



August 23, 2026

**I Am Designed for a Purpose
Elementary Leader Guide**

the place for kids to take
their first steps with Jesus.



WIN

Jesus taught that God's love is our standard. We are called to love others, even when it is difficult, costly, or not returned. Jesus showed us how to love everyone, including our enemies. When we love all people, we love like Jesus.

BIBLE- Love Your Enemies- Matthew 5:43-48

TOOLS

Scan QR



ASK Leader



Leader Devos



Like It Counts

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. ** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, “Foil Recreate” printable (1 per group), Aluminum foil (1 per child), Adult scissors (1 per group), “Abstractly Me” printable (2-4 per group), Paper (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several per child)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today.”

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

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!*)

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

Circle 2- Jesus is the perfect example of love because He loved us even when our sin made us enemies of God. Since we cannot overcome sin on our own, we need Jesus to rescue us, forgive us, and help us love God and others the way He created us to.

Circle 3- God's love is greater than our sin! Because He loves us so much, God sent Jesus to die in our place and take the punishment for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life, defeating sin and death and showing the greatest love of all by loving us even when we were still sinners and enemies of God.

Circle 4- 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.

Circle 1- 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!*)

Pass the Love

Big Goal: Know that when we follow Jesus, we share His love with all people.

Leader Prep: None

Supplies: Heart stickers (3 per child)

What To Do: Next up is a game called “Pass the Love.” Pass the what? (*Love!*) In this game, you will get three heart stickers. When I say, “Go,” you will chase your teammates and try to stick a heart sticker on their backs. Do this until you have passed out all three of your heart stickers to your teammates! Everyone, say, “Rules!” (*Rules!*) You can only place stickers on your teammates backs—nowhere else! Say, “Another rule!” (*Another rule!*) You cannot “sticker” the same teammate twice! Say, “One more rule!” (*One more rule!*) You cannot give a sticker to a teammate who already has two stickers. If you understand, give me a thumbs-up! (*Allow kids to give a thumbs-up. Pass out heart stickers.*) Let’s play “Pass the Love!” On your mark, get set, go!

Keep It Going: Pass out more stickers and give kids different ways to move around the room, like hopping, skipping, or waddling. Invite kids to guess which teammates gave them stickers.

Loud And Clear: So much love is going around right now! You may have had a hard time giving your stickers away, but you worked hard and did not give up passing the love! That is the way God wants us to share His love with others. Even if someone is hard to love, Jesus said to love that person anyway. And we can know that He will help us love the way He taught us to love! Say, **“Let’s love like Jesus!”** (*Let’s love like Jesus!*)

Let’s chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- I will give you two options, and you will tell me which option you like most and why. First, vanilla or chocolate? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own.)* Second, summer or winter? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own.)* Last, salty or sweet? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own.)* Those are some fun choices! Even when we prefer different things, we can all be kind to people who are different than us!
- We saw a microphone during the Object Lesson and learned that we can share God's love like a host uses a microphone! When might you see someone use a microphone? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include to give instructions, to get people's attention, and so forth.)* How does a microphone remind us about how we can share God's love? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include God's love is important to share; we want everyone to know about God's love; and so forth.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are designed to love others like Jesus loved us. Let's open our Bibles to **Matthew 5:43-45** (pg. 1053) and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* In these Bible verses, Jesus taught what it means to live in a way that honors and points others to God with our words and actions. We point people to God when we love those who do not love us. What are some ways we can show other's God's love with our words and actions? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include we can invite people to sit with us at lunch; I can choose to be kind to someone even after they are mean to me; and so forth.)*
- The Bible says that God loves us even when our sin made us His enemy *(read Romans 5:8-10 pg. 1249)*. He loves us that much! What are some ways can notice God's love for us? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include God has given me a place to live; God forgives my sin through Jesus; God loves me because the Bible says so; and so forth.)* If you want to know more about how much God loves you and how He shows that love through Jesus, please come talk to me! God made the way for our sins to be forgiven. I would love to tell you about how Jesus can forgive you and give you a forever relationship with God!
- The Bible tells us when we love like Jesus, we are following God's design for our lives! Next up, **let's love like Jesus!** Who is someone you can love like Jesus would this week? What is something you learned today?

WRAP UP

Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You for Your love and for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die and rise again in our place. Give us courage to ask Your forgiveness for our sins. Help us share Your love with others, no matter how they treat us. Amen.

God's design for us is not scrambled but clear! We are to love others like Jesus. When we do, we are showing them God's amazing love!

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.