



February 16 I am Loved Kindergarten - 5th grade

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: God Loved His People- Judges 1-3

Bottom Line: God Loves More

Leader Context: In the book of Judges, we see that God's people reject Him and sin repeatedly. Yet every time they cried out and asked Him for help, God listened and helped them. (Read Judges 2:18.) Today we are teaching kids that God's love is deep and wide. No matter how many times we make wrong choices, God loves us more and offers us forgiveness.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Social

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Dice (4 per group), Plastic cups (2 per group), Table tennis balls (2 per group), Table (1 per group), Construction paper in pink and blue (1 each color per group), Music and music player (1 per group; optional)

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."

Videos

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

God's people kept making wrong choices. Even though He was so good to them, they kept sinning and turning away from Him. There were still consequences when they disobeyed, but God loved His people so much He gave them *judges*, who were special leaders, to help them follow Him. Kind of like the people in today's Bible story, we can forget about God or turn away from Him, too. We do this by doing what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. But even though we make wrong choices, God still loves us. Just like God loved His people and helped them over and over again, He loves us more than our sin and wants to help us follow Him. Say, "God loves more!" (*God loves more!*)

God loves us more than we can ever imagine. He knew we would need rescuing, and He sent Jesus. You are loved, and God loves you more than you can imagine. Let's pray and thank God for His love in 3-2-1.

God, thank You that You love us more than we could imagine and more than we deserve. Thank You that You love to rescue people, and thank You for sending Jesus. Whenever we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what You say is best, help us remember Your love. Help us to turn to You instead of doing our own thing and help us to love You like You love us. Amen.

Gospel Connection- Say This

Using the 4 Circles Gospel Art in your group space talk about how the story today relates to the circles.

God doesn't send judges anymore. He sent someone better.

(Circle three) God gave His people, the Israelites, judges to help turn them back to God, but He sent us His one and only Son, Jesus. Who did God send for us? (*Jesus*) Jesus is the King of everything, and He came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. God loves us so much more than we could ever imagine!

(Circle two) We sin when we do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Sin separates us from God, just like the Israelites' sin kept them from following God. Sin broke the world, and it broke our relationship with God. We need to be rescued.

(Circle three) Our sin deserves punishment. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment we deserved. When we admit that we sin, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and commit to following Him, we can have a relationship with God!

(Circle four) When we put our faith in Jesus, He rescues us. And here is the cool thing—Jesus not only died for our sin, but He also rose from the dead and is coming back one day to make all things perfect again, like they were when God created everything in the beginning.

The stories from the book of Judges remind us that God loves us more than sin, more than our wrong choices, and more than we could ever imagine. If you have any questions about Jesus or want to know more about having a relationship with Him, talk with me or your Team Leader. We can all know that we are loved by God and that God loves us more than anyone or anything. Repeat after me: "I am loved!" (*I am loved!*) "God loves more!" (*God loves more!*)

Follow The Rules — 20 Minutes

Kids will follow the rules they set.

Big Goal: Kids will be reminded that God gave His people judges to help them follow Him.

Supplies: Butcher paper and marker (1 per group), Dice (2 per group)

What To Do: Sometimes rules can be hard to follow because we don't understand them, or we think they are unfair. Well, today you get to set the rules. I need you to think of six rules, one for each number you find on a game dice. When you roll the dice, you will follow that rule. For example, when a one is rolled, you must spin in a circle once. Now let's come up with six rules.

(Allow kids to create these rules, but remind them they must follow them. Write the rules by the corresponding number on the butcher paper.)

Now let's see how well you do following the rules. *(Invite a different child to roll the dice each time, and challenge the kids to follow the rules quickly.)*

Keep It Going: Use two dice for kids to follow both rules at the same time.

Leader Tip: Challenge the kids to encourage one another to follow the rules quickly.

Loud And Clear: You did a great job following your rules. God gave people rules because He made us, loves us, and knows what's best for us. The Israelites in our Bible story had a hard time following God's rules, so God gave them judges to help His people turn back and follow Him. But they couldn't follow the rules on their own no matter how hard they tried, and neither can we! However, God loves us more than our sin and wants to help us and rescue us, which is why He sent Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- What are things people say and do that make you feel loved or cared about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that God showed His love by giving His people judges. Let's open our Bibles to Judges 2:18 and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open up their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.)* God showed His love by sending the judges to help His people. How does God show us love? *(God showed us love by sending Jesus and making a way for us to have a relationship with Him.)*

Discussion Questions-

- When God's people kept sinning and disobeying God, God kept loving them. How is that good news for us? *(God loves us more than our sin deserves, and He keeps offering us forgiveness and a chance to follow Him.)*
- If you ever wonder if there is a limit to how much God loves you, how could today's Bible story help answer that question? *(There is no limit to God's love. He loves us more than we imagine or deserve.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are loved by God and that He loves more than anyone or anything. What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's talk to God by praying. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, You are so incredible and amazing! You created everything, even us. You knew we would sin, time and time again, but You still love us. You invite us to turn from our sin and follow You. Thank You for the greatest gift of love, Jesus. Help us to know that we are loved by You. Amen.

Say: When God's people made wrong choices and needed help, He sent leaders called judges to help. The judges reminded people of God's love and helped them turn back to Him. God loves more than we can imagine! God knows we need help, and He loves us so much He provides Jesus to rescue us from sin.

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.