

G23 | W2



Small Group Leader Guide



Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.

Bible Story

The Most Important Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

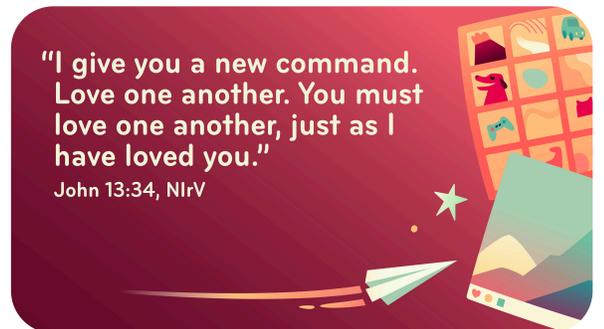
Bottom Line

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



Greeting & Prayer

What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart



① What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that He makes loving Him simple. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time you showed love to someone (like a friend or family member) and how that showed you loved God too. Ask God to help the kids in your group show love this week. Pray that they would love God by talking to Him and love others by sharing their toys, using kind words, and giving hugs to their family.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity



ACTIVITY ONE

Love God. Love Others

What You Need

- Bible marked at John 13:34
- Cardstock or construction paper
- Coloring supplies
- Stickers
- Envelopes

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each pair of kids a Bible marked at John 13:34.
- Demonstrate how to look up the verse.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and make the coloring supplies and stickers available.
- Tell them they are going to make a Valentine's Day Card for someone they love.
- Help them write a short note inside. At the end of their note, help them write : [Bottom Line] Love God. Love others.
- Ask: "What does it actually mean to love the people in your life?" (e.g, sharing, being kind, helping, praying).
- Ask the kids to put the card in the envelope and give it to someone they want to show love to.

What You Say:

"These cards are beautiful! The people who get these will feel so loved. When you give this card to them, you are showing them what Jesus wants us to do. Jesus wants us to love one another. You are choosing to: [Bottom Line] Love God. Love others."

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.



ACTIVITY TWO

Spread the Love

What You Need

- Skittles
- Thick, white paper plate
- Small bottle of room temperature water

What You Do:

- Have the kids sit on the dot.
- Let them arrange the Skittles® in a circle or heart shape around the edge of a paper plate.
- Once the shape is made, slowly pour the warm water into the center of the plate until it just touches the Skittles®.
- Watch as the colors spread from the candy.

What You Say:

"Wow, look at that! The colors are spreading out and making something beautiful. This is what happens when we share God's love. Jesus said the most important thing to do is to: [Bottom Line] Love God. Love others. The first four of the Ten Commandments help us love God, and the last six help us love others. When we love God and love others, that love spreads just like our Skittles® hearts and makes the world a more beautiful place, and it looks more like God's Kingdom. The more we share God's love, the farther it goes. Remember, the best way to live is to: [Bottom Line] Love God. Love oth

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print "Verse Motions" Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

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GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



What You Say

“Dear God, thank You for all the people in our lives. Help us to show them Your love this week, especially [the people the kids’ named]. Help us remember the most important things: [Bottom Line] Love God. Love others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that [Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone.

Inclusive Pro Tips



Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.