

Loop Teaching: The People Near You

Teaching Focus: Love the people around you, including those you would not naturally choose.

Scripture: “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” • Galatians 6:2 NIV

1. Opening & Prayer

“Today we’re going to learn about loving the people who are already around us. Some may be close friends, and others may be people we do not usually notice or choose to spend time with. As you watch the video, pay attention to what agape love means and how we can help carry another person’s burden.”

Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You for placing people around us at home, at school, at church, and in our community. Help us notice when someone needs encouragement, help, or a friend. Teach us to love people like Jesus does, including people we may not naturally choose. Please help us understand today’s message and show us one loving action we can take this week. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

2. Video Lesson on Jellyfin

3. Discussion

“Let’s talk about what we learned in today’s Loop video. The video explained that agape love is a serving kind of love that does not expect anything in return. It looks for opportunities to do good to everyone. Galatians 6:2 says, ‘Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.’ A burden is something difficult, painful, stressful, or heavy that a person is carrying in life. We may not be able to fix every problem, but we can listen, care, pray, include, offer practical help, and involve a trusted adult when more support is needed.”

“Let’s say today’s Scripture together. I will say one short part at a time, and you repeat it after me.”

Leader: “Carry each other’s burdens.” Children repeat.

Leader: “And in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Children repeat.

- “What are some burdens people your age might carry, and what could helping carry that burden look like?”

(Burdens may include school pressure, loneliness, family changes, illness, friendship problems, fear, or feeling left out. Helping carry a burden may look like listening without making fun of the person, praying, including the person, offering practical help, or asking a safe, trusted adult for help when the situation is serious.)

- “Who is someone you do not usually choose to spend time with, and how could you show that person love?”

(Children might greet someone they usually overlook, learn the person’s name, invite someone to join a group, choose a different partner, sit with someone who is alone, speak kindly, or help with a task.)

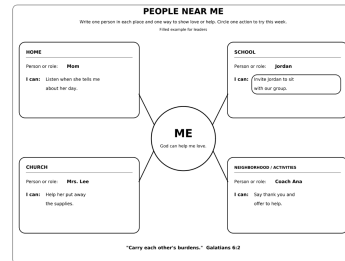
“Jesus does not ask us to become best friends with every person or ignore unsafe behavior. He does teach us to notice people, treat them as valuable, and respond with love. If someone is hurting you, asking you to hide something wrong, or sharing a serious problem, tell a safe,

trusted adult. Remember our teaching focus: ***Love the people around you, including those you would not naturally choose.***

4. People Near Me Map

What You Need:

- ☐ White cardstock, one sheet per child
- ☐ One completed sample
- ☐ Pencils and erasers
- ☐ Markers or colored pencils
- ☐ Whiteboard and dry-erase marker



What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Make one completed sample. Turn a sheet of cardstock to landscape orientation and write “PEOPLE NEAR ME” across the top.
- Draw a large circle in the center and write “ME” inside it.
- Around the center circle, create four connected areas labeled HOME, SCHOOL, CHURCH, and NEIGHBORHOOD OR ACTIVITIES.
- In each area, write a relationship word or initials for one person you see there. Do not include private information.
- Beside each person, add one specific way to show love or help carry a burden. Circle one action to practice this week.
- Across the bottom, write “Carry each other’s burdens. • Galatians 6:2.”
- Write possible loving actions on the whiteboard, such as greet, listen, invite, encourage, pray, help, sit together, defend from exclusion, and tell a trusted adult when help is needed.

During the Activity:

- Give each child one sheet of cardstock and show the completed sample.
- Have the children turn the paper to landscape orientation, add the title “PEOPLE NEAR ME,” and draw a large circle labeled “ME” in the center.
- Have them create four connected areas around the center labeled HOME, SCHOOL, CHURCH, and NEIGHBORHOOD OR ACTIVITIES.
- In each area, have them add a relationship word, role, or initials for one person they regularly see. Encourage them to think beyond only their closest friends.
- Explain that the person does not have to be someone they dislike. It may be someone they do not know well, someone outside their usual friend group, or someone who is often overlooked.
- Beside each person, have the children write or draw one realistic action that could help the person feel noticed, loved, or supported.
- Have the children write “Carry each other’s burdens. • Galatians 6:2” across the bottom of the page.
- Invite each child to circle one action they will try this week and then finish decorating the map with pathways, symbols, borders, or color.

After the Activity:

- Invite children to share the action they circled with a partner if they are comfortable.

- Give the children a quiet moment to ask God to help them notice and love that person this week.
- Remind them to take the map home and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Collect the shared supplies and return them to the appropriate containers.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

“The people near us are not only our closest friends. God has placed people around us at home, at school, at church, and in other parts of our lives. Some people are easy for us to notice and love. Other people may be outside our usual group or easy to overlook.”

“You will create a map of the people near you. Your map will help you think about one person in each part of your life and one specific way you could show that person love. You may use a relationship word, role, or initials instead of a full name.”

During the Activity:

“Think about what each person may need. Could you greet someone who often stands alone, listen to someone who is having a difficult day, invite someone into your group, offer practical help, pray for the person, or ask a trusted adult to help?”

“Choose actions you can realistically do. You are not responsible for solving every problem. Helping carry someone’s burden means caring enough to listen, help in a wise way, and involve a trusted adult when the problem is too big to carry alone.”

After the Activity:

“Look at the action you circled. Ask God to help you follow through this week. Galatians 6:2 reminds us to carry one another’s burdens. Our teaching focus is: ***Love the people around you, including those you would not naturally choose.***”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Allow children to complete two or three map areas instead of all four when writing or processing takes more time.
- Let children use relationship words, roles, initials, or simple drawings instead of full names.
- Write the area labels and loving-action ideas on the whiteboard for children to copy.
- Offer a leader or buddy to write a child’s dictated ideas.
- Do not require children to share names, private family information, or another person’s burden with the group.
- If a child describes an unsafe situation or a serious concern, follow Grace Kidz safety procedures and involve the Grace Kidz Director.

5. Carry It Together Cup Challenge (Optional, if time allows)

What You Need:

- ☐ Plastic cups, 10 per team of about four children
- ☐ Painter's tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use painter's tape to make one start line and one finish line about 8 to 10 feet apart.
- Create teams of about four children. Assign teams so children have an opportunity to work with people outside their usual friend group.
- Place one stack of 10 cups behind the start line for each team.
- Clear the pathways and explain that children must speed-walk rather than run.
- Show the teams how to build a four-level cup pyramid with four cups on the bottom, then three, two, and one on top.

During the Activity:

- Have each team line up behind its stack of cups.
- Explain that the cups represent burdens or difficult things people may carry. Each teammate will help move the full load.
- On "Go," the first child on each team should pick up one cup, speed-walk to the finish line, place the cup inside the team's building area, return, and tag the next teammate.
- Continue rotating through the team. Every child must take a turn before anyone takes a second turn.
- If a cup drops or rolls away, the child should pick it up and continue. There is no penalty.
- After all 10 cups reach the finish line, the entire team may work together to build the four-level pyramid.
- Team members should use encouraging words and listen to one another's ideas while building.
- The first team whose pyramid stands for a slow count of three wins the round. All other teams should continue until their pyramids are complete.
- If a pyramid falls, the team should encourage one another and rebuild it. No child is eliminated.
- Celebrate the winning team and then applaud every team for finishing together.
- Reset the cups and play a second round. Give teams 30 seconds to choose a new order and one way they can cooperate more effectively.
- If two teams finish at the same time, allow both teams to share the win.

After the Activity:

- Ask: "Why was it easier to move and stack all the cups when everyone helped?"
- Ask: "What words or actions helped your teammates feel included?"
- Remind the children that real burdens are not a game. People may need listening, prayer, practical help, inclusion, or support from a trusted adult.
- Collect the cups and painter's tape.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

“Galatians 6:2 tells us to carry one another’s burdens. The cups in this game will represent the difficult things people may carry. One cup may not seem like much, but a whole stack is harder for one person to manage. Your team will share the work of moving every cup and building one pyramid together.”

“You may be working with people you do not usually choose as teammates. Show love by listening, taking turns, using encouraging words, and making sure everyone has a part.”

During the Activity:

“Speed-walk, carry one cup at a time, and tag the next person. Make sure everyone takes a turn before anyone goes again. When all 10 cups reach the finish line, work together to build the pyramid. If something falls, encourage your team and try again.”

After the Activity:

“The cups were light, but the burdens people carry can feel very heavy. We cannot fix every problem, and we should never promise to keep an unsafe secret. We can notice people, listen, pray, include them, offer wise help, and tell a trusted adult when more help is needed.”

“Remember our teaching focus: ***Love the people around you, including those you would not naturally choose.***”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- Shorten the relay distance or place the finish line at a table when needed.
- Allow a child to remain at the finish line as the team’s cup organizer or pyramid builder.
- Demonstrate one complete turn before beginning and allow extra processing time between instructions.
- Keep every child involved. Do not eliminate children for dropping a cup or making a stacking mistake.
- For a small group, work as one team and try to complete the challenge twice, using better cooperation during the second round.
- For a large group, create additional teams and widen the lanes so children do not cross paths.