

Bible Story Teaching Guide

Love Him Love Them VBS, 2017-2018



Bible Story

Getting Ready for Bible Story Rotation:

- Study the lessons. Allow Him to teach you as you study beforehand what you will teach the children. Throughout the week, help children understand how they can apply Luke 10:27 to their own lives.
- Pray for the children that will enter this rotation. Pray that God will teach them through you.
- Gather Supplies
- You might want to play music, or sing as younger children enter. Young children might like to come in to the classroom with the song B-I-B-L-E as they daily enter their Bible Rotation.
- The **“bold”** text is a scripted guide given to help you know what to say as you teach the lesson. Read over and adjust as you feel God lead, but we hope this helps you prepare and teach your lesson.
- Be prepared to lead children to Christ as that opportunity opens!
- Color sheets are available to leaders to use as needed. These can be helpful reminders of what children are learning. You may use these sheets during your rotation, or have leaders use the sheets as needed during any rotation times where there might be extra down time. Children can take the color sheets home at the end of the day's VBS as a reminder of the Bible story.
- As you study the lesson, think of your children at your church. Add and adjust to meet your church's needs.

Day 1 God is my Creator.

Who is God?

Genesis 1:26, 27

**Setting the stage- You might want to bring in props to show things God created. You can include stuffed animals, a pretend water source with fish, etc.*

Materials: Bible, any props want to use, chairs, optional play doh

Introduction

“Welcome to our Bible Story time. Our Bible verse this week is from Luke 10:27. The verse says to love God, but to love Him, we must first know Him. The ministry that we are partnering with is called Love Him Love Them, but to Love Him, we must know Him, and to Love Them; which, is other people, we must have God’s love. God is the reason you are here today. God loves you and He made you. God wants to be with you. Have you ever made something that you liked and were proud of having made it all by yourself? God made you and He loves you.”

Bible Story

“We learn about God from reading the Bible. At the beginning of the Bible, God tells us that He is our Creator. He made all things. Do you know the days of creation? Let’s think about when God made all things by reviewing the days of creation. Day one, everyone hold up a number 1 finger, God made_”

You can continue this pattern as you quickly summarize Genesis chapter 1 and God’s creation, or for older children you can have them read the story of creation in their Bibles. You could also have stuffed animals and other visuals to show as you quickly review what God created. Children can make up motions for the different creations God made, if time allows.

“Let’s read Genesis 1:26, 27. When God made us, He made us different than when He made other things from creation. He made us in His image. He also made us to rule over other things He had created. What can we learn about God from the things He created? We learn that He is very creative. He is in control of everything. We are special because He put us in charge of the other things on earth that He created. We are special because He chose to create us. Did you hear that? He chose to create you. He chose to love you. Better yet, He wanted to walk and talk with you. When He created Adam and Eve, before they sinned, He walked with them and talked with them as they had a relationship with God. God wants a relationship with you.”

Activity

You can choose from some of the activities below:

“We can play a game as we think of our favorite things God made.”

Which is your favorite...

Children will start in the middle of the room and then move to one side of the room if their favorite is one choice and the other side of the room if it is the other choice. Some ideas are listed, but you can add more to this list if you would like: fruits/vegetables, dog/cat, mountains/beach.

“God made you special. Let’s think about how God made us special. God is creative. He could have made us all the same, but He didn’t. “

We are all special...

Have kids sit in a circle with one child standing in the middle. You will need one less chair than children in your group. The middle child will call out a characteristic some children have; for instance, blonde hair. Then, all kids with blonde hair will get up and quickly try to move to another seat, including the child in the middle. The child left standing then comes up with another special characteristic like curly hair, and so on. You can also do a game with interests and talents- soccer/dance etc.

Alternative for activities: Children can make a creation from play doh, or make their favorite creation that God made. Younger children can also go on a creation hunt outside, or they can hunt for creations as they travel from rotation to rotation.

Memory Verse: Teach... Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God”

“God is our Creator. He loves us. We should love Him. When you know how much God loves you, it makes you want to love Him.”

Teach motions below, or have children make up their own motions.

Love- cross arms at chest

God- use right hand, with fingers pointing upwards and thumb close to face, move in a downward motion in front of your face starting from about your forehead to about your chin

*Pray for children to understand that God is their Creator and He loves them.

Day 2 Jesus is my Savior.

How did God show He loves me?

John 3:16, John 15:13

Materials: leader's dirty hands, items to clean hands, Bible, 2 glasses, bleach, water, 1 tsp baking soda, food coloring, stirrer, pan with sand or dry erase boards and a surface to erase, paper towels

Introduction:

Leader can have dirty hands and touch table surfaces etc and be making things very dirty. Leader says, **"I just don't know what to do. I have this stuff on my hands and I need to get it off. Does anyone know what I should do?"** (wait for the children's responses) **"Oh, I need to wash it off so I can be clean again."** Have an area set aside to quickly use wipes or something to clean your hands. **"Today we are going to talk about how we are all dirty from sin, but soap and water can't help us get clean. Let me tell you a way we get dirty that we can't clean on our own. Have you ever gotten mad and said something mean and hurtful? Have you ever lied or not done what your parents told you to do? All of these are examples of sin. Sin is anything we think (touch top of head), say (touch mouth) or do (hold out both hands with palms up) that does not please God."** Repeat this definition of sin, using motions, frequently during the lesson and during the week.

Bible Story:

"Do you know that God loves you and wants to be with you? Remember, yesterday you learned that God created you. He wants a relationship with you. Before sin, God walked with Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve could talk to God and there was nothing that divided or separated their relationship until Adam and Eve sinned. There is something we have to understand about God, our Creator. Not only does He love us, but God is also Holy, meaning He does no wrong. Since God is Holy, when we sin, it hurts our relationship with God. Our punishment for sin should be death, but there is good news. God loved us so much that He sent us someone who could make us clean from our sin. Does anyone know who that is? Let's read John 3:16." (Leader can read John 3:16 or have older students read together.) **"Did you hear that? God LOVED YOU so much that He sent His Son for us so that we can live forever with God! Jesus took our death punishment and He died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven. In the Bible, John 15:13, Jesus is talking to his friends, who were his disciples, and he said... (Leader can read the verse from the Bible). "Jesus lived a perfect life of no sin, died for our sins, and then rose from the grave for us! He shows us how He loves us so much. There is no greater love than God's love! Since Jesus died for our sins, if we believe we need Jesus as our Savior, and we ask Him to forgive us for our sins and we decide to follow Jesus, we can be washed clean from our sin."**

Experiment:

Set up a glass with half water and another glass with half bleach. Ask children of examples of sin as you use food coloring to drop about 1-2 drops into the water glass and then stir the water. Explain that the

colored water is like our life when we sin. Then, take the glass with bleach and say, **“Because of God’s love for us, He sent Jesus into this world. Jesus lived a perfect life with no sin, but, because of our sin, Jesus died on the cross and rose again as he took our punishment.”** Next, pour the glass with bleach into the colored water and also the tsp of baking soda. Stir and say, **“Because Jesus took my punishment for my sins, if I ask for forgiveness, He will clean me of my dirty sin. Then, I follow Jesus and have a relationship with God. God wants to be with us and Jesus is our ONLY way we can have a relationship with God.”**

Another alternate activity includes:

Use one of the leaders to represent God, another leader to represent Jesus and a child to represent all of us. The child will stand with “God” as you explain God loved us and wanted a relationship with us. Then, you will separate “God” and the child as you explain because of sin it separates us from Holy God. Next, explain that Jesus lived, died and rose to take away our punishment for our sins. The leader for “Jesus” will come in the middle of “God” and the child. “Jesus” will come over and take the child by the hand to “God”. Explain the only way to God is through Jesus.

Activity

If time allows, you can have a pan with sand. Children will think of a sin. You or a volunteer can draw something in the sand to represent the sin (could be a stick person, a letter for the beginning of the sin, etc). Then, discuss how that sin hurts their relationship with God. Remind children that Jesus took their punishment and they can ask God to forgive them of their sin. Next, shake the pan of sand as they see that the sin disappeared. You can also do this activity with dry erase markers and marker boards, or page protectors, and then children erase what they wrote/drew. Remind them, Jesus is the ONLY way to be clean from sin.

Memory Verse: Teach... Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul”
“God has shown how much He loves us. We should love Him. We should love Him more than anything or anyone.”

Teach the new motions below, or have children make up their own motions.

Heart- with pointer fingers, draw a heart on your chest

Soul- left hand makes a fist with hole pointing upwards, right hand- thumb and pointer touching as it is like you are taking the right hand’s thumb and pointer out of the left hand’s fist and bringing hand upward

*Pray for the children to understand that God loves them and sent them Jesus to be their Savior.

Day 3 King Josiah

Is God Lord of my life?

2 Kings 23:25

*Before each class today, hide a “scroll”. The scroll can be a rolled piece of paper. Write on the paper, Have no other gods before Me (God). You can tape pencils to the ends of the paper and roll the pencils towards each other to make it look more like a scroll. Tie the pencils together with yarn. Read the script provided below to see how you can use the scroll in your lesson.

Materials: scroll, Bible, idols (money, mirror (self), picture of another person, TV, sport, food, etc.), crown

Use these materials as you provide visuals for the children as you teach the Bible story.

Introduction

“Is anyone 8 years old? Do you have a brother or sister that age? Today our Bible Story is about a boy that was 8 and became king. Show the crown. The best part is, in the Bible, it says that this king loved God with all his heart, soul, and strength. Does anyone know this king’s name? The king’s name was Josiah.”

Bible Story

“Yesterday, we talked about how we have all sinned. When we sin, we are not obeying God. What is sin? Anything we think, say, or do that does not please God.” Use motions each time you lead students in saying this definition for sin. **“Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sin. In our Bible story today, a nation had not been obeying God. What was the name I said of the boy that became king? Josiah.**

King Josiah sent a man named Shaphan to the high priest, Hilkiah. Hilkiah told Shaphan that he found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord and he gave it to Shaphan. Shaphan told King Josiah about the Book of Law and read it to him. What do you think King Josiah thought after he heard God’s laws? When King Josiah heard God’s laws, he was very sad that the nation had not been following God’s laws. If we really are sorry when we sin, we will be sad like Josiah. Then, we will change our behavior. When we read God’s commands in the Bible, we should change things in our life that are not pleasing to God. Josiah was sad that the people had not been following God and then he made changes so the people would turn to God.

I’m going to tell you more about our Bible story, but first just like they found the Book of Law and then read it, I have hidden in the room a paper rolled up to look like how God’s word would have looked a long time ago. Search the room to see if you can find the paper scroll and then we will read what is written on the paper.”

Have children search for the scroll.

“The high priest found the Book of the Law just like you searched to find this paper scroll. The Book of the Law had many of the commands from God written in it. There is a command I wrote on this paper that is from the Bible, it says... Have no other gods before Me (God).

That means God is to be the most important thing in our life. We should only worship God.

The people in the nation where Josiah was king were not worshipping God. They were worshipping other gods, called idols. An idol is anything we care more about than God. In King Josiah’s nation, the people had little statue idols that they were worshipping instead of God, but after King Josiah read God’s laws, Josiah had the statue idols taken away. If God is the Lord of our life, we care more about Him than anything else and we do what He says. Most of us in America do not have statue idols, but if something else is lord of our life, meaning we care about it more than God, it is our idol. Our idol can be ourselves. We might only care about pleasing ourselves. Our idol could be a sport. Sports are good, but if we only think about that and care more about it than about God then it is our idol. Our idol can be other people if we care about them more than God.” Show and discuss some of the pictures and items you prepared from the materials list to have as examples to share with the children. Children can give other examples of idols. Discuss ways children can keep God first in their life.

“What did King Josiah do after he read the laws? He was sad, but then, he started making changes in the kingdom based on God’s laws. He didn’t just read it; he did something about it. King Josiah, after reading God’s laws, saw that there was sin. Then, he got rid of all things in the kingdom that were not following God’s commands. We must recognize our sins, ask for forgiveness, remember only through Jesus are we forgiven of our sins, and then stop sinning and follow God. When we do that, we make God Lord of our life just like Josiah did. Josiah obeyed God and because he obeyed God, in 2 Kings 23:25, it says ...” Read text from the Bible. **“God wants to be Lord of our life. If we really love God, we will obey His commands as we make Him Lord of our life.”**

Activity

You can play search for the scroll again as time allows. Let children take turns hiding the scroll in the room.

Memory Verse: Teach... Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind;”

Teach new motions below, or have children make up their own motions.

Strength- make arms in a “strong” flex motion

Mind- point to side of head at temple

“God loves us. We should love Him more than anything else or anyone.”

*Pray for children to love God more than anything else and to obey Him.

Day 4 Mary's Heart

How do I love and serve Him?

When we love God with all of our heart, we will want to serve Him.

Mark 14:3-9

Materials: Bible, heart cut outs for children (or older children can cut out on their own), scissors, pencils, crayons or markers, any visuals could use as you tell the Bible story

Introduction

"Have you ever done something nice for someone you loved? One time I, _____" Share a personal experience where you did something very special for someone else. "Sometimes when we do something special, it will cost a lot of money or time, but we do it to show we care about that person. When we love someone, we like to show them we love them. We might do acts of service for people we love. What are ways we serve others?" Discuss examples of service. "When we love God with all of our heart, we will want to serve Him. Yesterday, we talked about obeying Him and doing what He says, but we shouldn't just obey Him because it is the right thing to do, we should obey Him and do what He says, because we love Him. When we see how much God loves us, we will want to obey, love, and serve Him."

Bible Story

"In our Bible story today, a lady showed Jesus she loved Him. She didn't do something because it was right. She didn't do something because other people would think she was a good person. She served Jesus because she had a heart that loved Him. Just like we will learn from the lady in our Bible story, we can love out of our heart's desire to do everything for Jesus, because of our love for Jesus. The lady that did something for Jesus was named Mary. This was not Jesus's mother, but was a lady who had been with Jesus through His ministry. Let's read the story today from Mark 14:3-9."

With younger children, you can summarize but show them where the text is in the Bible. With older children, please have them look in the Bible at the text. You may want to use visuals as you tell the story.

"Mary poured very expensive perfume on Jesus's head to anoint Him. This would have been worth an entire year's salary. It was very costly. She did not see the cost of the perfume as much as she saw how worthy Jesus was for it. Did the people who were watching Mary like that she poured the expensive perfume on Jesus? No, they thought she was wasting it. What did Jesus think about what she did? In verse 6, He said she did it for Him. In verses 8-9, He explains that she did something great for Him and she did for Him what she could do. When we serve, our service must come out of a heart to serve Jesus. If we love God with all our heart, we will do things for Him because we love Him. Why did Mary pour expensive perfume on Jesus? She saw how wonderful Jesus was and wanted to do something special for Him."

Why should we serve God? When we love God with all of our heart, we will want to serve Him. It is easier to love people who are close to you. Remember that God wants to be close to you. He created you. Sin is what messed up our relationship with God, but He sent Jesus to save us because He wants to be with us. When we see how much God loves us, we will want to love Him and serve Him.”

Have children discuss ways they can show God they love Him. How can they serve? Remind them they should do these things because of their love FOR God, not just because it is nice or right.

Activity

Children can cut out, or use precut, heart shapes as they thank God for His love for them through words or pictures on one side, and on the other side they can write or draw a way they can show God’s love. Please have an example ready using words and pictures for children to see as they work.

Memory Verse: Teach... Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor”

“Remember God loves you so much and He wants you to love Him and love others.”

Teach new motions below, or have children make up their own motions.

Do the sign for people (to show love to all people)

Pointer and middle fingers separated with thumb in middle and pointing downward (ASL sign for the letter p) Then, move hands in a circular motion outward from the body.

*Pray for children to love God with all their heart.

Day 5 The Good Samaritan

Who is my neighbor?

Luke 10:25-37

Materials: Bible, items for skit, index cards for Love Charades

Introduction

“In our Bible story today, Jesus explains our Bible verse we have been learning. Does anyone remember our Bible verse? Let’s say it together.” Say the verse together. **“What was the last sentence in the verse?”** If children need help, say the verse and then stop after ‘mind’ and see if children can complete the verse. **“Yes, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’. Jesus told a story to explain who our neighbor is. We are going to read the story and act out the story Jesus told.”**

Bible Story

The teacher can read the text first and have children act out the story last, or read the text as children act out what is being read.

Read Luke 10:25-37

Characters needed for skit: a man, robbers (if desired, read note below), priest, Levite, Samaritan, innkeeper

You can have items children can use as they act out the story. Designate areas in the room for the inn, etc. Remind robbers to not truly hit, but to pretend they are being mean. Another suggestion is to not use the robbers so there will not be violence, but begin the acting part after the robbers (beginning with verse 31). Another alternative to using children in the skit is to use stuffed animals or puppets to play the roles of the characters.

Give children a little background: **“The Jews, the people Jesus was telling the story to, and the Samaritans, did not get along. The Jews did not like the Samaritans because of their race. Since the Samaritan was the one who helped the man who was hurt, Jesus was teaching the people that it does not matter who to love and help, we are to love and help everyone.”**

“Who did Jesus come to save? Everyone. Who does God love? Everyone. Then, we must also show His love to everyone. What are ways we can show God’s love to others?” Have children discuss ways to show God’s love to others.

Older children can also look at the verse, 1 John 4:7,8. “Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God, but He that loves not, knows not God for God is love. Beloved, let us love one another.” Discuss: Where does love come from? If we know God, what will we do? If we do not love, what does this verse say? What do you think God is saying to you through this verse and our lesson today?

Activity

Love Charades

Have ideas ready of ways people show God's love to others written on index cards. Children will then act out a way to show God's love as the others guess what they are acting out.

Memory Verse: Teach... Luke 10:27, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and Love your neighbor as yourself."

Teach new motions below, or have children make up their own motions.

"As yourself"

Point to yourself.

"We like to take care of ourselves. We like to do things we want to do. We must love others and care for them like we would want for ourselves."

"Can anyone recite the verse from memory?"

Allow responses as time allows.