

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LESSONS

### Extreme Living through Loving, Reaching, Connecting, Growing, and Living!

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#### LESSON ONE

##### Theme

Love: Living out the love of Christ, in accord with the Great Commandments, in every relationship.

##### Key Verse

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37–39 NIV)

##### Bible Story

The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37 (NIRV)

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##### Begin with Prayer

##### Opening Music

Begin the session with two or three songs.

Suggestions: "Take It All," "Follow You," by Hillsong Kids; "Crazy Love," by Amber Sky Records

##### Opening Game

Would You Rather?

Ask the group these questions:

- Would you rather...
- eat chocolate brownies or eat broccoli?
- ride a bike or run in a race?
- pet a puppy or pet a snake?
- watch TV or play a game?
- fly in an airplane or ride in a race car?

Say: This game helps us think about things we don't like and things we do like. Some of things we like more than others. We might even say we love some of these things. [Share with the group your favorites.]

##### Theme

We are talking about love today.

We say we love lots of things. I love soccer. I love pizza. I love candy. I love my mom and dad. But what does love really mean? According to the dictionary, love is a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.

## Key Verse

The Bible teaches about love. In fact, our key verse for today is all about love. It tells us to love God and love others. Let's take a look.

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37–39 NIV)

Let's break this down. Part one says to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. What does that mean? We should love God with everything in us. All we do, say, and think should show God just how much we love him.

Part two says to love your neighbor as yourself? What do you think that means? Well, we should love other people and treat them the way we want to be treated.

So, love God and love others.

## Bible Story

One day Jesus told a parable. Remember, parables are stories Jesus told to teach a lesson. The lesson he wanted to teach with this story is this: How do you love God and love your neighbor? What exactly does that look like?

*The Story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25–37 (NIRV)*

<sup>25</sup> One day an authority on the law stood up to put Jesus to the test. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you understand it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength and with all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do that and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But the man wanted to make himself look good. So he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers attacked him. They stripped off his clothes and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down that same road. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> A Levite also came by. When he saw the man, he passed by on the other side too.

<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan came to the place where the man was. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey. He took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two silver coins. He gave them to the owner of the inn. "Take care of him," he said. "When I return, I will pay you back for any extra expense you may have."

<sup>36</sup> "Which of the three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> The authority on the law replied, "The one who felt sorry for him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do as he did."

In this story, how did the Samaritan show love to the hurt Jewish man? (*He helped him. He took care of his wounds. He took him to the inn so he could have time to get better.*) See, the Samaritan did all he could for the man. What makes this story even more interesting is that back then Samaritans and Jews were enemies. Do

enemies usually help each other? Does Captain Hook help Peter Pan? Does Scar help Simba? Jesus wanted the people to learn this very important idea: Everyone is your neighbor. We should care for and show love to everyone.

Who is in your life that you can love? When you show love to others you are also showing love to God.

Let's pray: Lord, thank you for teaching us how to love you and other people. Help us to show that kind of love every day. Amen.

### **Activities**

The following activities can be done in more than one format. For example, they can be done in small groups, or as stations that the children rotate through, or as activity centers. Choose an option that best fits your ministry.

#### *Journal*

Kids will create a journal to use for all five lessons. In this journal, they can write each week's theme, verse, Bible story, prayer requests, and notes.

#### *Sticky Note*

Variation of the game called Headbands by Spin Master.

- Write the names of the people in today's Bible story on sticky notes. Make sure you have a sticky note for each child, even if this means you use a certain character more than once.
- Give each child a sticky note. Tell them to put the sticky note on their forehead.
- Kids then take turns asking the group questions to figure out which character they have.
- Once everyone has figured out their Bible story person, review the story with the kids.

Characters in today's Bible story

Jesus

Samaritan

Levite

Priest

The person referred to as the "authority on the law."

The crowd

The owner of the inn

#### *Drama*

Assign characters from today's story to each child. Let the children re-enact the story.

Jesus

Samaritan

Levite

Priest

The person referred to as the "authority on the law."

The crowd

The owner of the inn

### *Word*

Use this time to get the kids into the Bible. Find these verses and read them together.

Matthew 22:37–39

Deuteronomy 6:5

Leviticus 19:18

Then start a discussion: What do you see in these verses? Jesus' response to the Pharisee was actually verses in the Bible. So, Jesus read, memorized, and personalized the Bible. And he wants us to do the same.

### *Memory*

Matthew 22:37–39 (NIV)

- Write each word of the verse on a separate piece of paper. Fold each paper in half. Put all of the papers into a bucket. Do this for each team.
- Place the buckets at one end of the room.
- Using tape, make a starting line at the opposite end of the room.
- Have all the teams stand behind the starting line in front of their bucket.

What the kids do: Each member of the team runs to the bucket. Pulls out a piece of paper. Brings it back to the team. Once all of the papers have been collected then the team can start putting them in the correct order. When the verse is in the correct order, each team member must sit down. The team with all of these tasks completed first wins.

Option: If you only have one team, then use a stop watch to time the kids. They can play more than once and race against their time.

### *Review*

- What did Jesus say was the greatest commandment? (*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*)
- What did Jesus say was the second greatest commandment? (*Love your neighbor as yourself.*)
- What did the Samaritan do for the man who was hurt and robbed? (*He helped him.*)
- In the parable, who was the neighbor? (*Samaritan*)
- Why was he the neighbor? (*He helped the hurt man.*)
- Ask any other questions you want.

### **End in Prayer**

## LESSON TWO

### Theme

Reach: Reaching out to others, as the body of Christ, to fulfill the Great Commission.

### Key Verse

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20 NIV)*

### Bible Story

Lydia Becomes a Believer, Acts 16: 11–15 (NIRV)

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### Begin with Prayer

### Opening Music

Begin the session with two or three songs.

Suggestions: "Shout Your Fame" by Hillsong Kids; "Better Than the Best Thing," "I'm Gonna Walk" by Amber Sky Records

### Opening Game

Hula Hoop Pass

Select ten kids.

- The kids stand in a line. They must hold hands.
- Give the child at the end of the line the hula hoop.
- The kids must find a way to pass the hula hoop to the next child in line without letting go of their hands.

For a demonstration, watch this video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=11LNy8IOg8Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11LNy8IOg8Y).

Say: This game helps us see that when we work together and each person does their part, we can accomplish something pretty cool. Let's give it a try.

Encourage the children watching to cheer for the participants.

### Theme

Anyone have an idea of the meaning of the word *reach*? We use this word very often. Have you ever said this, "I can't reach it?" "Can you see if the cord will reach?" Did you know there is even a toothbrush named Reach?

Today we are going to learn about reaching out to people, specifically, to reach out to other people to tell them about the good news of Jesus. This is something Jesus told us to do just before he went to heaven.

## Key Verse

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20 NIV)*

If this is the last thing Jesus said just before he went to heaven, it must have been pretty important. He wants everyone to know about God's love. It doesn't matter where they live, what their name is, or the color of their hair.

## Bible Story

That is a pretty big job. How are we supposed to tell everyone in the entire world? (*Talk to people we know, everyone does their part, never give up, etc*)

Paul was dedicated to spending his life telling others about Jesus. He even used his time and money to travel all over the place. In today's story, we will learn about one of those trips.

*Lydia Becomes a Believer, Acts 16:11–15 (NIRV)*

<sup>11</sup> At Troas we got into a boat. We sailed straight for Samothrace. The next day we went on to Neapolis. <sup>12</sup> From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony. It is an important city in that part of Macedonia. We stayed there several days.

<sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate. We walked down to the river. There we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered together. <sup>14</sup> One of those listening was a woman named Lydia. She was from the city of Thyatira. Her business was selling purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to accept Paul's message. <sup>15</sup> She and her family were baptized. Then she invited us to her home. "Do you consider me a believer in the Lord?" she asked. "If you do, come and stay at my house." She succeeded in getting us to go home with her.

Did you hear that? Paul and his friends traveled all the way to Philippi. And what did they do when they got there? (*They went to the place of prayer and spoke to some women.*) What did they speak about? Yes, they told them about Jesus. And when they did, someone named Lydia became a believer.

Each of us shares God's love with others by the way we behave and the words we speak. When we are kind, compassionate, helpful, positive, and obedient, we are living a life that expresses God's love. This is an amazing thing.

Sometimes people will ask you questions such as, Why do you follow your parents' rules? Why do you smile? Why do you help people?

If someone asked you those questions, what would you say? (*Because Jesus loves me, and I love him.*) You can tell them about who Jesus is, how much he loves us, and that he wants to have a relationship with everyone in the entire world.

Praying to Jesus to ask him for the opportunity to reach people and the words to say is very important. So let's do that together right now.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus. We love you. We want to help other people know about you too. So, will you please give us opportunities to talk to others about you? And will you please help us to know what to say? Amen.

### **Activities**

The following activities can be done in more than one format. For example, they can be done in small groups, or as stations that the children rotate through, or as activity centers. Choose an option that best fits your ministry.

#### *Journal*

Continue with the journal activity that the children began in Week 1.

#### *Sticky Note*

- Write phrases of the key verse on separate sticky notes. Mix them up and stick them to the wall.
- With the kids, find the key verse in the Bible and read it together. (Matthew 28:18–20)
- Kids will work together to put the sticky note phrases in order. When the verse is in the correct order, read it aloud together. If time allows, play again.

#### Variations:

- Play several times, timing them with a stop watch each time. The object is to beat their previous times.
- Play with sets of sticky notes and have two teams race against each other.

#### *Reach Out*

Gather the kids into a circle. Explain that reaching out to people can seem impossible. Maybe we might get scared, or it seems too hard because we are just kids. But it doesn't have to be. And sometimes we can reach out to someone together.

Have all the kids move to one end of the room. Ask one kid to go to the other end. He will represent someone who needs to be reached. He needs the group and he doesn't know about God; he is disconnected. All of them are going to work together to reach him.

Put some obstacles into the path between the group and the separated kid.

The kids will need to find a way to reach the person at the other end of the room. But they must always be touching elbows. After they complete the task once, select another kid to be separated from the group. Then rearrange the obstacles, and give them something else to do in place of touching elbows. The kids might even want to choose something.

Say: Today we are going to play a game that will help us realize that each of us plays an important part. You are going to work together to reach our friend. He represents a person who is disconnected from God. He doesn't even know about God. You must figure out a way to maneuver the obstacles, keep your elbows touching, and reach our friend.

#### *Drama*

Let kids create a skit that shows them reaching out to someone who needs to hear about God. For extra excitement, you can video record their drama.

Suggestions: someone on the soccer team, talking to a classmate during recess, making cookies for a neighbor.

### *The Puzzle*

This game requires at least two teams that will race against each other. Suggested team size is five kids.

- One blank puzzle for each team. These can be purchased or you can make them using card stock.
- On the puzzle write these two questions: Who can you tell about Jesus? What will you say about Jesus?
- Put each team's puzzle pieces into separate buckets.
- Using tape, mark a starting line on the floor.

### *To Play:*

- Put the buckets at one end of the room.
- The kids start behind the line. One at a time they race to their bucket, pull out a puzzle piece and run back to their team. Once a team has all of their puzzle pieces, they can put the puzzle together. Then teams read and answer the questions on the puzzle.

When all teams have completed the tasks, lead the teams in a discussion where teams share their answers to the questions: Who can you tell about Jesus and what will you say about Jesus?

Variation: If you only have one team, you can hide the puzzle pieces in the room. The kids must find the puzzle pieces and then put the puzzle together.

### **End in Prayer**

## LESSON THREE

### Theme

Connect: Renew our relational connectivity and identity with God and with others.

### Key Verse

*“Father, I pray that all of them will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one.” (John 17:21–22 NIRV)*

### Bible Story

The Believers Share What They Own, Acts 4:32–37 (NIRV)

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### Begin with Prayer

#### Opening Music

Begin the session with two or three songs.

Suggestions: “Superhero” by Hillsong Kids; “Time to Dance,” “No One Greater,” by Amber Sky Records

#### Opening Game

Legos

Select four children: two teams of two kids. Give each team a pile of Legos. Tell them they have one minute to build a tower using the Legos. But there is a catch. They can only use one hand. Therefore, the team members will need to work together to build the tower.

Encourage the children watching to cheer for the participants.

Say: In this game, the pieces connected together and the children worked together to build the tower.

### Theme

Let’s think of some things that connect. (*Legos, puzzles, checkers, Internet*). Jesus wants us to connect with other people too. Let’s take a look.

Connect in relationships with God and with others.

### Key Verse

*“Father, I pray that all of them will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one.” (John 17:21–22 NIRV)*

Jesus prayed that we would be one. This means he wants us be unified. He wants us to be connected together with each other and with him.

## Bible Story

The people in the early church understood what Jesus meant.

*The Believers Share What They Own, Acts 4:32–37 (NIRV)*

<sup>32</sup>All the believers were agreed in heart and mind. They didn't claim that anything they had was their own. They shared everything they owned. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles continued their teaching. They gave witness that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. And they were greatly blessed by God.

<sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. From time to time, those who owned land or houses sold them. They brought the money from the sales. <sup>35</sup>They put it down at the apostles' feet. It was then given out to anyone who needed it.

<sup>36</sup>Joseph was a Levite from Cyprus. The apostles called him Barnabas. The name Barnabas means Son of Help. <sup>37</sup>Barnabas sold a field he owned. He brought the money from the sale. He put it down at the apostles' feet.

Shortly after Jesus returned to heaven, all of the people who believed in him started connecting with each other. They worked together, ate together, shared with each other. They prayed together, sang together, and taught people about Jesus. That sounds wonderful.

We can be like that too. We need to decide that loving God and loving others is the most important thing we can do with our lives.

Let's pray: Dear Lord, thank you for the example of how to live our lives. Help us to be like those people who were connected to each other and to you. Amen.

## Activities

The following activities can be done in more than one format. For example, they can be done in small groups, as stations that the children rotate through, or as activity centers. Choose an option that best fits your ministry.

### *Journal*

Continue with the journal activity the children began in Week 1.

### *Sticky Notes*

- With the children, find the key verse in the Bible and read it together.
- Write the words of the key verse on a piece of paper.
- Next, you will read through the verse several times. Each time you read through it, cover a word or phrase with a sticky note. Keep reading until every word is covered.

*"Father, I pray that all of them will be one, just as you are in me and I am in you. I want them also to be in us. Then the world will believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me. I did this so they would be one, just as we are one." (John 17:21–22 NIRV)*

### *Penny Thanks*

Place fifty pennies in a basket. Ask the kids to sit in a circle and pass the basket around to each other. When the basket comes to each person, they should share about someone they are connected to. This can be

someone at church, at home, at school, or in their activities. Keep passing the basket until all fifty pennies have been used.

With each penny, ask them:

- Who are you connected too?
- What about them are you thankful for?
- What can you do to improve your relationship with that person?

### *Share a meal*

Items needed

- Large mixing bowl
- 5-ounce cups
- Drinks (optional)
- Food items for the mix: cereal, marshmallows, M&Ms, chocolate chips, pretzels, raisins, etc.

Prepare the snack. Allow the kids the opportunity to participate in making the snack. Each of them can add the food items to the mixing bowl.

Serve the snack. Let the kids pass out the napkins and 5-ounce cups. Use the 5-ounce cups to scoop out the snack mix. Give each person a drink.

Say: The people in the early church were really connected together just like Jesus wanted them to be. Can anyone remember one way they were connected to each other? (*They shared, they taught about Jesus.*) Today, we are going to share a snack together, and each of us is going to help prepare and serve the snack. We will be sharing, helping, and celebrating together!

### *Charades*

On slips of paper write scenarios for the kids to act out.

Remind them that during charades, they are not allowed to use any words or sounds.

Say: In today's Bible story, we discovered that the people in the early church were connected together. We are going to play charades as a fun way to discuss ways we can be connected to each other.

Feel free to make your own list. Here are some ideas: Share your toys. Play with a friend. Help wash the dishes. Help mow the lawn. Help with homework. Pray together. Read the Bible together. Sing together.

### **End in Prayer**

## LESSON FOUR

### Theme

Grow: Becoming more like Christ as we nurture and exercise our spiritual gifts.

### Key Verse

*The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7 NIRV)*

### Bible Story

One Body But Many Parts, 1 Corinthians 12:7–20 (NIRV)

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### Begin with Prayer

### Opening Music

Begin the session with two or three songs.

Suggestions: “One Way” by Hillsong Kids; “Happy and You Know It,” “Zapped,” by Amber Sky Records

### Opening Game

Picture This

On a large sheet of paper, you will draw things that grow. Kids will try to guess what you are drawing. Suggestions: daisy, tree, corn, dog, bird, person

Say: All of these things have one very important aspect in common. They all grow!

### Theme

Grow is the theme for today.

Grow: Becoming more like Christ as we nurture and exercise our spiritual gifts.

All living things grow. What are some things that grow? (*plants, animals, people*) We can grow in more than one way. We can grow taller, but we can also grow spiritually. Every day, we can become more like Jesus.

### Key Verse

*The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7 NIRV)*

The Holy Spirit will give us gifts so we can tell others about God.

### Bible Story

*One Body but Many Parts, 1 Corinthians 12:7–20 (NIRV)*

God has a plan and a purpose for each person. He has given us special talents and spiritual gifts to accomplish the plan. And he wants us all to work together. Each of us is like a piece of a puzzle connecting together to create the entire picture.

First we need to understand spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts come from God. He does not give everyone the same gifts. He gives a person the spiritual gifts they will need to accomplish their purpose. So what are spiritual gifts?

In 1 Corinthians 12, we learn that

The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. <sup>8</sup>To some people the Spirit gives the message of wisdom. To others the same Spirit gives the message of knowledge. <sup>9</sup>To others the same Spirit gives faith. To others that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. <sup>10</sup>To others he gives the power to do miracles. To others he gives the ability to prophesy. To others he gives the ability to tell the spirits apart. To others he gives the ability to speak in different kinds of languages they had not known before. And to still others he gives the ability to explain what was said in those languages. (1 Corinthians 12:7–10 NIRV)

So, God will give each person exactly the spiritual gift he wants them to have. For example, someone might be a teacher and another person might be a preacher.

Now, how do we all work together, and why is that important? Paul says it is like a person's body. Let's take a look at verse 12.

There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ.

What are some of the parts of a person's body? (*ears, eyes, hands, feet, arms, legs*) What if your body was only an ear? That would mean you could only hear. How would you get anywhere? How would you eat? The Bible says more about this.

<sup>14</sup>The body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. <sup>15</sup>Suppose the foot says, "I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." It is still part of the body.

<sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? <sup>18</sup>God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. <sup>19</sup>If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.

See, God has made each of us special and he has given us spiritual gifts. He does not do this so we can say, "Look at me, I am awesome!" He does it so we can work together as a church to tell the world about Jesus.

Let's pray: Dear Jesus, help us to grow to be more like you every day. Show us your plan and purpose for our lives, and help us to accomplish it. Amen.

### **Activities**

The following activities can be done in more than one format. For example, they can be done in small groups, as stations that the children rotate through, or as activity centers. Choose an option that best fits your ministry.

### *Journal*

Continue with the journal activity the children began on Week 1.

### *Sticky Notes*

- With the kids, find the key verse in the Bible. Read it together.
- Write a word or phrase of the memory verse on a sticky note. Make sure there is one sticky note for each child.
- Randomly give each child a sticky note. Have them put it on their back.
- The kids will work together to put themselves in the correct order.

*The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. (1 Corinthians 12:7 NIRV)*

### *Beaded*

Purchase letter beads to spell out GROW. Or purchase wooden beads and write each letter on beads with a permanent marker. Also purchase lacing. Give each child the beads and lacing. Let them make a GROW necklace.

### *Comic Strip*

Using paper and markers/crayons/colored pencils, let each kid create a comic strip depicting today's story.

### *Simon Says*

Play a game of Simon Says by pointing and using various body parts. For example, hop on one foot, tap your head, wiggle your ears, and so on.

Say: Just as our eyes have a purpose for existing, which is so we can see, we all have a purpose. God will show us that purpose.

### **End in Prayer**

## LESSON FIVE

### Theme

Live: Practicing whole-life stewardship by surrendering our every resource to God.

### Key Verse

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33 NIV)*

### Bible Story

The Widow's Offering, Mark 12:41–44 NIV

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### Begin with Prayer

### Opening Music

Begin the session with two or three songs.

Suggestions: "Tell the World" by Hillsong Kids; "Our Great God," "What a Savior" by Amber Sky Records

### Opening Game

Coin Toss

Mark a line on the floor to stand behind. Put a bucket several feet away. The children will toss coins into the bucket.

Say: In today's Bible story, Jesus noticed the offering of a widow. Her offering was just two coins. We will talk more about that later.

### Theme

We will be looking at living our lives for Jesus.

Live: Practicing whole-life stewardship by surrendering our every resource to God.

### Key Verse

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33 NIV)*

This verse simply means that we should put God first. He comes before all other things.

### Bible Story

Live your life for Jesus and give him everything. There is a story in the Bible where a woman gave all she had to God.

*The Widow's Offering, Mark 12:41–44 (NIV)*

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Our love for God will lead us to give everything to him. Not just our money, but our time, our energy, our talents, our everything. To really live our lives, we will live them for Jesus. Not for sports and not to be famous. What are some things you can give to God?

Let’s pray: Dear Lord, you are amazing. And it is so wonderful that you love us. Help us to learn to put you first. Amen.

### **Activities**

The following activities can be done in more than one format. For example, they can be done in small groups, as stations that the children rotate through, or as activity centers. Choose an option that best fits your ministry.

#### *Journal*

Continue with the journal activity the children began on Week 1.

#### *Sculptures*

Review the Bible story with the kids. Be sure to remind them that the widow gave all that she had.

Using modeling dough, have the kids create sculptures showing people giving all they have to Jesus.

#### *Back and Forth*

- Mark the center of the room.
- On one wall put a sign that says TRUE. On the opposite wall put a sign that says FALSE.
- Kids will stand in the center of the room. If kids think the statement is true, they run to the TRUE wall. If they think the statement is false, they run to the FALSE wall.
- After each statement, they return to the center of the room.

#### Statements

- John saw people put money in the offering.
- Jesus saw people put money in the offering.
- Rich people gave money.
- No one gave a lot of money.
- A little boy gave two pennies.
- A widow gave four copper coins.
- A widow gave two copper coins.
- Jesus said the widow gave more money than anyone.
- The widow gave everything she had.

#### *Pop a Verse*

- Write each word of the verse on a slip of paper.
- Put each slip of paper into a balloon.

- Put all of the balloons in a large garbage bag or some other container.

#### To Play

- With the kids, find the key verse in the Bible. Read it together.
- Give each child a balloon, and then play music.
- While the music plays, the kids bop their balloons in the air. When the music stops, each kid will grab their balloon. Do this several times.
- On the last time, when the music stops, the kids will grab their balloon and pop it.
- They should make sure they keep their slip of paper.
- Then they will work together to put the verse in order.

#### *Our Story*

Sit in a circle with the kids. Explain that together you will be making up a story. You will say the first sentence of a story. The kid to your left will add a sentence to the story. The kid to his left will add another sentence, and so on. When it gets back to you, say a sentence that will end the story. If you have time, play again.

The story's plot should center on giving everything to God.

#### **End in Prayer**