

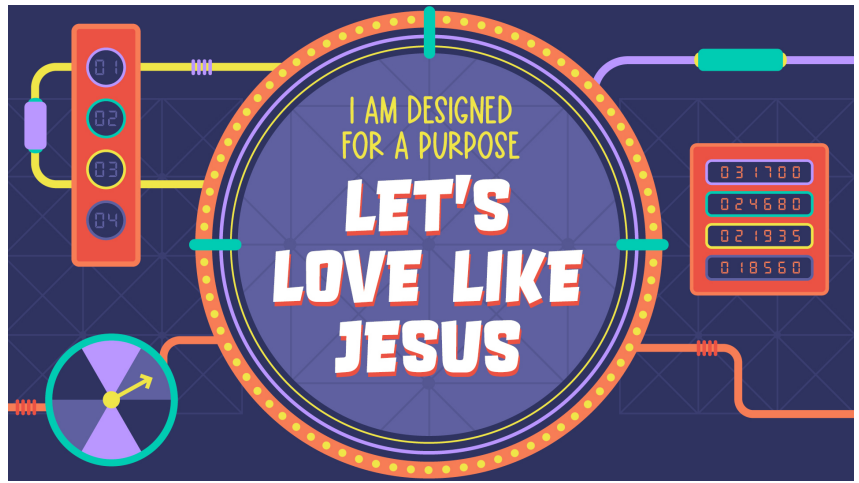


I Am Designed for a Purpose — Let's Love Like Jesus

Leader Guide • All Leaders

8/23/2026

Center Grove Kids Ministry



Bible Story: Love Your Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)

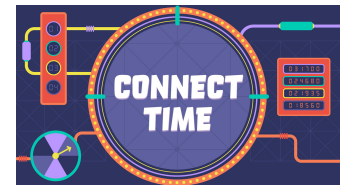
Theme Verse: “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16b)

Small Group

1. Connection Questions / Small Group Leader

Leader Tip

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each “pod” will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.



Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning of the session, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- What was the best part of your week?
- Finish this sentence and explain why: “My weekend is best when I”
- If you could pick between never having to go to sleep or getting to sleep whenever you want, which would you choose and why?
- What is the best smell in the world?
- If trees, flowers, and bushes could talk, what do you think they would talk about?



Large Group

2. Countdown Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer.



Leader Tip

Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what is happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.



Presentation

Play Aug2026_S4_CountdownVideo_Kids



3. Welcome / Large Group Leader

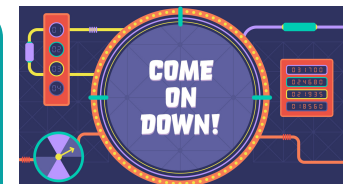
5 minutes

Leader Tip

Move to the front during the last 15 seconds of the timer to get the kids excited and lead them to count down the last 10 seconds.

Script

It is good to see everyone! I am ____, and I will be your Host! I will be your what? (*Host!*) That is right! A *host* is someone who leads a game or program. Hosts always know what happens next, even though the audience might not. Hosts introduce what is next by saying, “Next up!” When a host says, “Next up,” you can trust that the show is going according to plan. God is the ultimate host! He leads everything. Say, “Next!” (*Next!*) Say, “Up!” (*Up!*) Say, “Next up!” (*Next up!*)



4. Stage Game — The Rice Is Right / Large Group Leader

12 minutes

Supplies

☐ Rice	1 bag per group	☐ Glass measuring cup	1 per group
☐ Plastic cups	1 per group	☐ Paper bowls	6 per group
☐ Large bowl	1 per group	☐ Table	1 per group
☐ Funnel	1 per group (optional)		

Leader Prep: Set out supplies on a table at the front.

Game Rules:

1. Invite one player from each Color Team to the front.
2. Instruct each player to scoop rice with the cup into their bowls, estimating how much rice will fill the glass measuring cup perfectly.
3. Measure the guesses one at a time by pouring the rice from the bowls into the measuring cup, then pouring the rice back into the bowls.
4. Announce the winner as the player who was the closest to filling the measuring cup without it overflowing.

Leader Tip

Place the measuring cup in the large bowl before pouring rice from the bowls to easily catch any spills.

Script

Next up is “The Rice Is Right!” The what is right? *(Rice!)* That is rice! I mean, right! In a moment, you will cheer on your teammates to see who can correctly guess how much rice can perfectly fill this measuring cup! We need one contestant from each team! *(Allow contestants to come to the front. Instruct each one to hold a bowl.)*

Now our contestants will guess how much rice will fill the measuring cup without it overflowing. Remember, you are trying to fill a measuring cup perfectly—no more, no less! *(One at a time, invite the kids to scoop rice with the paper cup into their bowls.)*



Leader Tip

Encourage teams to cheer and offer suggestions to their teammates.

Script

Our first contestant is from the Blue Team! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! *(Allow kid to answer.)* OK, let’s see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, “The rice is right!” *(The rice is right!)*

(Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.)

(Give an accolade or an apology according to if the rice filled the cup or not.) Next up is our Green Team contestant! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! *(Allow kid to answer.)*

OK, let’s see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, “The rice is right!” *(The rice is right!)*

(Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.)

(Give an accolade or an apology according to if the rice filled the cup or not.) Next up is the Yellow Team’s contestant! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! *(Allow kid to answer.)*



OK, let's see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, "The rice is right!"
(*The rice is right!*)

(*Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.*)

(*Give an accolade or an apology according to if the rice filled the cup or not.*) Next up is the Red Team! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! (*Allow kid to answer.*)

OK, let's see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, "The rice is right!"
(*The rice is right!*)

(*Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.*)

(*Give an accolade or an apology according to if the rice filled the cup or not.*) Next up is the Purple Team! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! (*Allow kid to answer.*)

OK, let's see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, "The rice is right!"
(*The rice is right!*)

(*Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.*)

(*Give an accolade or an apology according to if the rice filled the cup or not.*) Next up is our final team—the Orange Team! Tell us your name and your favorite ice cream flavor! (*Allow kid to answer.*)

OK, let's see if you have guessed the right amount of rice! Everyone, say, "The rice is right!"
(*The rice is right!*)

(*Hold the measuring cup above the large bowl so the audience can see it. Allow the contestant to carefully pour the rice into the measuring cup. Extra rice should fall into the bowl.*)

Looks like the winner is the ____ Team! Let's cheer for all our contestants as they take their seats! (*Allow time.*)

Script

Thank you to all our contestants for playing "The Rice Is Right!" Who knew trying to guess an exact amount of rice could be so challenging? It's a good thing we have measuring cups! Measuring cups are designed to hold the same amount of something, no matter what it is. Their purpose is to be a consistent tool. They were designed for a purpose!

You, too, were designed by God for a purpose! God has a plan for your life. He knows how life works best. Today, we are going to learn more about how God has designed you and your life. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You are designed for a purpose!" (*You are designed for a purpose!*) Point to yourself and say, "I am designed for a purpose!" (*I am designed for a purpose!*)



5. Main Idea Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Script

Everyone, say, “Next up!” (*Next up!*) Next up is “Nifty News with Niki Nevada!” Niki is nifty, and she tells us nifty news along with her coworkers, Neena and Neemee. If you are ready for the news, say, “Take it away, Nikki!” (*Take it away, Nikki!*)



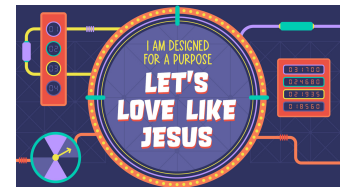
Presentation

Play Aug2026_S4_MainIdeaVideo_Kids



Script

Without touching anyone else, let me see your best karate chop while you say, “Love-Jitsu” in 3-2-1! (*Love-Jitsu!*) While Love-Jitsu, throwing eggs, and covering your brother in grass clippings are not great ways to show love, we *do* have a great example we can follow. God’s Son, Jesus, loved God and loved others perfectly when He was on earth. We can read about how Jesus loved in the Bible. In the what? (*Bible!*) Right! God designed us for a purpose, and part of that purpose is to love God and love others. We can do that by loving like Jesus taught us to love. Let me hear you say, “Let’s love like Jesus!” (*Let’s love like Jesus!*)



6. Object Lesson / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Supplies

☐ Microphone

1 per group ☐ Bible

1 per group

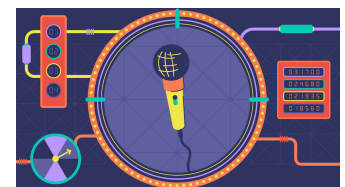
Leader Tip

Bring the microphone out with you to use as an object lesson. A small table to hold your Bible and the microphone may be helpful as you teach.

Script

(*Hold the microphone to your mouth.*) Hold an invisible microphone to your mouth and say, “Check 1, 2!” (*Check 1, 2!*) This is a microphone! On a game show, the host uses the microphone to announce important things during the game. Hosts use microphones to call contestants to come and play, to read questions, and announce prizes. Microphones make voices louder. Make voices what? (*Louder!*) That is right!

When a host uses a microphone, everyone can hear the host. That means that the contestants are not the only ones who can hear the host. *All* the people in the studio—the audience, the camera people, the directors, and producers—can hear the host as well. No one is left out. When we follow Jesus, we get to share about Him and His love like a host with a microphone. That means we share God’s love with all people—not just people we like or people who are like us. A microphone is meant to *amplify*, which means to make something



loud, and helps us announce things to everyone. Pretend to hold a microphone and say, "Amplify!" (*Amplify!*) We can love like Jesus when we share His love with all people. Say, "Let's love like Jesus!" (*Let's love like Jesus!*)

7. Bible Story Video / Large Group Leader

10 minutes

Supplies

Script

(*Open the Bible.*) Say, "Next!" (*Next!*) Say, "Up!" (*Up!*) Say, "Next up!" (*Next up!*) Next up is our Bible story! The Bible is God's true message about Himself. Our Bible story today comes from a book in the Bible called Matthew. What book does it come from? (*Matthew!*) The book of Matthew is from the second part of the Bible, or the New Testament. In this Bible story, Jesus talked to His followers about how God has designed us to live. Point to yourself and say, "I am designed for a purpose!" (*I am designed for a purpose!*) Get our Bible story started by saying, "Next up!" (*Next up!*)



Presentation

Play Aug2026_S4_BibleStoryVideo_Kids



8. Make The Connection / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Script

Jesus taught about who we should love and how we should treat others, and it was very different than what we would expect—even today! When it comes to loving others, Jesus taught that how we *feel* about other person is not what is most important. Instead, Jesus taught that we can show God's love to others in an extravagant way, like the way God loves us.

Most people are kind to people who are kind to them or love people who love them. But Jesus taught that followers of Jesus are to love differently; we are to love when it costs us something, even if we are not shown love and kindness in return. Jesus taught that we are to even love our enemies. Let me hear you say, "Let's love like Jesus!" (*Let's love like Jesus!*)



Script

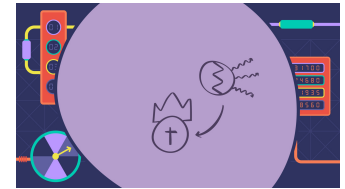
(*Circle two*) Jesus is our example of how to love because He loved us when we were His enemies! In another book of the Bible called Romans, it says that we are enemies of God because of our sin. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what *God* says is best. Our sin separates us from God and makes us God's enemies. Sin is a big deal, and it is just and right for God to punish sin. The Bible teaches us that the



punishment for sin is death and separation from God forever. No matter how hard we try to be good, do what is right, and to love God and other people, we cannot do it perfectly. We need Someone to rescue us from sin and help us love like God made us to love.

Script

(Circle three) But God's love is greater than our sin! Everyone, say, "God's love is greater!" (God's love is greater!) Because of God's great love and kindness toward us, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin and die in our place. Jesus died for us on a cross even though we were enemies of God! And what is even more amazing is that Jesus did not stay dead! God brought Jesus back to life to show that Jesus conquered sin and death. Jesus is the ultimate example of love because He loved us even when we were sinners and His enemies.

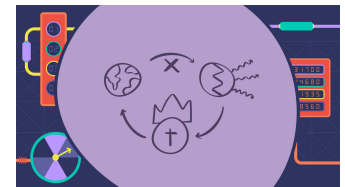


Script

(Circle one) When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He will! Jesus forgives us and makes our relationship with God what God designed from the beginning. He helps us be who He made us to be. Our hearts are made new, and we are restored! Jesus said He will return and make everything new. We will love God and love each other perfectly, the way God designed. Until then, we can show and share God's love like Jesus did!

Sometimes we may wonder, *Is it OK that I treat others like they treat me?* When others are kind to us, it is easy to treat them with kindness too! But when people are mean or rude to us, it is not always easy to treat them with kindness. God did not make us to respond meanly or rudely too. Instead, God made us to follow Jesus's example to love others instead of hating them or treating them like they treat us. Since God loves us with that kind of never-giving-up love, we can love others with that same love—even people who are not loving toward us. Then they will experience the love God has for them.

If you want to know more about God's never-giving-up love that He shows through Jesus, please come talk to me or your leader! You can respond to God's love by asking Jesus to forgive your sin and become the leader of your life. He loves you, just like He loves every single person on earth. Say, "**Let's love like Jesus!**" (*Let's love like Jesus!*)



Small Group

9. What Did I Draw? — Older Game / Small Group Leader

14 minutes

Kids will draw a picture and then pass it to their neighbors to guess what it is.

Big Goal: Remember that when we love our enemies, they experience the love God has for them.

Leader Prep: Print the "What Did I Draw?" printable and cut along the dotted lines. Set out supplies.

Supplies

☐ "What Did I Draw?" printable

1 per group

☐ Paper

3 per child

☐ Pencils

1 per child

☐ Adult scissors

1 per group

Script

What To Do: We are going to play a game called "What Did I Draw?" What did I what? *(Draw!)* *(Normal voice)* That is right! This is a version of the game "Telephone," but it involves drawing instead of whispering! *(Give kids the paper and pencils. Invite kids to sit in groups of six in a circle.)*

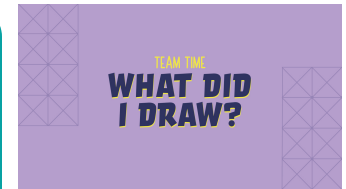
You are getting a pencil and some paper. In a moment, I will also give you a prompt, which is a short message. When I say, "What Did I Draw?" you can look at your prompt and begin drawing it on the first sheet of paper. Once everyone is done drawing, you will pass your picture to your neighbor on your right—but do not say what the prompt is!

When you have the picture from your neighbor on your left, fold the picture in half and write one sentence describing the picture. Then pass that sentence to your neighbor on your right again. Once you get the sentence from your neighbor on your left, take a new sheet of paper and draw a picture of the prompt your neighbor wrote—then pass it to your neighbor on the right.

We will keep passing our pictures and sentences for six rounds. On the last round, you will get a sentence that should describe your original prompt—*should* being the keyword!

(Distribute prompts.) Everyone, grab a pencil and sheet of paper. Let's play "What Did I Draw?"

Keep It Going: Invite kids to share their ending sentences with the group.



Script

Loud And Clear: What a great game of "What Did I Draw?" Let me read you all the prompts:

1. A mom holding her baby
2. Two friends playing catch
3. Someone giving a gift to her friend
4. A dad holding his kid on his shoulders
5. Two friends playing video games
6. Someone hugging her dog or cat

Whether you knew it or not, you interacted with each of these prompts! You got to experience them because your teammates passed them to you! When we love people who are kind to us and people who are not, they can experience God's love for them through you. What an amazing gift! Next up, **let's love like Jesus!** Say, "Next!" *(Next!)* Say, "Up!" *(Up!)* Say, "Next up!" *(Next up!)* Say, **"Let's love like Jesus!"** *(Let's love like Jesus!)*

Large Group

10. Video-Led Theme Verse (Option 2) / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Leader Tip

Theme Verse Motions:

Let your light shine before others, *(Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing forward, crossing in front of your body.)*
so that they may see your good works *(Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing up, crossing in front of your waist.)*
and give glory to your Father in heaven. *(Push your hands up to the sky with palms facing in.)*
Matthew 5:16b *(Hold your hands out like a book.)*

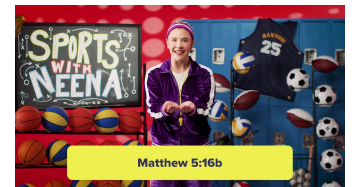
Script

Next up is our Theme verse! Jesus's example of loving others is like a light in a dark place. Tune in as we learn this verse together!



Presentation

Play Aug2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



Script

This Bible verse tells us to let our light shine before others. Loving people who are unkind to us is like shining a light in a dark place. When we love those people, we are reflecting Jesus's love to the world! Say, **"Let's love like Jesus!"** *(Let's love like Jesus!)*



11. Music Option / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

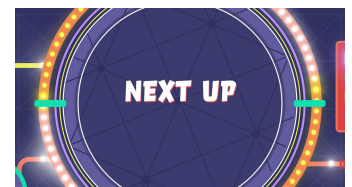
Script

When we follow Jesus, He helps us love like Him! Stand to your feet if you can, and let's sing together about our amazing, loving God!



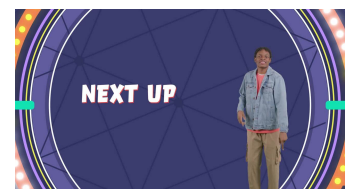
Presentation

Play Aug2026_ThemeSong_LyricVideo_NextUp_Kids



Presentation

Play Aug2026_ThemeSong_MotionVideo_NextUp_Kids



Leader Tip

Consider adding additional video-led worship music for kids.

Small Group

12. Team Time Optional Section / Small Group Leader

10 minutes

Supplies



Bibles

1 per child

*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the “Big Deal” for today’s lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

13. Pickup Time / Small Group Leader

Leader Tip

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as they exit the room.

