

God's Plan: 2 LOVE Us 4-Ever!

Bible Story

The Infinite Implementation

Mark 16:15; Acts 1:1–11; 2:4,41–47;
4:32–35

So . . .
now what
do I do?

You can
live as God's
child and show
His love to
others.

Bible Verse

"[...] live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma." Ephesians 5:2

Session Goals

1. PARTICIPATE in telling the story of what Jesus' followers did after His ascension.
2. DISCUSS ways to show God's love to others.
3. THANK God for promising to love us forever, and ask for His help to show love to others.
4. CHOOSE to live as a member of God's family.

Spark Principle— Chain Reaction

A series of events caused by the one before.
Sharing God's love with others can start a chain reaction and go on and on and on!





Heart

For centuries, the heart has represented love. When we become members of God's family at Baptism, we receive a new life and a new heart! Whenever you see a heart, you can remember how God loves you and how as a member of His family, God's child, you can show His love to others.

Heart Prep

Salvation is a complete and finished work of God for us. Jesus on the cross said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). God's plan was complete and finished in that moment! When we believe, we receive a new life, a new heart. We are made new creatures; we are given a new mind and new service opens before us. The new commandment of love is the only commandment of our new life.

Probably if you or I had gone through as much as Jesus did to make salvation possible, we would have been tempted to assure the spread of our work by some supernatural means. But when the Lord Jesus Christ went back to heaven, He left only a group of people to continue His work—a people called out of the world for His glory.

The Church is the organization that the Lord has ordained to carry on His work. The whole process of evangelization boils down to one point: Someone must tell of the love of Christ for others to know about it. You and I are the only messengers that He has. Throughout all of history, the Lord's people have with varying degrees of steadfastness continued this work. Now it is our turn.

The Lord promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church. Instead, it will triumph until Christ returns. You and I can triumph, too, if we will let the Lord work in our lives to make us examples of the way in which members of the Body of Christ should act, both toward Him and toward others.

Bible Story Recap

Over the 40 days following Jesus' resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to His friends again and again. He ate with them and talked with them many different times. He wanted them to know that everything He had told them about God's plan was true. And He wanted to give them some important instructions.

One day Jesus and His friends went to the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples to share what they had seen and heard so that other people could believe in God. He promised to always be with them, loving and helping them no matter where they went or what happened.

Then, as the disciples watched, Jesus returned to heaven, just as He had said He would. He was taken up into the clouds and disappeared from their sight.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem. And then—on a very special feast day called Pentecost—the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to speak in many different languages. The disciples began to tell everyone the good news that Jesus had died for their sins!

Three thousand people believed in Jesus that day. They met together to learn to follow Jesus. Every day, more people became a part of God's family.

The believers shared their homes, their food, their clothes—everything they had—with one another in order to show God's love. Wherever they went, they shared the good news about Jesus; and soon there were lots of new churches in many places.

Almost 2,000 years later, the good news of what Jesus has done continues to spread around the world because people share God's love with others.

Daily Recap

At the end of each session, take time to reflect on what happened. Use these questions as a guide:

- What do you think the kids learned this week? What did you learn this week?
- Thank God for the things that happened this week—the best, worst and most laughable!
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you and your children show God's love to others every day.

Checkers & Dominoes



Preparation

Line up checkers on a smooth surface as shown in photo below. Set out dominoes on tables.



Procedure

I have a challenge for you: Move this red checker without touching it or the black one next to it. How do you think we can do that? Volunteers respond. If children do not come up with the solution on their own, ask a volunteer to shoot the freestanding black checker into the other black checker, causing the red one to move.

How did that work? Volunteers respond. **It worked**

because of something called kinetic energy, which is energy in motion. The first black checker's kinetic energy transferred to the second black checker. That checker didn't move much, because it was blocked by the red checker. But the energy kept going, making the red checker move. We sometimes call this a chain reaction. What other chain reactions have you seen?

Materials

- 3 checkers, 2 black and 1 red

For Every Three or Four Children

- set of 40 to 50 dominoes

(Ripples on a pond. Ricocheting croquet or billiard balls. Bowling pins. Automobile fender-benders.)

(Optional: To demonstrate another type of chain reaction, have group form a tight circle. Have everyone turn facing the back of the person to the left. Have one person at a time carefully sit back on the lap of the person behind. If everything goes smoothly, the entire circle of people should end up seated on each other's legs. By the way, it never works smoothly the first time, which is half the fun!)

Chain reactions can go on for much longer than the checker action. Let's see how long a chain reaction you can create with these dominoes. Children divide into groups of three or four. Give each group a set of dominoes. Allow five minutes for each group to set up

a domino run, as creative or unique as possible. (Optional: Allow students to create steps or ramps for their runs with cardboard blocks.) When time is up, allow groups to demonstrate their runs. (Optional: Use watch to time each run, or have children count the number of dominoes in their runs to compare and contrast their setups.)

Conversation

God's love is like the energy in the first domino. Just as the dominoes in your run transferred energy to each other, we can pass on God's love to those around us.

Our Spark Principle is about Chain Reactions. A chain reaction is a series of events caused by the one before. Sharing God's love with others can start a chain reaction and go on and on and on!

What is today's Daily Plan? Pause for children to respond, "2 LOVE Us 4-Ever!" **God loves you! And He wants to share that love with you forever.**

Our Bible verse for today says, "[...] live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma."

(Ephesians 5:2). Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die for us.

Jesus shared God's love with us, and God wants us to share that amazing love with everyone we meet.

Pray, **Dear God, thank You for promising to love us forever. Please help us show love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Lab Journal

Grades 1 and 2: Children complete "Clueless!" activity on page 21 of their *Lab Journals*.

Grades 3 and 4: Children complete "Inventions Through Time" activity on page 20 of their *Lab Journals*.

Grades 5 and 6: Children complete "You Oughta Know!" activity on page 20 of their *Lab Journals*.