

SPARKS

MAIN POINT: For each child to hear how Jesus gave everything and died on the cross for us so that we could be friends with God again.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to think about what forgiveness is.

10:50am Free Play: *Some time to play before beginning the main session.*

11:15 Tidy Up Time: *In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.*

11:20 Story + Snack:

Ask the children about love. What do people do to show that they love others? What do they do to show their mummies and daddies and siblings that they love them?

Tell the children that we don't just use our words to show people that we love them. When we love others we are kind to them or we give them hugs. Or we help them because we love them. In the bible Jesus tells us that it is really easy to love those we like. But it's not always easy to love those we don't like.

God wants us to love everyone, even those who we don't call our friends. This will show others God's amazing love.

TELL THE STORY: Use the book provided - Good Samaritan

You may need to simplify it at times but it will be the story of Easter when Jesus died.

Once you've read the story point out that Samaritans and Jews were not friends in fact they hated each other. BUT the only man who ended up helping was the Samaritan as he loved his neighbour! We should do similar and always help anyone in need and love everyone.

11:30 Craft: HEARTS

Decorate the hearts with stickers and the words 'I will love others'. As they create the craft remind the children of ways they can love others.

11:40 Pray together:

Ask the children if there is anyone they would like to pray for?

See if they can name someone they love who they would like to pray for.

But also ask if there is anyone else who they want to pray for maybe a country who needs God's help?

11:50 Songs: Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.

FLAMES + BLAZE

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ADDITIONAL LEARNING: For each child to think about what forgiveness is.

11:00am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.

Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!

11:15 GROUP TIME

Sit as a group and ask: How are you doing?

Ask the children what the best thing that has happened this week.

See if the children can remember what book of the bible we are looking at.

We are still in the book of Hebrews and this week we are in Chapter 13 and it's about loving each other.

Ask them how they show love to their family and to their friends. What do they do to make sure others know they are loved?

11:30 BIBLE + Snack

READ HEBREWS 13v1-6 (verse 4 has been edited)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage kept pure. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid."

Ask the children what they think this means and to list the ways the passage talks about showing love to others.

Tell them we don't just use our words to show people that we love them and can they name others ways to show people love?

Jesus talks about loving others and the ways we do this in the bible. Ask if the children can think of any stories that they know of that refer to loving others. They might mention the good samaritan or when Jesus talks about loving our enemies. If they don't mention it tell them there is a famous passage in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 that talks all about what love is like.

READ: 1 Corinthians 13v1-13

Say that this passage defines love and shows us what loving other people actually looks like! Allow the children to comment on their impressions of this passage: is that the way they would describe love?

Explain to the children that by being these things this is the best way to show love! Being patient, kind, not envious, not being angry etc.

11:45 CRAFT: Heart craft

An example of the craft will be in the room for you to look at.

Cut out a number of hearts and stick them together back to back. On each heart write one of the things from 1 Corinthians that we learn about love (patient, kind etc.) Stick this heart with all the words on it on a bigger piece of paper. Write above, as seen in the picture, 'Love is...' but also add the words 'I am...'

Remind the children that when we love people well we too are patient, kind, keep no records of wrongs etc.

Flames will have pre cut hearts but Blaze will need to cut their own



11:55 LEARN BIBLE VERSE

Hebrews 13v1: Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

Ways to learn it:

- Repeat it over and over in different ways (loud, quiet, high pitched, slowly, super fast)
- Play hangman with it
- Create actions together to remember it