

Grades K-5

April 2

Bible Teaching: Judas' Betrayal and Peter's Denial

Bible Passage: Luke 22:1-62

Bible Teaching Summary

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, agreed to turn Him over to the religious leaders in exchange for silver. Jesus had the Passover meal with His disciples. During the meal, He predicted that one would betray Him and that Simon Peter would deny knowing Him. Jesus left to pray in a garden. While there, Judas led a mob to arrest Jesus. They seized Him and took Him away, with Peter following behind. Peter was asked three times if he knew Jesus, and he said he didn't each time. Even though Jesus knew His friends would hurt Him, He still loved them. He loves us unconditionally and chose to die for us, even though we all mess up, all the time.

brite* Idea: Jesus loved us first.

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19

We love because He first loved us.

He Question: When does Jesus start loving us?

Jesus has always loved us, and He always will. He loved us before we knew Him.

We Question: Can our sin make Jesus stop loving us?

No. We didn't do anything to make Jesus love us. We can't do anything that will make Him stop. He loved us so much that He died on the cross for our sin.

Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader Training

Leader Tips: Greetings

When kids arrive each week, you can set the tone for your time together by making a few intentional choices. Rather than simply greeting kids with “Hello,” consider expressing how grateful you are to see them. For example, you might say, “Hi, Amiah! I’m so grateful to be with you today!” Once the kids have arrived, it is helpful to begin your time together with some sort of check-in. Each kid who has come to the group is bringing with them the experiences – highs and lows – from their week. It is important to provide space for kids to share how they are feeling so they can experience God’s care through the group’s kind responses. Over time, kids have a chance to discover that the group is a safe place to show up and share, and this allows for more honest and meaningful discussions about God along the way.

Navigating a Broken World: Fear of Being Different

A study by researchers at Duke University showed kids begin to prioritize fitting in with the crowd as early as age three.* Most kids have a natural desire to be liked and accepted by their peer group. This desire can be a driving force for kids’ decisions, for good and for bad. Some kids view being “different” as a negative thing and go out of their way to blend in. When it comes to faith in Christ, God calls us to live differently than the world. This mindset can be challenging to a kid who doesn’t want to stand out. In challenging situations, kids tend to go along with everyone else rather than choose to live God’s way. In today’s lesson, you can help kids discover that following Jesus is always better than fitting in with the crowd.

*<https://neurosciencenews.com/group-kids-fit-in-18525/>

K–2nd Experiences Overview

Belong: (Choose One)

1, 2, 3 – Are You Like Me?: Kids will share three words to describe themselves. If another kid would use the same word to describe themselves, they go and high five that kid.

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies Needed: None

Betray, Deny, Love: Kids will march around and share encouraging words.

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies Needed: None

Bible Teaching:

Judas and Peter both hurt Jesus. Jesus knew what was going to happen, but He loved His friends anyway. Jesus loves us first.

Supplies Needed: Bible, bucket, three tennis balls, box, a toy prize, printable pages, baskets (1 per group of 10-12)

Believe: (Choose One)

Love Scramble: Kids will unscramble the hearts with the memory verse on it.

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies Needed: Printable page and scissors

Love Garland: Kids will make a decorative heart garland with today's memory verse.

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies Needed: Red and pink construction paper, markers, scissors, hole punch, and yarn

Become: (Choose One)

Jesus Loves You and Me: Kids will make three cards sharing the love of God to secretly deliver to neighbors.

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies Needed: Construction paper, markers, scissors, glue, stickers

Cross-Shaped Love: Kids think about their sins and are reminded that Jesus loves them enough to die on the cross for their sins.

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies Needed: Masking tape, sticky notes, pens

Small Group Wrap-Up:

Supplies Needed: Take-Home printable page, writing utensils

3rd–5th Experiences Overview

Belong: (Choose One)

What I Like About You: Kids will write encouraging words.

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies Needed: Printable page (one for each kid) and markers

Similarities in Threes: Kids will make groups of threes with others who have the same favorites in common.

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies Needed: None

Bible Teaching:

Judas and Peter both hurt Jesus. Jesus knew what was going to happen, but He loved His friends anyway. Jesus loves us first.

Supplies Needed: Bible, bucket, three tennis balls, box, a toy prize, printable pages, baskets (1 per group of 10-12)

Believe: (Choose One)

Rooster Roll: Kids will roll balls with words from today's memory verse, in order, into a nest.

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies Needed: Small kiddie pool, two laundry hampers, 20 plastic balls

Memory Verse Walk: Kids will step on the words in the memory verse, in order.

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies Needed: Index cards, markers, and tape

Become: (Choose One)

Covered in His Love: Kids will remind others their sin can't make Jesus stop loving them.

Learning Styles: Move and Create

Supplies Needed: Heart stickers and blue dot stickers

Life Timeline: Kids will create a timeline displaying some good and bad life experiences but are reminded that Jesus loved us before we knew Him.

Learning Styles: Write and Create

Supplies Needed: Life Timeline Printable, pens

Small Group Wrap-Up: *Supplies Needed: Take Home printable page, writing utensils*

SPLASH FLOW

Note: Advance slide at highlighted lines

Theme Slide

Kid's Enter

Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

Gather kids into their age groups

Do the "Belong" activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown when groups are winding down with their "Belong" activity and gather them into the main teaching area

Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos

Video: "Even When"

Video: "What a Beautiful Name"

Ask all to sit, then teach through "Bible Teaching" section below



Intro Video

Play the Intro video, *then follow the script below.*

Say: Aydin and Trey have quite a mystery to solve. Someone in the family took the candy! We will get more clues next week, but it was obviously someone in the household. Did you

notice what their mom said? She was disappointed about the candy, but she loved her family first. That reminds me of today's brite* idea!

brite* Idea: Jesus loves us first.

Teaching Intro

Supplies: Bible, bucket, three tennis balls, small box, a toy prize

Play upbeat background music while setting up and playing game

Prep: Use the masking tape to designate a line on the ground for the kid to stand behind. Set the bucket far enough away that it will be very difficult to throw the tennis balls in. Put the prize in the box and draw question marks on the box.

Instructions: Choose one kid to come to the front.

Say: Thank you for volunteering. I have a mystery prize for you, and I'm going to set it here to the side. The next thing I need you to do is stand behind this line. Your goal is to toss all three of these tennis balls into the bucket. The rest of the group is going to cheer for you. Ready, set, go.

Allow the kid to throw the three tennis balls. Show the group how many (if any) of the balls landed in the bucket.

Say: You tried really hard, but unfortunately you didn't get all three balls in the bucket. But, here is your mystery prize! Are you surprised you still got the prize? In the beginning I just told you I had a prize for you. I was going to give it to you, no matter what.

Say: Sometimes we think Jesus' love is a reward for the good things we do, but today we will discover that is not what His love is like.

Today we will answer these two questions:

Question slide

When does Jesus start loving us?
Can our sin make Jesus stop loving us?

And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:
What does God want me to know about Him, and what does this mean for me?



Find It in the Bible

What is the Bible?

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it's all a part of one BIG story – God's Story.

What is God's Bigger Story?

Slide

Creation: God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

Redemption: People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

Restoration: When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don't do anything to earn it and we don't deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

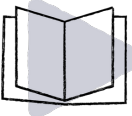
Where is today's Bible story?

Slide

The book of Luke is in the section of the Bible called the Gospels. It is in the New Testament.

Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Luke. Then show them how to get to today's Bible passage (Luke 22:1-62).

Jesus came to Earth as a baby and was the Messiah God had promised. He grew up and taught people about God and performed miracles. Today's story occurs during Jesus' final days on Earth.



Bible Teaching: Judas' Betrayal and Peter's Denial

Show the Bible Video or teach from the script below.

Video: Bible Story

BEGIN OPTIONAL

Supplies: Bible, printable pages, basket (1 per group of 10-12)

Prep: Print and cut one set of printables for each group of 10-12. Fold the slips of paper and place in a basket for each group.

Instructions: Lead kids to sit in circles of 10-12.

Bible Teaching Script:

Say: Jesus' disciples were His closest friends. They were with Him through His entire ministry. They saw Him heal people, heard all of the words He taught, and saw firsthand the many miracles He performed. They were closer to Him than anyone else. If anyone knew Jesus, it was these 12 men. And when He needed them the most, two of them were not great friends.

Say: We will see Jesus knew His friends were going to let Him down, even though no one else knew that. As we learn about our passage today, some of you are going to be "betrayers." You are going to pick a slip of paper from the basket without showing anyone else. It will either say you are not a betrayer or it will say you are. If you are, it will tell you a secret signal to do every time you hear a certain word in the story. Remember, don't tell anyone else what your paper says.

Say: As we talk through the story, the rest of you will be watching your friends and trying to figure out who the betrayers are. If you figure it out, keep it a secret until the very end.

Pass out the slips of paper and check for understanding, especially with younger kids. Remind kids they can do their signals without being obvious. Avoid telling kids how many betrayers there are. Every kid will be a betrayer, but they don't know that. More than one kid will have the same signal.

Say: Ready? Let's get started. Remember, if you are a betrayer, listen for your word and do your signal. Everyone is watching to figure out who the betrayers are.

Say: Passover was the holiest day for the Jewish people; it was when they remembered how God had protected them and rescued them from Egypt. As the holiday approached, the religious leaders were looking for a way to get rid of Jesus. They were jealous of how the people loved Him and they were angry about what He taught. Judas, one of the 12 disciples, met with the leaders. He plotted with them to hand Jesus over to be arrested. They offered to give him silver coins and they made a deal. Judas started looking for a chance to betray Jesus when there wasn't a large crowd of people.

Say: Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. During the meal, He shared that He would suffer. He told them His body would be broken and His blood would be poured out for them. He also told them that one of them would betray Him. The disciples were shocked and argued over who it would be. Jesus also spoke to Simon Peter. "Simon, look out. I'm praying that your faith doesn't fail you so that you can turn back to Me and help the other disciples."

Say: Peter replied, "Jesus, I would do anything for You! Even go to prison or die."

But Jesus told Peter that before the rooster crowed that night, Peter would say he didn't know Jesus three times. Did Jesus know what Peter was going to do before he even did it? Absolutely. Remember, Jesus was fully human and fully God. He knew all things. He knew what Peter was going to do before he even did it, and Jesus still had dinner with him. Jesus still loved Peter more than Peter could ever understand. Jesus knew His closest friends were going to let Him down. But that's why He was about to go to the cross. He loved His friends – and us – first.

Say: Jesus left the meal and went to His favorite spot to pray; the disciples followed Him. "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup from Me," Jesus prayed. "But not my will but Yours." He returned to His disciples and found them all sleeping instead of praying. "Wake up and pray!" He told them. "Things are about to happen, you might fall into temptation."

Say: As Jesus was talking to them, Judas walked up, leading a great mob, including the religious leaders. Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss, which was a normal tradition back then. Jesus looked at him and said, “Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” Chaos broke out when the disciples realized what was happening. Jesus said, “Why are you coming for Me with weapons like I’m a criminal? I’ve been among you every day. This is the power of darkness.”

Say: The religious leaders seized Jesus, arrested Him and took Him away to the high priest’s house. The other disciples ran away, but Peter followed behind at a distance. A group of people gathered around a fire and Peter sat with them. A servant looked at Peter closely and said, “This man was with Jesus too!” “I don’t know Him,” Peter said.

A little while later someone said, “You are one of them!” and Peter said, “I am not!”

A third time, someone else insisted, “I know you were with Jesus!” “I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Peter exclaimed. Immediately, the rooster crowed. Jesus turned from where He was being held and looked at Peter. Peter remembered Jesus’ words about how he would deny knowing Jesus. Peter went out and wept.

Say: We’ve reached the end of our Bible passage today. Now I’d like to hear who you think the betrayers are. Raise your hand if you have a guess.

Take guesses.

Say: I’ve heard a lot of interesting guesses. Let’s reveal who the betrayers were. If you were a betrayer, raise your hand.

Pause for all the kids to raise their hands.

Ask: Why do you think everyone turned out to be betrayers in our activity?

Point to Jesus

All of us are sinners; so in some ways, we’ve all let Jesus down. Jesus knows that and He still loves us deeply. Jesus knew exactly what Judas and Peter were going to do, yet He was their friend and loved them anyway. He loved them before they messed up, and He even loved them after they hurt Him. Jesus also knew that He was going to suffer, yet He went through with it anyway. Jesus’ arrest was part of God’s plan for Him to die on the cross for all of our sins. Romans 5:8 says, God shows His love for us in that while we were still

sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus loved Judas and Peter and me and you so much that He took the punishment for our sin. He made a way for us to be forgiven and turn back to God. Jesus loved us first and Jesus loves us best.

END OPTIONAL_____

Bible Teaching: Review

Print the printable pages and hide them around the room. After reading each question, allow kids to be “detectives” and find the hidden picture that shows the correct answer.

1. What was Judas given when he offered to hand Jesus over? (Silver) *The religious leaders offered Judas 30 pieces of silver for betraying Jesus. He accepted and made a plan to find a time to hand Him over.*
2. How did Jesus celebrate Passover with His disciples? (Ate a meal) *Passover was one of the holiest holidays for the Jewish people. Jesus told the disciples what would happen to Him, but also that one would betray Him and Peter would deny Him.*
3. What did the disciples do while Jesus prayed? (Slept) *Jesus warned the disciples to pray, but instead, they fell asleep.*
4. How many times did Peter say He didn't know Jesus? (Three) *Just like Jesus predicted, before the rooster crowed, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.*
5. When does Jesus start loving us? (He has always loved us.) *Jesus has always loved us and He always will. He loved us before we knew Him.*
6. Can our sin make Jesus stop loving us? (No) *We didn't do anything to make Jesus love us. We can't do anything that will make Him stop. He loved us so much that He died on the cross for our sin.*

Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up

The brite* idea for the day is: Jesus loved us first.

Memory Verse:

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

We love because He first loved us. *(1 John 4:19)*

Teaching Wrap-Up

Since Jesus loved us first, we can't do anything to make Him stop loving us. He loved us before we even knew who He was. He knew we would mess up, and He loved us anyway and still does. He loves us so much He died on the cross so we can be forgiven of our sin. There is no one who loves us like Jesus does.

Prayer

God, thank You for loving us first. Thank You that You love us so much there is nothing we can do to be separated from Your love. Amen.

Gather kids into their 2 age groups

Do the "Believing " activity with the 2 groups

AND/OR

Do the "Becoming " activity with the 2 groups

DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE

SMALL GROUP WRAP UP (NEXT PAGE)

Small Group Wrap-Up

Supplies Needed: Take-Home page (1 per kid), writing utensils

Prep: None

Me Question: Younger Kids

Say: We are going to take a few minutes to think about what we have learned today about Jesus. God wants us to love Him even more as we learn more about who He is.

Pass out the Take-Home printable. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to, "What does God want me to know about Him?"

Me Question: Older Kids

Say: When we learn new things about following Jesus, it's good to think about how we can respond. You could tell God, "Thank You" or "I'm sorry." You could tell Him something you want to do differently. You have a chance to respond to God right now.

Pass out the Take-Home printable. Instruct kids to think about what they've learned about God today and draw/write an answer to, "What does this mean for me?"

Choose Your Challenge

Say: We want to respond to God and remember what He has taught us today. We also want to use what He has taught us during the coming week. As we become more like Jesus, our lives change!

Read the challenges from the Take-Home Sheet aloud. Ask kids to mark which one they want to choose for this week.

Prayer: Dear God, You loved us first through Jesus. Help us remember there is nothing we can do to make You stop loving us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Say Goodbye

Tell kids goodbye and thank them for being a part of your group.

- *As kids wait to be picked up, encourage them to complete the activities on the back of the Take-Home sheet. As kids work, ask relationship-building questions such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?" or "What do you do for fun?"*
- *As parents arrive, look for opportunities to connect with them, pointing out the Take-Home sheet their kid is bringing home.*

Becoming, Believing and Becoming activity sheets

Choose 1 of 2 options for each

Time may not permit all three... we'll
adjust as necessary.

Printables can be viewed and printed
from the links below the description of
each activity:

<https://britecurriculum.com/>

Please let me know if you have any questions

K–2nd Belonging Experience (Option 1)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Title: Are You Like Me?

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Invite kids to make a circle.
2. Pick a kid to start in the middle of the circle. This kid will share three words to describe themselves.
3. After the kid in the center says the three words aloud, if a kid in the circle would also use one of those words to describe themselves, they will run to the center and highfive the kid in the center.
4. Continue until every kid has had a moment in the center to describe themselves.
5. **Discuss:** What is something new you learned about someone in the group?
6. **Discuss:** Who do you have things in common with in our group?
7. **Discuss:** What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?
8. **Discuss:** How did God use those experiences to grow you as a resilient disciple of Christ?

Activity Wrap-Up: Today we learned lots of fun things about each other. It's so great to have good friends at church. Today, we are going to learn about some friends of Jesus who had something in common, and it was not a good thing.

K–2nd Belonging Experience (Option 2)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Title: Betray, Deny, Love

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Guide kids to form two circles, one inside the other.
2. Take time to explain what the words betray and deny mean to the kids. To betray is to hurt someone on purpose and deny is to refuse to admit the truth.
3. Explain to the kids that they will walk one direction when you say the word "betray" and the opposite direction when you call the word "deny."
4. When you call "love," they will freeze and turn to face the person in the other circle. You will give them 30 seconds to say kind things to the other person.
5. **Discuss:** How did you feel when kind things were being said to you?
6. **Discuss:** How is life different when we choose to love over betraying and denying?
7. **Discuss:** What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?
8. **Discuss:** How did God use those experiences to grow you as a resilient disciple of Christ?

Activity Wrap-Up: When we betray someone or deny that we know them we are hurting that relationship. Guess what? In today's story, there are two people who do those very things to Jesus. We also do those things to Him, but we can know that Jesus always loves us.

3rd–5th Belonging Experience (Option 1)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Title: What I Like About You

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies: Printable page, markers

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Give each kid a printable and a marker.
2. Invite kids to write their names at the top of the printable and draw themselves in the frame beside their name.
3. Take the papers and lay them in a row on a table or the floor. Invite kids to begin in front of a sheet and, on the provided lines, write one thing on the sheet they like about the person.
4. Encourage kids to write something unique that has not already been written on the sheet.
5. Invite kids to rotate, in order, through all the sheets until they have written for everyone.
6. Monitor the sheets to make sure only encouraging words are written.
7. **Discuss:** As you look at your sheet, what words are you surprised to see?
8. **Discuss:** How does it make you feel to be encouraged in this way?
9. **Discuss:** What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?
10. **Discuss:** How did God use those experiences to grow you as a resilient disciple of Christ?

Activity Wrap-Up: Today, we were loved on by our friends in this group. Some of these people you may not know very well. Did you know Jesus loved you before you knew Him? Jesus is God's perfect Son; and even though we are not perfect, we can know Jesus loves us and has a plan for our life. Listen closely in today's lesson for how Jesus loved those who sinned against Him.

3rd–5th Belonging Experience (Option 2)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Title: Similarities in Threes

Learning Styles: Move and Talk

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Explain that you will call out a category, and the kids are to form groups of three with people sharing their favorite thing in that category. For example, if cereal is called out, the kids who like Cheerios have to form groups of three.
2. If a kid doesn't make a group of three, invite them to yell out their favorite, but they will remain in the game.
3. Suggestions of categories to call out are:
 - a. Favorite Sport
 - b. Favorite Color
 - c. Favorite Pet
 - d. Favorite Dessert
 - e. Favorite Ice Cream
4. **Discuss:** Was it easy or hard to find people who had the same favorites as you? Why or why not?
5. **Discuss:** How does it feel to have things in common with other people?
6. **Discuss:** What was the best part of your week? What was the worst part of your week?
7. **Discuss:** How did God use those experiences to grow you as a resilient disciple of Christ?

Activity Wrap-Up: As we played our game, you got to find friends whom you had things in common with. Well, I have good news for us all. We all share one thing in common. Jesus loved all of us first. What great news that the Son of God knew us before we knew Him. He loved us first, and He loved us so much He died for our sins on the cross. I love sharing that with you.

K–2nd Believing Experience (Option 1)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Love Scramble

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies: Bible, printable page and scissors

Prep: Copy the printable page on several different colors of paper. Cut out the words. Mix all the different words together facedown in the middle of the room.

Instructions:

1. Lead kids to find 1 John 4:19 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. Next, divide the group into smaller groups and assign each group a color of words.
3. On "go," one person from each group will grab a word in their color from the middle and bring it back to their group. Each player will grab a word, one at a time. Once all words are collected, the team will work together to put the verse in order.
4. Challenge kids to try to do it without using their Bibles in the second round.
5. Once all the groups have the verse in order, say the verse aloud together. Then take out a word each round and encourage the kids to continue saying the verse.
6. **Discuss:** Who in your life loves you? (Allow kids time to name people, and let them share how they know that person loves them.)
7. **Discuss:** Who loved you first before anyone? (Jesus loved us first.)

Activity Wrap-Up: Before you had even heard of Jesus, He loved you. Many years ago, He loved you so much He died on the cross for your sins. We didn't deserve such a gift because we are sinners, but Jesus loved us anyway. That is amazing love.

K–2nd Believing Experience (Option 2)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Love Garland

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies: Bible, red and pink construction paper, markers, scissors, hole punch, yarn

Prep: Cut out 10 hearts for each kid in your group and punch two holes on either side of the top of the heart.

Instructions:

1. Lead kids to find 1 John 4:19 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. Give each kid their set of hearts and a marker. With their Bibles open, invite kids to trace the word on each heart.
3. After they finish tracing the words on their hearts, challenge them to close their Bible and scramble up the words.
4. Give each kid a long piece of yarn and guide them in threading their hearts on the yarn in order of the memory verse, without using their Bibles.
5. When all of their verses are threaded correctly, invite the group to say the memory verse aloud several times.
6. Invite kids to take home their garland and hang it in their home.
7. **Discuss:** According to our memory verse, who loved first? (Jesus)
8. **Discuss:** How do we know Jesus loves us?
9. **Discuss:** Because He loved us first, what should we do? (love others)

Activity Wrap-Up: Before you had even heard of Jesus, He loved you. Many years ago, He loved you so much He died on the cross for your sins. We didn't deserve such a gift because we are sinners, but Jesus loved us anyway. That is amazing love.

3rd–5th Believing Experience (Option 1)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Rooster Roll

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies: Bible, small kiddie pool, two laundry hampers, 20 plastic balls

Prep: Write a word from today's memory verse on two different sets of plastic balls and then mix them together in the kiddie pool. For more difficulty, throw some blank plastic balls in the kiddie pool. Place the kiddie pool on the side of the room and the two baskets on the far end of the room.

Instructions:

1. Lead kids to find 1 John 4:19 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. Divide the group into two teams. Invite the teams to line up, one in front of another, on the opposite side of each basket.
3. Explain that the baskets are the nest and the plastic balls are roosters.
4. One at a time, each team member will run to the kiddie pool and get a "rooster," in order of the memory verse, and roll it into their basket from their starting place. If the "rooster" misses the basket, they have to keep trying to roll it from the starting point until it goes into the basket. Once that ball gets in, the next player does the same until all the balls/roosters are in their basket/nest, in order.
5. **Discuss:** When you hear this verse, what does it make you think about Jesus and yourself?
6. **Discuss:** What does a rooster have to do with today's lesson?

Activity Wrap-Up: Peter blew it. He said he would never deny Jesus and he did just as Jesus had said—before the rooster crowed. Jesus still loved Peter even though he messed up and denied Jesus. Jesus loves you too. He loved you first. We didn't do anything to make Jesus love us, and we can't stop Him from loving us. That is great news today.

3rd–5th Believing Experience (Option 2)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Title: Memory Verse Walk

Learning Styles: Move and Solve

Supplies: Index cards, markers, and tape

Prep: Write one word of the memory verse on each index card. Then, fill in at least 20-30 more index cards with random words. Tape all the words on the floor.

Instructions:

1. Lead kids to find 1 John 4:19 in their Bible. Read the verse aloud together.
2. Invite kids to stand in a line on one side of the cards on the floor. (Hint: Place kids to start closest to the first word in the memory verse.)
3. One-by-one, invite kids to step on the words of the memory verse, in order, and land on the other side of the word area. This is like walking across a bunch of rocks, but only stepping on the memory verse words, in order. As they step on each word, invite them to say the verse aloud.
4. Once everyone is on the other side of the words on the floor, challenge the kids to say the memory verse aloud together.
5. **Discuss:** According to our memory verse, who loved first? (Jesus)
6. **Discuss:** Because He loved us first, what should we do? (love others)
7. **Discuss:** How do you know Jesus loves you?
8. **Discuss:** What is one way you can show love to someone this week?

Activity Wrap-Up: Say: In this activity, you had to pay close attention as you walked across and made sure you stepped on the right words, in order. In life, we need to always pay attention. Jesus is constantly showing His love for us, and we also have to be intentional about loving others.

Becoming Discussion

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

When we understand that Jesus loved us first, we understand we don't have to earn His love or prove ourselves to Him. We live like He wants us to live—not to make sure He likes us, but to honor Him and to trust that He knows best. We can also love others with the unconditional love that He shows us. We can forgive quickly. We can show the love of Jesus without expecting others to deserve it.



BUT WHAT ABOUT ... Fear of Being Different?

Discuss: How important is it to kids your age to feel like they fit in?

Discuss: Does living life God's way ever cause you to feel like you are different from other kids? Does that feel good or bad? Why?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: Some kids are afraid that if they live for Jesus, others will think they are weird or not cool. Some kids are afraid to be different from others. There are times that you will be different from everyone, but that's not a bad thing. Sometimes fitting in means saying or doing things we know are wrong. Lots of times it can be hard to talk to people about Jesus when our main focus is on what others think about us. Both Judas and Peter stuck with the crowd instead of being loyal to Jesus. When fitting in with others is our priority, we will end up getting hurt. Friends' opinions can change. The crowds can steer us the wrong way. Jesus, however, never changes, and His love for us never changes. Our best path is to trust the One who loved us from the very beginning and loves us no matter what.

K–2nd Becoming Experience (Option 1)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Title: Jesus Loves You and Me

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies: Construction paper, markers, scissors, glue, and stickers

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Allow kids to pick out three pieces of construction paper and make cards to share with someone that Jesus loves them.
2. Challenge kids to include today's memory verse on the cards and to write a message or draw a picture about how Jesus loves the person receiving the card.
3. After kids have written the verse and message, invite kids to decorate the card with stickers and drawings.
4. **Discuss:** What three people (not in your family) do you want to secretly deliver these cards to this week?
5. **Discuss:** Why do you want to share the love of Jesus with them?
6. **Discuss:** Do you ever get nervous sharing the love of Jesus with others? Why or why not?
7. Challenge kids to secretly deliver their three cards to the people they have decided need to be reminded of the love of Jesus.

Activity Wrap-Up: Jesus knows everything we do and loves us anyway. He doesn't wait until we have it all figured out or are behaving the right way. He calls us to show His love to others. This week, thank Jesus for His love and show His love to the people you come across.

K–2nd Becoming Experience (Option 2)

For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Title: Cross-Shaped Love

Learning Styles: Create and Write

Supplies: Masking tape, sticky notes, and pens

Prep: Using tape, make the shape of a large hollow cross on the floor or the wall of your space.

Instructions:

1. Give each kid several sticky notes and a pen.
2. Invite the kids to quietly reflect on sins they have committed. Remind them that sins are when we disobey God's laws.
3. On each of their sticky notes, invite kids to write a word or draw a symbol for a sin they have committed.
4. When all of the kids are finished with their sticky notes, ask them to come and quietly place them on the cross.
5. **Say:** In today's lesson, Judas betrayed Jesus and Peter denied Him, but we have also done things to disobey and disappoint Jesus.
6. **Discuss:** What is sin? (Help kids understand that sin is disobeying God.)
7. **Discuss:** Can we ever sin so badly that Jesus doesn't love us anymore?
8. **Discuss:** What does the cross mean to you?
9. **Say:** Look at all of our sins on the cross. Jesus knew us before we knew Him, and He knew we were sinners and would disobey Him. That did not stop Him from dying on the cross for our sins. That is amazing love; and through believing in Jesus alone as our Lord and Savior, we can be forgiven of all our sin and spend eternity with Him.

Activity Wrap-Up: Jesus knows everything we will ever do and loves us anyway. He doesn't wait until we have it all figured out or are behaving the right way. He calls us to show His love to others. This week, thank Jesus for His love.

3rd–5th Becoming Experience (Option 1)

For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Title: Covered in His Love

Learning Styles: Move and Create

Supplies: Heart stickers and blue dot stickers

Prep: None

Instructions:

1. Divide the kids into two groups.
2. Give one group the blue dot stickers and the other group the heart stickers.
3. Give the blue-dot group a heads up and challenge them to put a blue dot sticker on their arms/legs for every sin they can remember committing.
4. Once the blue-dot team has started, invite the heart sticker team to go around to each of the blue-dot kids and put a heart sticker over the blue dot and say, "Jesus loves you."
5. The heart sticker team cannot put two heart stickers on the same person in a row. Encourage them to walk around the room to share with everyone the love of Jesus.
6. After a certain amount of time, make sure all the blue dots are covered in hearts, and then invite the kids to switch teams and do the same things again.
7. **Discuss:** Do you ever think you could do something so bad that Jesus couldn't love you? Why or why not?
8. **Discuss:** What encouragement did you receive from today's lesson that Jesus will always love you?
9. Say: We are never too far from the love of Jesus. Jesus loved us first, and because of His perfect love, we can love others.

Activity Wrap-Up: Jesus knows everything we do and loves us anyway. He doesn't wait until we have it all figured out or are behaving the right way. He calls us to show His love to others. This week, thank Jesus for His love and show His love to the people you come across.

3rd–5th Becoming Experience (Option 2)

For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Title: Life Timeline

Learning Styles: Write and Create

Supplies: Printable page, pens

Prep: Print one copy of the printable page for each kid.

Instructions:

1. Give each kid a Life Timeline Printable.

2. Invite them to fill in the blanks on the timeline the best they know how using the events listed at the top right of the printable.
3. Once kids are finished, divide them into small groups and ask them to share their timelines with one another.
4. **Discuss:** What is something you learned about someone in your group?
5. **Discuss:** What is one thing all your timelines had in common? (Jesus loved you first.)
6. **Discuss:** What does today's lesson teach us about who God is?
7. **Discuss:** What can you know to be true about the rest of your life to come?

Activity Wrap-Up: Although you haven't lived all your life, you have had many good and bad experiences so far. But one thing we all have in common is that Jesus loved us first. There is nothing we can do to make Him stop loving us. Be encouraged today, Jesus loves you!