



### BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.

ROMANS | LIFE | WEEK 4 OF 5

# Action

## GOD STORY

Action

Romans 12:9–21

## KEY VERSE

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me...from one end of the earth to the other."

Acts 1:8 (NIRV)

## LEADER TIP

If one of your group's regular leaders is away, take the time to help anyone who fills in become familiar with your usual routines.

## My Story

### 1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

To lead into today's lesson, chat about times when the students have found it difficult to love someone—or to be loved. Introduce the Big Idea.

### 2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5)

Tear up a piece of paper to illustrate that each time we give Jesus-centered love to someone, we're left with more of God's love!

## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching.

## My Story

### 4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes\*)

Read and discuss Matthew 5:43–48 and Romans 12:9–21. Encourage the students to put their love into action in the week ahead.

### 5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Use the Loving Others activity page to reflect on what the students learned.

## Our Story

### 6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

\*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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## My Story

### 1 | Conversation Starter

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### LEADER TIP

- Use this quick activity to welcome everyone, build community, and set the tone for your group.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Greet the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
  - Has anyone ever done something that was hurtful to you, and it was difficult to love them because of it?
  - Have you ever done something that made it hard for someone else (e.g., a friend or a sibling) to love you? What happened?
  - Why do you think it's easy to love some people and harder to love others?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.**

### 2 | Intro Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Pen

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Write "God's Love" on a piece of paper.
- Hold up the paper for everyone to see and point out that it has four corners.
- Rip off one corner and give it to someone.
- Note that the paper now has five corners.
- Rip off the remaining original three corners and give them to some students.
- Pass around the paper and encourage the group to count how many corners it has now.
- Point out that every time you gave away a corner you made more.
- Explain that this illustration shows what today is all about: each time you give Jesus-centered love to someone, you're left with more of God's love! Highlight that we may find it difficult to love some people, but **Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.**



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## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

**SUPPLIES**

- Video file

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Action, Romans 12:9–21)
  - Life Story (Kids share about how they love others, even when it's hard.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
  - What's the Key Verse for this series? (Acts 1:8)
  - What stood out to you in the God Story? How about the Life Story?
  - How do these stories connect with the Big Idea (**Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard**)?

## My Story

### 4 | Application Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Bibles

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Discuss:
  - Who are some of the people you love the most?
  - Do you tend to treat these people better or worse than those you've just met? Why do you think that is?
- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Guide the students to look up Matthew 5:43–48.
- Read Jesus' teaching about loving our enemies.
- Discuss:
  - What stood out to you in these verses? Do you have any questions about this passage?
  - What does Jesus say we should do to love our enemies?
  - What reason does Jesus give for loving them?
- Direct the students to flip to Romans 12:9–21.
- Read the passage together.
- Discuss:
  - What stood out to you?
  - Do you think loving people and living in community is important? Why?
  - What do you think it would mean or look like to live at peace with everyone?
- Encourage the students to come up with ideas for what they could do or say to put their love into action this week.



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## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Loving Others activity pages
- Pens

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Give each student an activity page and a pen.
- b. Provide everyone with enough time to review the page, reflect on it, and write their answers.
- c. Invite the students to share what they wrote down.
- d. Encourage everyone to take home their page and follow through!
- e. Remind them that **Jesus shows us how to love others even when it's hard.**

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

**SUPPLIES**

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.