

MEMORYVERSE/BIG IDEA

Show the children the memory verse/big idea and talk about where it comes from (the Bible, the NEW Testament, the book of 1 Thessalonians, God said these words). Discuss what the big idea and verse mean.

(4-5yrs) 1 Thessalonians 5:15b "Always try to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."

(2-3yrs) God made our church a family, so we love each other and help each other.

(0-1yr) (More parent-led due to age.) The church is God's family and we love each other.

ACTIVITY FOR 4-5 YEAR OLDS

Toss and Share

Have your child(ren) sit on the floor facing each other and sit with them. Gently toss a beanbag or other soft object to your child and ask him or her to name something good they do to help your family. When the child has answered, he or she may toss the beanbag to another child in the circle, or back to you. Continue until everyone has had at least three turns to name something. (examples: various chores, give hugs, share, etc.)

ACTIVITY FOR 2-3 YEAR OLDS

Saying our Big Idea with Motions

God made our **church** a **family**, so we **love** each other and help each other.

God- point up at God

Church- make a roof with the fingers of both hands (^)

Family- hug yourself

Love- hold both hands over your heart

BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ages 3-5 read all and do review questions. Age 2 read the **blue text** and skip review questions.

1. The past few weeks we have been learning about the letter that Paul wrote to his friends, the Thessalonian disciples. **Paul wanted to remind his friends of some important ways to follow Jesus and love other people.** This is the last part of his letter, and at the end, he wanted to tell the Thessalonian disciples how they should treat each other. **The Thessalonian disciples had become a church family. There are many people in a family and they all should love each other and treat each other kindly. Every person in a family has a job to do to help the family.**

Review Question: Do you feel happy when you can do chores or other helpful things for your family?

Answer: allow for responses

2. Paul said in his letter, "I'm asking you, my friends, to treat everyone in your church family with kindness and respect. You are all working hard to make God happy and do what he says. Make sure you treat your teachers and leaders very well- listen to what they say and help them. They are doing a good thing."

Review Question: Paul says in the Bible to treat your teachers and leaders very well. What are good things you can do to treat your church teachers well?

Answer: listen to them, thank them, do what they say, help them

3. Paul said, "Try to get along with everyone in your church family. Don't fight with each other. If people are lazy, encourage them to work hard and do the right thing. If people are sad, help them feel better. If some people are sick or weak, you should take care of them. Be patient and gentle with everyone."

Review Question: What did Paul say to do to other people in your church family?

Answer: try to get along, don't fight, encourage them to work hard and do the right thing, help them feel better, take care of them, be patient and gentle

BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS CONTINUED

4. Paul said, “Don’t try to get revenge or do mean things to someone who was mean to you. Always do good to one another and to everyone. Praise God and thank him for all of the good things he has done for you and for the good things he has given to you. Pray to God all the time because he wants you to talk to him. Check what people say and make sure they are saying the true things in the Bible, and not lies. Stay away from bad things and always do the right thing.”

Review Question: What things did Paul tell the Thessalonian disciples to do?

Answer: see the list in the above paragraph

5. Paul said, “I pray that God will keep working in your hearts and making you more and more like Jesus. God has chosen you to tell people about him and he will help you do it. Please pray for me and my friends who are far away telling people about Jesus. We are part of your church family too, even though we are far away right now. We love you and **God loves you.**”

Review Question: God made the people who love him into a family. Our church is a part of God’s family. What good things can you do to show other people in our church that you love them?

Answer: help them, share, tell them “Jesus loves you”, open the door for them, give them a high five, etc.

ACTIVITY

SETTING THE TABLE TO HELP MY FAMILY

Say before beginning: “Today we talked about how the people at church are all a part of God’s family. In our family, we love and help each other, like the ways we told each other earlier. One way that you can help our family is by setting the table while mom or dad is making food. Then the plates, cups, napkins, and forks and spoons will all be ready for our family to eat dinner together. If you can set the table for us, it will help us and show our family that you love us. God is very happy when we do loving things for other people, especially our family and church family.”

Show your child(ren) the place-setting mat paper (printable link on our resources page) and four sets of place settings from your home. Have your child(ren) put all of the plates, forks, spoons, etc. in the right places for as many place settings at a table as you have members in your family.

SONG

“I Love You!” (Sung to the tune of “You are my Sunshine”)

Say before singing: This song is about how we love the people in our family and our church family. We’re going to sing this song with names in it- your name might show up in this song, too! I’ll sing it the first time, then you sing it with me. (Sing with a different child’s name in the song each time you sing it.)

WORDS

I love you (Johnny*) * insert name of family member/child

My dearest Johnny,

You make me happy

When I am sad.

I want to tell you

I really love you!

When I’m with you,

I’m so glad.

COLORING PAGE

See the link on the COVID-19 Resources site for the coloring page. Post a picture of your completed coloring page to our Facebook page (First Light Littles) so we can see your artwork!

For more resources a check out the First Light Littles Facebook Page!

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or prayer requests:

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