

FOCUS

DAY
FIVE

ELEMENTARY
SMALL GROUP

FOCUS VBS

BIBLE STORY

The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13

MEMORY VERSE

"Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith."
Hebrews 12:2a, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

You can LIVE for God by loving others.

LOOKING, LOOKING

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, "Looking, Looking Cards" (Activity Pages attached), mirrors, pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a set of "Looking, Looking Cards," and a pencil.
- Lead kids to hold the cards up to the mirrors to "decode" the words and then write them on the bottom half of the card.
- When they finish, challenge them to put the cards in order. They can use their Bibles to help.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Hebrews 12:2 NIV says: *Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith.* God sent Jesus to show us how to have faith in God—how to trust Him. God also sent Jesus to show us how He wants us to live.

"One way God wants us to live is by loving others. We say it this way: you can LIVE for God by loving others. So, what are some ways that you can show God's love to others? (Pause.) Great ideas! So, remember: **you can LIVE for God by loving others.**"

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PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: Focus Notebooks (with 3D glasses) OR index cards; markers/pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Focus Notebook or index card.
- Encourage kids to use the 3D glasses and look on page 18 to read the Bottom Line for today.
- Ask kids to turn to page 19 in their Focus Notebooks.
- Ask kids to write on the top of page 19, "One way I can show love to someone this week is . . ."
Note: If you have younger kids, you can pre-write it for them, or quickly write it for them in the moment.
- Encourage kids to think of something they can do this week to love others.
- Give kids the freedom to use words or drawings to finish the sentence.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you take a closer look at the people around you, you see ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Maybe you love others by encouraging them with a kind note, or you love others by baking them cookies to let them know you were thinking of them. Maybe you show love to a friend by helping them with homework or show love to your sibling by spending time with them. Spend time this week looking for ways **you can LIVE for God by loving others**. Let's pray.

"God, You love us so much! Every one of us is important to You! Help us to see ways we can love others. Open our eyes to ways we can show people they matter to us and—more importantly—that they matter to You. Amen!"

WHAT YOU NEED: Bendy straws; bowls or cups; paper; scissors; pencils; tape; small balls or pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to use a bowl or cup to trace a circle onto a piece of paper.
- Tell them to cut out the circle and then make a cut into the circle, stopping in the middle.
- Show them how to create a funnel shape out of the circle and secure it with tape.
- Guide kids to cut a small hole in the tip of the funnel and insert the short end of a bendy straw into the hole (from the outside of the funnel). They may need to tape the straw in place.
- Tell kids to place a ball into the funnel, put the long end of the straw into their mouth, and blow.
- If the ball doesn't float, kids may need to add more tape to the funnel to make it airtight.
- Challenge kids to see how high they can get their balls to float and to see how far they can walk without the ball falling. You might also want to create a walking obstacle course they can traverse while keeping their ball afloat.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Life can be full of ups and downs, like this floating ball challenge. But when you keep your focus on Jesus, you can get through it. I think today's focus is a pretty great one. Loving others is important, because we all need to be loved. Let's say today's Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line]** **You can LIVE for God by loving others.**"

