

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?

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

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

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

Bible Story Review Game

Laser Racers

Materials

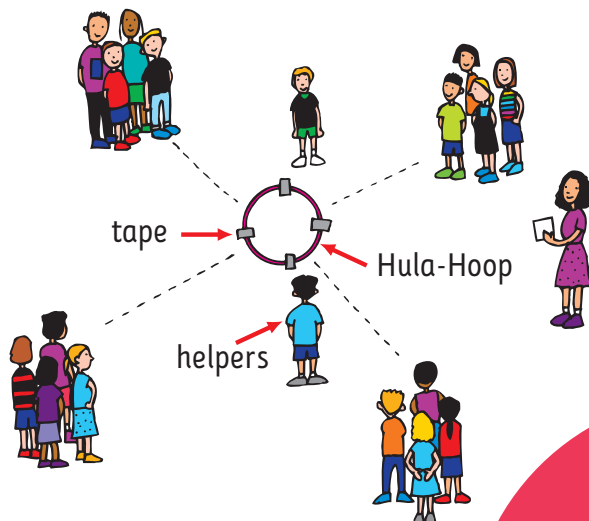
- Bible
- Session 5 Question Sheet (p. 56)
- Hula-Hoop
- masking tape

Preparation

Photocopy Session 5 Question Sheet and keep it on hand during the game. Tape a Hula-Hoop on the floor in the center of the room to create a target. Have teen or adult helpers stand by target to keep track of runners' arrivals.

Procedure

Group divides into four equal teams. Teams position themselves in different places equidistant from the target. Teams choose a team name and a player to be the Laser Racer (the runner).



Read aloud a Bible Story Review Question from the Session 5 Question Sheet. Team members huddle together to determine the answer and then send their Laser Racers to the target.

First runner inside the target tells the team's answer. A correct answer scores a point; an incorrect answer gives the second-place runner's team a chance to earn the point. If the correct answer is still not given, move on to another question.

Repeat process with each question, giving each child an opportunity to be the Laser Racer. Return to any missed questions in later rounds.

Conversation

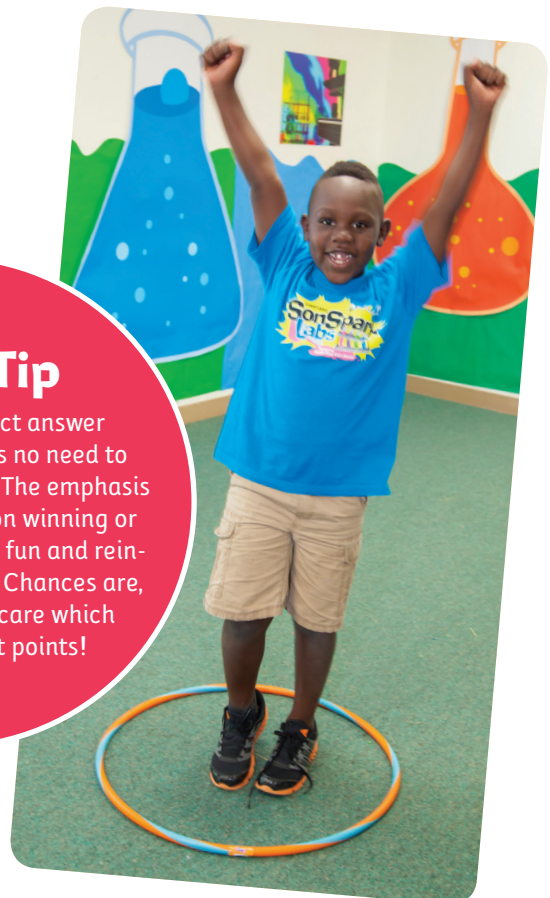
You are at SonSpark Labs today because someone shared God's love with you. The people here have helped you know about God's amazing plan in YOUR life. Today's Daily Plan is "God's Plan: 2 LOVE Us 4-Ever!" God loves you! And He wants to share that love with you forever.

Younger Elementary Adaptation: Instead of the Bible Story Review Questions on the Session 5 Question Sheet, use Younger Elementary Questions. If the answer is false, ask children to explain why they think the answer is false.

Older Elementary Adaptation: In addition to or instead of using the Bible Story Review Questions on the Session 5 Question Sheet, use the Older Elementary Questions, which are designed to promote discussion.

Game Tip

Even though a correct answer scores a point, there is no need to keep track of the score. The emphasis of these games is not on winning or losing. It's about having fun and reinforcing the Bible story. Chances are, no one will notice or care which team has the most points!



Bible Verse Game

Electron Freeze

Preparation

Post Session 5 Bible Verse Poster where children can see it. Print the alphabet on index cards, one letter on each card. (Omit the letters *B, K, Q, W, X, Y* and *Z*.) Make two sets of alphabet cards.

Procedure

Group divides into two teams. Give each team a set of cards to be divided as evenly as possible among team members. Leader calls out the first word of Ephesians 5:2, **Live!**

The players holding the letters in the word arrange themselves to correctly spell out the word. When team members think they are in the correct order, they call out “Electron Freeze!” The other team must freeze in position.

If the word is spelled correctly, then the unfrozen team recites the entire verse aloud. When team finishes, the other team unfreezes and play continues. For the next round, skip “a” and call out, **Love!** Game continues until you call out these words from the verse: **Live, Love, As, Christ, Loved, Handed, Himself.**

Conversation

Our Scripture verse for today, Ephesians 5:2, says, “[...] live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.” God made us and He loves us! God wants us to know and love His Son, Jesus. And God wants us to share that amazing love with everyone we meet.

- What does this verse tell us to do? (Lead a life of love as Jesus did.)
- What does it mean to lead a life of love? (Show God’s love to other people. Be kind and caring. Share. Think about what others need, not just what we want. Be like Jesus.)
- Now that you know God loves you, what can you do to show your love for Him?

Younger Elementary Adaptation: Assign a youth or adult helper to help each team get in the correct verse order.

Older Elementary Adaptation: As you call out the words of the verse, mix up the order so that players can’t predict what’s coming next.

Materials

- Bible
- Session 5 Bible Verse Poster from Bible Teaching Poster Pack
- 50 large index cards
- marker



Recreation Game

Atom Alert

Materials

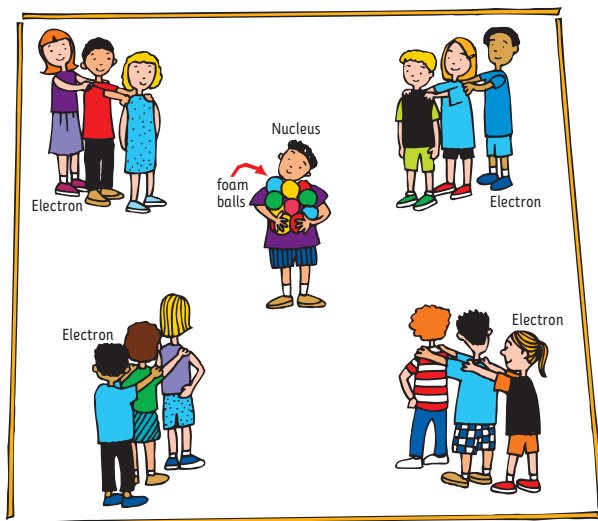
- Bible
- chalk, rope, tape or other way to mark game boundaries
- several foam balls

Preparation

Use chalk, rope, tape or other way to mark the boundaries of a large playing area.

Procedure

Divide group into teams of three to five players. Each team forms a line with each player's hands on the shoulders of the person in front. The player at the end of the line is the Electron.



Choose a volunteer (or several, if group is large) to be the Nucleus, and give Nucleus the foam balls (protons and neutrons). When the leader calls "Atom Alert," all Electrons detach themselves and try to attach to the front of a different line.

At the same time, the Nucleus tries to hit the Electrons below the waist with the foam balls. An Electron may maneuver to avoid the balls (ducking, jumping, etc.).

Electrons must be "locked" in their new positions (person behind has both hands on their shoulders) to be safe. If hit by a ball while unattached, an Electron becomes the new Nucleus, the former Nucleus takes that Electron's place at the front of a line and the game continues.



Game Variation: For added fun, the leader should periodically call out "Time Warp!" All players must then move as if in slow motion until the leader announces "Warp Over" and normal speed is resumed.

Conversation

Today's question from our Q&A is "So . . . now what do I do?" Our answer is that "You can live as God's child and show His love to others." Showing God's love is a lot like a chain reaction—it can go on and on! When someone does something loving for us, we feel more loving toward others. When we are loving toward others, they might do something kind for someone else. That's a big part of God's plan.

- What was your favorite part of today's Bible story? Why?
- What do you learn about God's plan for you from this story?

Showing God's love is a big part of God's plan. But the best part of God's plan is that when we believe in His Son, Jesus, and accept His forgiveness, we are given a wonderful gift—the gift of eternal life. We can be with God and share His love forever!

Alternate Recreation Game

The Chain-Reaction Relay

Preparation

Use rope or masking tape to make two lines about 50 feet (15 m) apart.

Procedure

Group divides into two teams, and teams line up behind one

line. Give the first player on each team a broom. (Optional: Instead of a broom, each team uses a measuring stick or other long stick.)

At your signal, the first player on each team runs to the opposite line, taps the end of the broom three times on the ground and runs back to the team to start the chain reaction. The first player holds one end of the broom and gives the other end to the second player in line. Together they lower the broom to just above the ground and “sweep” it down the line as the other players on the team jump over it.

Then, the first player remains at the end of the line. The second player runs with the broom to the line on the opposite side of the room, taps the broom three times and runs back to start the chain reaction with the third player on the team. The second player then stays at the end of the line while the third player runs to tap the broom at the line on the opposite side of the room and then starts a chain reaction with the fourth player. The last player on the team will use the first player for the final chain reaction. Play continues until all players have had a turn.

At the end of the last chain reaction, the last player stays at the

end of the line while the first player returns to the front of the team and raises broom to indicate that they are finished. First team to raise its broom answers one of the questions below.

Conversation

Showing God’s love can cause a chain reaction! When we are loving toward others, they might do something kind for someone else. And that person might do something kind, and on and on it goes!

- How does it make you feel when someone shows God’s love to you?
- What are some of the ways Jesus showed love to others? (Made a way for us to become members of God’s family at Baptism. Healed people who were sick. Taught people about God.)
- What are some ways you can show God’s love to someone today? (Let someone else have the first turn playing games. Share toys with brothers and sisters. Help set the table for dinner. Pray for sick friends.)

I hope that you had a great time at SonSpark Labs, discovering God’s plan is all about Jesus—GP4U = J!

Younger Elementary Adaptation: Instead of the first player running to the far line and sweeping broom down the line of players, first player holds broom with second player. Children take turns jumping over broom, running to the line on the other side of the room and lining up again. First and second players run to join them. First player goes to the end of the line and second player pairs up with next player in line to continue play.

Materials

- Bible
- rope or masking tape
- 2 brooms

Optional

- measuring stick or other long stick for each team instead of a broom

