



# THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.

## THE BIBLE

More People Believe in Jesus: Acts 10:34-35

#### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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- **ACTIVITY** | Find the Difference

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- **ACTIVITY** | Party in a Cup
- **ACTIVITY** | Time Travel Play





### BY CATHERINE HWANG-JIN

### HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

#### **MUSIC | Time Travel Tunes**

Give each kid a different age-appropriate noisemaker, such as an egg shaker, tambourine, rattles, etc. During the chorus, instruct the kids to share and exchange their items and shout, "Love!"

#### **ACTIVITY | Find the Difference**

Have kids hold and compare two different objects in the same category (e.g., two different fruits, car toys, dolls, etc.). Talk about the features that make them different from each other, but they are both the same category. Say, "Everyone is different but God loves everyone the same!"

#### **ACTIVITY | Love Locomotive**

Give each kid a <u>magnetic toy train</u>. Designate one engine to be the Holy Spirit. Talk with kids about the people they love, and have them each add one train to the engine. Let kids take turns pulling the long train around your space.





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## THE BIBLE

More People Believe in Jesus: Acts 10:34-35

### **WELCOME TIME**

#### **MUSIC | Times Travel Tunes**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing and dance along to some fun songs about God during your worship time! Along with your kids' favorite songs, consider adding "Love One Another" (Yancy) and "Love the Lord" (CJ & Friends) to your playlist:
  - **★ TODDLER HACK:** Give each kid a different age-appropriate noisemaker, such as an egg shaker, tambourine, rattles, etc. During the chorus, instruct the kids to share and exchange their items and shout, "Love!"
- Today, we are going to sing about God's love!
- God loves us so, so much!
- God surrounds us with love.
- Because God loves us, we can love others, too!

### **ACTIVITY | Time for Hugs**

- Today, we are going to hear a short story to help us think about the theme of the day. Then we'll create a pretend watch that will remind us to make time for hugs!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Seat the kids in a circle for story time. Read the book, "<u>Hug Machine.</u>" or show this read aloud video. After you read the book, help the kids create a watch that tells them it's time for hugs! Before kids arrive, print and cut the Time for Hugs printable of watch faces into individual squares. Cut paper towel or toilet paper tube into roughly 1- or 2-inch sections to make wristbands. Have kids color their watch face cut-out then use safety scissors to cut it out. Glue or tape the watch face to a paper wristbands. Help each kid to slide their new "watch" onto their wrist.

#### **ACTIVITY | Find the Difference**

- I am going to show you two images they look the same, but there are some differences. Whenever you spot a difference, stand up!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Project the Find the Difference printable on the screen. Tell the kids to stand up when they see a difference between the two. Choose some of the kids to come to the front to point out the differences one by one. Consider using a draw tool on your computer to circle the ones they point out or just point out the differences on the screen
  - \*\* TODDLER HACK: Have kids hold and compare two different objects in the same category (e.g., two different fruits, car toys, dolls, etc.). Talk about the features that make them different from each other, but they are both the same category. Say, "Everyone is different but God loves everyone the same!"

### **TEACHING TIME**

#### SCRIPTURE | Acts 10:34-38

- Today, we are going to talk about a Roman army officer named Cornelius who lived a long time ago.
- [While you're still talking, "bump into" your time machine.]
- Ouch! Hey, it's our time machine! When did this get here?! Ooh, should I travel back in time and bring Cornelius here so he can tell you the story himself?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Point the arrow on the "time machine" to "2" and play this <u>sound effect</u>. Go inside your time machine and put on costume pieces and props to match the character of Cornelius. Step out of the time machine as Cornelius, looking alarmed.
- Where have you brought me? Who are all these people You there! [Point to a kid.] What is your name?
- Have you seen a man named Peter around? I was just listening to him tell me and my family a
  message from God . . . well until this person named [Your name] appeared out of nowhere and
  brought me to this . . . what is this place? [Let kids answer.]
- Maybe this is a dream. [Take a seat.] Now that I think about it, strange things have been happening lately!
  - You see, a few days before I met Peter, I was praying and had a vision, almost like a dream, of an angel telling me to go find someone named Peter because he had a special message for me.
  - So, I sent out some people who work for me to go find him while I gathered my whole family and all my friends so we could all hear this special message from a guy I had never met.
- Now, what I didn't know is that Peter had visions and was told by the Holy Spirit that my workers
  were looking for him! So, when they came to find him, he was not at all surprised.
  - Which is odd! Peter is a Jew and I'm a Roman. Back where I come from, we're not supposed to get along! But Peter told me that God's love is for everybody! Not just for Jewish people like him or Roman soldiers like me, but for the entire world.

- When I heard this news, do you know what I did?
  - I jumped up and down in happiness! Right then and there, I decided to believe in Jesus, and received the Holy Spirit.
  - It became very clear for Peter and his Jewish friends that God loves everyone, and gives the Holy Spirit to anyone who believes in Jesus!
- Well, I better get back to Peter. He's probably wondering what happened to me. Thanks for listening. Now, how does this things work . . . [Fiddle with dial and go back into time machine.]

### THE BIG IDEA | The Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.

- Wow! I'm so glad Cornelius came to tell us that story! Did you hear Peter's special news? God's love is for everyone! Also, the Holy Spirit helps us love others!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Record someone (dressed like they're from a different time period/decade) saying the Big Idea. Open the time capsule and pull out an old DVD or VCR tape. Pretend to insert it into a player. Then play the actual Big Idea video you made.
- Wow, this time capsule had an old DVD/VCR tape of someone from the past sharing with us today's Big Idea! Repeat after me and let's say it together: **The Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.**

### VIDEO | Legacy, Episode 2

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's preschool <u>teaching video</u>.

#### **ACTIVITY | Taste the World**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Grab a variety of snacks from as many different cultures you have access to locally. Have kids try the different snacks by giving them a tiny bit of each and discuss it with them. Do any of the snacks remind them of something they know? Alternatively, you can show a video (like this one) of kids trying foods from around the world.
- All of these snacks were different and all of our tastes are different. You might not like something someone else really likes. Or someone might not like something you really like.
- In the same way, we are all different. But that makes us special! God made each person exactly this way, and God loves that about us . . . no matter what anyone thinks!
- We can love others because the Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.

#### **PRAYER**

• Dear God, help us see people the way you see them, so we can love the way you love. We pray the Holy Spirit will help us every day to love others even if they are different from me. Amen.

### **DISCUSSION TIME**

#### **SNACK | Marshmallow Planet**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out large sheets of either homemade or pre-packaged <u>Rice Krispie treat sheets</u>. Play a song or video about Planet Earth (<u>like this one</u>) and give each kid some of the

Rice Krispies batch that they can manipulate and make round. You can also have green and blue colored ones using food coloring to make it more fun.

- **Do you know what the name of our planet is?** Yes, the world we live in is called Earth.
- **Do you know what shape Earth is?** That's right, it is round. There are people all around the world that God created who live on Earth!
- Do you know how many humans are on Earth? Seven billion people live on this planet. And God loves every single one of them and wants us to love them, too! The Holy Spirit helps us to love everyone.

#### **ACTIVITY | Love Locomotive**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute the Love Locomotive. Help kids cut out each of the train pieces. Use a label maker or masking tape and a marker to create labels that say "The Holy Spirit," "family," "friends," and "others." Have them stick the "Holy Spirit" label on the engine, and the remaining labels on the railroad cars. Ask the kids to think about a way they can show love to the following groups of people they have been given as they do so.
  - \* TODDLER HACK: Give each kid a <u>magnetic toy train</u>. Designate one engine to be the Holy Spirit. Talk with kids about the people they love, and have them each add one train to the engine. Let kids take turns pulling the long train around your space.
- How can we show love to our families? Do the dishes, switch the laundry, clean out the garage, be a big helper.
- How can we show love to our friends? Share a snack, carry books, play with them.
- How can we show love to other people you know, but who aren't your friends? Invite them to church, play together, remember their birthday.
- We can't just say we love someone. We have to do something to show that we love them. It's not easy but it's not impossible. You know why? **The Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.**

### **ACTIVITY | Steampunk Goggles**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will make their own steampunk goggles by cutting toilet paper rolls in half at a slant (or cut a paper towel tube in quarters). Instruct the kids to decorate their steampunk goggles using <u>silver or gold paper</u>, silver duct tape, <u>steampunk stickers</u>, <u>small craft gears</u>, brads, and feathers. Hot glue the rolls together with the longer edge of roll on the outside, punch a hole on either side of the rolls, and use a <u>craft leather cord</u> to make a head strap for the goggles. You can also glue the rolls on to a <u>cheap eye mask</u>. Your final product might look something like <u>this</u>.
- Did you know that goggles are used by steam train conductors? They use them to help them see clearly and to protect their eyes while on the train tracks.
- I know these steampunk goggles won't really help us see better or protect our eyes from our travels. But it will remind us to see others the way God does! **The Holy Spirit helps us love everyone.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Matching Train

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Assign each kid a word from the memory verse. Have them stand in order and say their word aloud when you point to them. Then have them form a train by putting their

hands on the shoulders of the kid in front of them. They will follow you around the room, taking turns saying their memory verse word in order. Once you get all the way through to the end, have everyone say, "Choo choo!"

### **PLAY TIME**

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids...

### **ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color. You could use <u>metallic crayons</u> to stay on theme!

### **ACTIVITY | Party in a Cup**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut out one-inch paper squares in various colors. Give kids a small stack and have them write or draw the names of people they love and love them. Give them cups to place their pieces of paper into once they are done. Have everyone say the Big Idea together, then toss the contents of their cups into the air like confetti!

### **ACTIVITY | Time Travel Play**

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have some props and costumes available for the kids to play with and retell the story in their own way.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents