



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

October 19-20, 2013

Kingdom Come Journey Week 2

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 9:1-17, 17:5; Joshua 2-4; Mark 14:12-26; Matthew 3:13-16, 6:25-34; Luke 15:11-32

When we receive the love of the king, we are his children and a part of his kingdom.

WHERE TO FIND IT

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

As kids enter the room, ask them about how their Love Experiments went last week. If kids are new, fill them in. And be honest about how your personal Love Challenge went too!

## check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to pull out a new "gift" every day to remind them that God loves them.

## large group heads up

Today we want kids just to bask in God's love for them—and consider all the many big and "small" ways God says "I love you."



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### Play 4 Corners

*(1) One person can run this for the whole room, (2) you can split into groups and each group can use a table or area, (3) or you can sit in circles and ask kids to hold up a number of fingers (1,2,3, or 4). Adapt the rules of the game to fit your room. Here's how to play:*

- Number corners. Tell kids you will read 4 statements. They should choose the number they agree with: Statement 1, 2, 3, or 4. Then kids should physically move to stand in the corresponding corner.
- The statements identify different ways we feel loved/preferences. ***(The purpose of the game is to have fun exploring ways we are all different and ways we all receive love differently.)***
- When kids have chosen, ask them why they chose a particular number. You can even have “corners” debate back and forth (in a friendly way, of course!)
- Here are some statements, but feel free to add your own:
  - I would rather (1) get a present, (2) get a hug, (3) get a whole day with my favorite person, (4) get told how awesome I am!
  - Which food do you like best? (1) cupcakes, (2) pizza, (3) pickles, (4) waffles
  - Which is the best present? (1) new shoes, (2) a video game, (3) a box of Oreos, (4) a puppy
  - If you were planning a day with your best friend, would you... (1) go to their house, (2) play outside, (3) watch a movie, (4) clean your room together?
  - On a snow day, are you happiest if... (1) you get pancakes for breakfast, (2) you get to sleep in, (3) you get in a snowball fight, (4) you have time to finish homework?
  - In school, would you rather be in (1) English class, (2) math class, (3) science class, (4) history class
  - Which soda do you like best: (1) Sprite, (2) Coke, (3) Mt. Dew, (4) Dr. Pepper
  - What kind of ice cream do you prefer? (1) chocolate, (2) mint chocolate chip, (3) cookie dough, (4) I hate ice cream
  - Give kids a category like favorite candy, favorite video game, favorite TV show, favorite band, etc. Let kids lead a few rounds if you still have time!

**This is also a time for *you* to connect with kids: If the activity wraps up early, ask them to share their names and the best part of their week and remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) Be kind, (2) Listen when somebody speaks, and (3) Follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand that receiving Jesus' love means we're part of his family and (2) practice receiving his never-ending love

**Why?** If we are going to share God's love and respond to him with obedience, we must first understand the vast depth of his love for us

**Tip:** Hand out the **Receive CDs** at the end. Tell kids that this is what the adults are getting this week, but that God loves EACH of us, any age. Encourage them to go somewhere quiet and alone and listen to this CD. It'll help them just think about God's love for them.

## small group

### REACT

- What is your favorite way that God shows his love to you? (From the video, from the receiving exercise, or from a personal experience)
- Why do you think God loves us so much?
- Do you ever forget God loves you? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God *wants* us to feel loved by him?
- Do you have any questions/confusion about something you heard in Large Group?\*

### ACTIVITY: GOD'S GIFT OF LOVE

Give each kid a gift box. Remember, if we choose to say yes to the gift of love Jesus gives us, God will want to keep showing us his love. So we're going to fill a gift box with lots of ways God shows us love. That way, we don't forget! And we can overflow with love.

- Each kid can choose **ONE strip of paper**.
- Ask them to write ONE way God shows his love (refer to question #1 if they're stuck)
- Once everybody's written one, share. Then put your slips into your **gift box**.
- Now have everybody look to the person on their left. Write ANOTHER way God shows us he loves us. Share with the group, then pass it to the person on their left (it's for their neighbor to put in his/her gift box).
- Keep filling up your gift boxes with ways God loves you (up to 6 pieces of paper per kid, though there are some extras if your group is on a roll). Keep sharing to give kids other ideas. As you fill gift boxes, start conversations:
  - Tell me about a time you felt loved by God. Why do you think you felt so loved?
  - How does it feel to know God loves you?
  - Why do you think God wants us to remember he loves us?

(Continued on the following page)

- How do you show people you love them? How is that similar to or different than the ways God shows you love?
- How do you tell God you love HIM?
- How will you remember God loves you this week?

As kids wrap up, review the verse from today. Encourage kids to memorize it. God often brings his word to mind when he wants to speak to us. It's important for us to know His Word. Read the verse together: **Matthew 6:9-Our father in heaven, help us to honor your name.** For fun, ask kids to repeat it back, make up motions with a partner, or even turn it into a song.

**\*Afterwards, pray with the kids, and ask God to remind us of his love this week.**

**As kids leave, they'll take home a Receive CD. It's for them to find someplace alone, turn on the CD, and just keep saying "yes" to God's love. This is exactly the same CD that the adults are receiving—encourage them to remind their parents to do the same thing.**

*Extra time? Turn on the "I'm Yours" music video and encourage kids to drum the rhythm on the table or even use pieces of paper to create "drumsticks." Let them work on their own or with a partner to figure out the rhythm.*

**\*\*If at any point, a kid expresses that he or she doesn't feel loved by God or doesn't believe that God could/does love him or her, address his/her concern. Refer to truths from God's own word: he created us in his image, Psalm 139 (he knit each individual together and knows us intimately), he sent his own Son to die for each of us. Encourage the kid to read Psalm 139 each day this week—and to ask God each morning to show them his love. You can even send kids home with a Bible!**

# LARGE group



## special notes

This is all about the many, many ways God says “I love you” to us. Today, let’s bask in God’s love!

## presenter tips

The receiving exercise is a good way for kids to prepare for the Receive CD they’ll receive at the end of Kids’ Club today.

## script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids’ Club. I’m so glad to see you. Remember, we’re talking about God’s Kingdom. We started by talking about how God promised a perfect king, Jesus. Jesus came to Rescue us, but he also came to bring the Kingdom of God to earth. When people first recognized Jesus as the promised King, they praised him!

### **INTRO: SHOWING LOVE IN DIFFERENT WAYS**

Today, we’re going to look some more of how the King loves us and how we get to enter his Kingdom when we choose to believe he loves us and accept his love. But first, let’s talk about the 4 Corners game you guys just got done playing. Raise your hand if your whole group ALWAYS went to the exact same corner, every single time. (Let kids respond.) What—nobody? Why do you think that is? (Let kids give reasons.) Was there ever a round when you wanted to choose more than one corner? Why? (Let kids share.)

Well, let’s try one of them altogether in here, for fun. Corner number 1 is there (point), 2 is there (point), 3 is there (point), and 4 is there (point). Ready?

If somebody wanted to be nice to me, I would rather that they (1) buy me a present, (2) give me a hug, (3) spend a whole day with me, (4) or tell me how awesome I am! (Let kids go to corners)

Wow, look how different we all are!! (Give some commentary on how kids responded. Don’t single anybody out, just generally summarize.) It looks like we *all* have slightly different favorite ways of getting shown love...even though, let’s be honest: ALL of those things are pretty great, aren’t they?! You can go ahead and have a seat now. (Let kids sit.)



## script continued

### RECEIVING JESUS' LOVE

The good news is we serve a PERFECT king. He's full of love. And guess what? The moment we decide to receive the love he showed when he rescued us, we are received into God's family—and his Kingdom. Jesus offers us his love and all we have to do is say: "yes"! He wants everyone to join the Kingdom of God.

In fact, once Jesus told his followers how they can talk to God. We're going to hear exactly what he said, verse by verse, throughout this Kingdom Journey. But our first verse is Matthew 6:9, where Jesus says we should start our prayers by saying this:

**SLIDE: Matthew 6:9-Our father in heaven, help us to honor your name.**

Wow, did anybody catch that? What do people who follow Jesus get to call God? (Let kids say: father.) That's right, *dad*. Our earthly fathers aren't perfect—so sometimes they mess up or make a wrong choice. But God is like a good and perfect dad who never messes up or hurts us and always loves us, no matter what we do.

And that means the KING of God's kingdom doesn't *just* love us because we're a part of his kingdom or because we love him...he loves us because we're his own kids. We belong to him.

### GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HE LOVES US

And one of the things God loves to do is make us feel loved and special. It feels good to be given a gift or told we're awesome or taken out for a special day, doesn't it? God wants us to feel good and just *enjoy* his love, in lots of different ways. Let's watch a video that shows *some* of the ways God has reminded his family that he loves them throughout history.

As you watch, think about which reminder is your favorite!

**Video: God's Story / God Reminds His Family** (about 4 minutes)

Wow, I love how God chooses so many different ways to show his family he loves us. He knows that the kingdom of the world makes us forget that we are loved. But he *really* wants us to accept his love and remember we are God's Kingdom! (**Show recap picture.**) So what do you guys think? Did anything—tents, rainbows, baptism, communion, birds, flowers, or a new name—stick out as a really cool way to remember God's love? (Let kids respond. Ask them why they liked a particular way. Once you get 2-3 *different* answers, move on.)

Yeah, we probably all have a favorite—even though God gives them ALL to us. He wants each of us to always know and remember that we are so, so loved.

### RECEIVING ACTIVITY

But you know what? Sometimes, it's hard to remember we're loved. Remember, we live in a broken world right now, which means bad things happen to us sometimes. So today, we're going to practice receiving—or enjoying—God's love. Let's think of all the big and little ways God tells us he loves us all the time, every day! And remember, his Kingdom is ALL about love.



### script continued

For this next part, you guys can lay down on the floor if you want. Or find a corner (set appropriate parameters for your room). Or just sit quietly and listen.

Pretend you are outside in a quiet spot, just you and God. If you don't like being outside, close your eyes and pretend you're in your bedroom or on the beach—or wherever your favorite place is.

We're going to listen to some truths about how God loves you. Just listen and *receive* the love God has for you. If one seems hard to believe, try whispering "yes" or saying "yes" in your head. Sometimes we have to agree with what we know is true, even when it's hard to believe. Ready?

***(Click to play the receiving soundtrack video.)***

OK, open your eyes. Those are all ways God loves us. Did anybody have a favorite or one that surprised them? (Let a couple of kids share. Then continue): You'll be able to talk about this more in small group. But for now, let's keep enjoying God's love...by singing about it!

### **WORSHIP**

This first song is all about God's love. It's a new song that talks about God's love filling us up like cups. Let's take a look!

***Music Video: I'm Yours***

***Song: Jesus Loves Me*** (with hand motions)

### **PRAY**

Ask somebody to come and thank God for loving us!



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

4 Corners Game – no supplies needed

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## small group supplies

Markers/Pens

Per kid:

- Receive CD
- Gift box (please order color options--black, green, orange, and pink--so kids can choose; can be purchased from

Oriental Trading (OT): IN-13601616)

- 6 strips of paper (OT: IN-65/60822; please cut each paper into 23 6"x1" strips and give rooms an assortment of colors/patterns)

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. SLIDE: Matthew 6:9 Our FATHER in heaven, help us to honor your name.
2. Video: God's Story / God Reminds
3. Image: God Reminds Recap (jpeg in curriculum folder)
4. Receiving exercise soundtrack
5. Music Video: I'm Yours
6. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)

*\*Partner churches, this is a brand new music video, which means it won't be completed until close to this lesson's date. You can play a different song of your choice or find it mid-October by subscribing to our (free) podcast on iTunes. Just search for "Crossroads Kids' Club" and download the video for "I'm Yours."*

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## connect questions

Tell me about God's love.  
How can we remember God loves us?

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## parent page

Printed separately