic all-black clothing. Or "free-spirited" with vintage or unique accessories, quirky patterns, and bold prints. Large glasses would work for either look.

Card Designer: When you begin, sit at a desk (table) with a notepad and a pencil—thinking and scribbling out ideas. For every idea, pause to look at what you wrote, sigh dejectedly, crumple it up, and toss it into a trash can. There should be a large pile of papers overflowing the trash can.

Make It Inclusive: *Consider providing an adult or peer helper for any kids who may have difficulties with comprehension or attention span. A helper can be present to answer any questions, clarify a concept, or redirect focus to the story.*

When kids are settled, wonder out loud: **Love. What is love? Where does it come from? What does love do?** Notice the kids and let out a sigh of relief. **I'm so glad you're here. I need your help! We have work to do, and we don't have much time.** Quickly hand out the **New Ideas Sheets** and pencils. **I'm the new designer at Smallmark—you know, the humble little brother of that other famous greeting card company? We make cards people send in the mail or give to each other to show their love. I'm supposed to have a new card designed by "end of day" as they say in the business world, but all my ideas** (point to the trash can full of rejected ideas) **are terrible!**

I thought this assignment would be easy. My boss told me to design a card that shows "perfect love." I guess I could have drawn a little heart and written "Love is perfect"... but I wanted to "think outside the box" as they say in the business world. And the world has so many ideas about love to pull from! So I looked to the world, and here's what I came up with:

Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 1**. Read the caption of each rejected card as it is displayed. **Love reaches for whatever is shiny and attractive.** Shrug. **Don't we all want the best?**

Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 2**. **Love turns off and on like a light switch.** Shrug. **Sometimes we love each other, sometimes we don't, right?**

Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 3**. Love is always searching for the next best thing. Shrug. There's always something—or someone—better to love. Right?

Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 4**. Love is somehow earned. Shrug. The world didn't say how to earn it, so you should probably spend your whole life trying.

The world is *full* of ideas about love! Pause. But what do you think? Would you want to receive one of these cards in the mail? I mean, this one (go back to **Rejected Love Cards Slide 1**) is pretty perfect, right? Pause for the kids to respond. Humbly admit: My boss would probably agree with you. My boss is a very kind and wise person. She didn't tell me these were the worst cards about love she's ever seen, although she could have. Instead, she handed me this book (hold up a Bible) and said, "This will tell you all you need to know about perfect love." Look at the Bible. I guess ... we could try it!

As you open to [1 John](#), say: So what do you call this book? Pause for kids to respond. The Bible, cool. My boss marked a section called 1 John. It looks like a letter! Oh, I can already tell this is going to be good.

If you could just give me a moment to read it first. I'm a really fast reader. In about 10 seconds or less, silently "read" the entire book of [1 John](#), flipping pages and occasionally making noises that show you agree with or are surprised by the text. When you're finished, look up at the kids. Wow! This changes everything.

Excitedly go to the whiteboard with the Bible in hand. Do you have your pencils and idea sheets ready? You're going to want to hear this. Invite the kids to write any ideas they hear for a new card design on the left side of their idea sheet. Let them know that they can add anything you write on the whiteboard to their idea list, but they can also just listen.

Where does love come from? The letter of [1 John](#) tells us to love one another because *love comes from God*. When Jesus died on the cross, the love of God was on display. Look amazed. God's love is so different from the world's love! Worldly love is concerned with getting, not giving. Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 1**. It reaches for whatever is shiny and attractive. But God's love reaches for the people who are harder to love, the sinner who does wrong things and makes bad choices. God can't help loving that person. It's who God is. Write "God's love reaches for the sinner" on the whiteboard.

So what is love? *God is love*—the kind of love that gives itself away for the good of others. God's love changes our hearts so we can love with a new kind of love that could only come from God. Isn't that amazing?

Everyone who loves like God can become a child of God. And only a person who knows God can love like God does. The Bible says, (read from the Bible) "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" ([1 John 4:8](#)). That means it's in God's nature to love. Love is who He is. Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 2**. His love doesn't turn off and on like a light switch. Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 3**.

His love isn't always searching for the next best thing. Display **Rejected Love Cards Slide 4**. God doesn't love us because we somehow earn it or do something to get His attention. God loves us because God is love!

How do we know God loves us? We know because *God sent Jesus* to give us life—everlasting life! Read from the Bible: "He loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins" ([1 John 4:10](#)). Jesus made the way for our sins to be forgiven. He made the way for us to be part of God's forever family. When we look at what Jesus did on the cross, we see what love is. Love gives for the good of others, even when they don't deserve it. The letter of [1 John](#) says, (read from the Bible) "Dear

friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another" ([1 John 4:11](#)). When we love like God, that is a sign that God lives in us. Write "God's love gave us Jesus" on the whiteboard.

The Bible says, (read from the Bible) "God lives in anyone who agrees that Jesus is the Son of God. This kind of person remains joined to God" ([1 John 4:15](#)). God's love doesn't let go of that person. Through holy sealing, God gives us the Holy Spirit, God's powerful presence and our loving helper. When God lives in us, we know God loves us, and we can always depend on God's love! Write "God's love doesn't let us go" on the whiteboard.

But we can only love like Jesus and follow His amazing example when we are joined to God. When we love like Jesus, it shows that God's love is at work within us. It's driving away our fear of God so we can someday stand before Him knowing that we belong to Him and He belongs to us. God's love isn't a trick. He doesn't give it to us just to yank it away, like a bully or a prankster. God's love is *perfect*, and (read from the Bible) "Perfect love drives away fear" ([1 John 4:18](#)). Write "God's love drives away fear" on the whiteboard.

The Bible says, "We love because he loved us first" ([1 John 4:19](#)). Because God loved us, we love others. You can't love God if you hate your brother or sister or anyone else. Love for God overflows into a love for others. God loves us and gives us the power to love. He is the source of our love. Love comes from God. Write "God's love gives us the power to love" on the whiteboard.

Invite the kids to choose one idea and draw, on the right side of their idea sheet, their idea for a new card that shows God's perfect love. Give them a few minutes to make their designs. If you'd like, you could also hand out coloring utensils. Walk around and compliment all the kids on their designs. If you have time, allow kids to share their ideas.

Thank you for your help today. I can't wait to show these to my boss. Your new designs that show God's perfect love will certainly be, as they say in the business world, a "value add!" As you exit, say: Hey, boss! Love comes from God!

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is LOVE COMES FROM GOD. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesus loves us so much He died on the cross. This kind of love comes only from God. It changes us and gives us the power to love like Jesus. Now we can love with the kind of love that gives of ourselves for the good of others. When we do, we reflect God's goodness to everyone around us!

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- According to what we learned today in God’s big story, how did God show His love for us? (He sent Jesus to give us life. If needed, reread [1 John 4:9-10](#).)
- What do we receive at our holy sealing? (the Holy Spirit, His powerful presence and our loving helper)
- Who loved first—God or us? (God)
- Why does it matter that God loves us?
- How does God help us love people who are hard to love?
- What can you say or do to show God’s love to someone today?

God is loving and, through His Spirit, He helps us become more loving too. And it’s not just about us trying harder—that never works. It’s about us inviting God to change us from the inside out so we become more like Jesus. Let’s ask Him for help with that now.

Make It Inclusive: Provide extended wait time before calling on kids to share their answers, even if some kids are already raising their hands. Waiting an extra 10 or 15 seconds might feel awkward at first, but allowing extra time for kids to process will increase participation for kids of all skill levels.

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Ask kids to share their prayer requests and how they’ve seen God answer prayers. Pray together. Then ask kids to join you in proclaiming “Love comes from God!” as a praise shout to God.

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- **According to what we learned today in God's big story, how did God show His love for us?** (*He sent Jesus to give us life. If needed, reread [1 John 4:9-10](#).)*
- **What do we receive at our holy sealing?** (*the Holy Spirit, His powerful presence and our loving helper*)
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us love others?**
- **Who loved first—God or us?** (*God*)
- **What difference does it make that God loves you?**
- **How might God help you love someone who's hard to love?**
- **How could you show God's love to someone today?**

God is loving and, through His Spirit, He wants to help us become more loving too. Not because we're trying harder, but because He's transforming—completely changing—us from the inside out. So let's pause to invite God to keep that transformation happening!

Make It Inclusive: *Provide extended wait time before calling on kids to share their answers, even if some kids are already raising their hands. Waiting an extra 10 or 15 seconds might feel awkward at first, but allowing extra time for kids to process will increase participation for kids of all skill levels.*

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Ask kids to share their prayer requests and how they've seen God answer prayers. Pray together. Then ask kids to join you in proclaiming "Love comes from God!" by saying those words first as a whisper, then louder, then louder still, then as a shout or praise to God.

We discussed in this lesson how God's love, the Holy Spirit, is in us, which helps us to love others like God loves us. Does anyone remember when they received the Holy Spirit? Let kids share. If there are adults in the room who remember their holy sealing, let them share. **God gave us the Apostle ministry - another way God shows how much He loves us - so that we could receive the Holy Spirit. Who is our Apostle?** Let kids share. **God gave the commission (or special task or job) to the Apostles long ago and to the Apostles today, to baptize, or in our church we say seal, with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to do what is good and what pleases God, like loving others. How can we show others in our congregation we love them?** If possible, point to a member that might be in view, or ask a kid in the class to join you up front, and ask the question again, inserting their name. Let the kids share their ideas.

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: ARMS OUT

SUPPLIES: pipe cleaners (2–3 per kid), **Responding in Worship Slide**, [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Display the **Responding in Worship Slide**. Ask kids to stand in a circle and then to take several steps back. Explain they'll be holding their arms out to their sides, at shoulder height, so they should turn slightly so as to not touch anyone. Demonstrate this for them. Then invite them to put their arms straight out—trying not to lower their arms until you say so.

We learned today in God's big story that one way we can know God loves us is that God sent Jesus to give His life for us on the cross. That sacrifice makes it possible for us to be part of God's forever family. Our loving God gives wonderful gifts to those who follow Him, and for the next minute let's thank Him for those. I'll call out some words, and you silently thank God for His loving gifts to you. Try not to lower your arms as you praise God. However, if your arms get too tired to keep holding them up, go ahead and rest them for a few seconds. (If you have a lot of younger kids, lessen the time kids have their hands raised as needed.)

Call out words that name good things God gives us, pausing between each. Here are some ideas: *forgiveness, understanding, the Holy Spirit, acceptance, mercy, joy, peace, a place in heaven*. After about 90 seconds, kids' arms will begin to ache. Invite kids to take several steps back toward the center of the circle and to rest their arms on their neighbors' shoulders.

God's love wasn't meant for us to enjoy alone. We're to pass it along by supporting and serving others, like you're supporting and serving each other right now.

Invite kids to shake out their arms to get the circulation going. Then give each kid 2–3 pipe cleaners. Play a song from the [Rooted Elementary Spotify playlist](#). As they listen and sing along in worship, invite kids to create something with their pipe cleaners that reminds them of God's love. It might be a cross, a heart, or another shape or symbol. Encourage kids to take their creations home and place them where they will see them often.

Make It Inclusive: *Twisting pipe cleaners together is sometimes challenging for young kids and kids who have fine-motor difficulties. Offer assistance as needed, or offer a different craft supply such as play dough or wax sticks that kids can manipulate more easily.*

Disclaimer: *We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.*

GOD IS LOVING

LESSON 4

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 1, 3-10, 11, 13-20, 21,](#)

[23-30 IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13](#)

[ID 2, 4, 6 IIA 2, 3, 5, 6,](#)

[8, 10 IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

Love Comes from God

SCRIPTURE:

[1 John 4](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

John explains that God's love changes us, and it changes how we relate to others. God is loving, and through His Spirit, we can be loving too.

WORD OF WONDER:

[Matthew 22:37-38](#)

Jesus replied, "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."



Lesson
PPT Slides



Lesson
PDF Slides



Lesson
Printables

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: May you feel the love of God this week. May His love go before you and go with you, and may you share God's love with others as freely as He has shared it with you.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the printable link.

ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS SQUAD

SUPPLIES: whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

In this game, kids will play a whole-body version of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Only instead of being eliminated when they lose, they will join the winner's team, sharing in the ongoing fun of the game.

Gather kids together. **You've probably played Rock, Paper, Scissors before, but you've probably never played it quite like we're about to! We're going to play Rock, Paper, Scissors Squad, and there are two things that make this version of the game unique.**

First, rather than make the rock, paper, and scissors motions with our hands, we're going to use our whole bodies! Demonstrate each motion (or invite another leader or older kid to demonstrate) and have kids try each one:

1. Rock: Crouch down into a ball, like a big rock.
2. Paper: Stand up straight with your hands pressed to your sides, like a flat piece of paper.
3. Scissors: Stand with your feet shoulder length apart and arms extended above your head; then make a "cutting" motion with your arms like a giant pair of scissors.

Make It Inclusive: *If kids in your group have limited mobility, you can play Rock, Paper, Scissors Squad using the customary hand motions rather than the whole-body actions.*

Some kids, especially those who are younger, might be new to Rock, Paper, Scissors. So briefly explain how each motion defeats another: rock beats scissors, paper beats rock, scissors beats paper. Consider writing this on a whiteboard to help kids remember.

Second, if you lose in Rock, Paper, Scissors Squad, you're not out! Instead, you will join the winner's team—or squad. When you join the winner's team – or squad, and face off against another opponent, you'll talk quietly together to decide which motion to do next. Eventually, small teams will join up together until everyone is on one large squad!

Call up a kid or adult volunteer to join you in demonstrating the game. Count down from three and do your rock, paper, or scissor full-body motions. Explain to kids that if they show the same motion, it's a tie, and they can go again. Then invite kids to stand up, find a neighbor to pair up with, and begin! Remind kids, if they lose, they

GOD IS LOVING

LESSON 4

NAC USA

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GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY

join the winner and become a squad that works together. That squad finds another kid or squad to play against. Circulate among the kids as they play, helping them as needed. Play until there's only 2 squads left, and end when everyone is on one large squad. Then gather kids together.

As the game went on, your squads became larger and larger as more and more people got to share together in the fun! Similarly, we learned in God's big story today that love comes from God, and we get to share it with others!