

## God Loves All People

### Week #1 (7th July 2024)

**The Big Point:** God Loves All People

**God's Word:** Growing in Love (Ephesians 3:17-19) + The Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:12-24)

**Memory Verse:** Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIRV)

**Application:** I can grow in God's love for all people.

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**Series Aim:** For kids to bear the fruit of the spirit of love and love others!

### Primary Huddle Guide

**Duration:** 20-25 mins

#### Before Sunday:

- Pray and prepare yourself by reading through this Huddle Guide and the Word Write-Up (scroll down to the right week) found on the [HopeKids Service Plan Blogspot](#).
- All Huddle Leaders are to prepare your own "script" and things to say. Feel free to inject your own questions or discussion points whenever necessary to suit the needs of your children.
- **NOTE: Please prepare the following:**
  - Whatever items you need for memory verse.
  - Prepare a list of differences/ similarities (see below for the game!)

#### Before Service on Sunday Morning:

- **Please note that there are no items provided for Huddle this week but do prepare the above!**
- Prepare all the items that are needed for Huddle Time. For this week:
  - Physical Bibles
  - HopeKids Notebooks

- Writing Materials

**During Huddle Time:**

- Have the children sit in a circle, making sure you can have eye contact with each kid.
- Welcome and ease the children into Huddle Time by:
  - Introducing yourself and the kids to one another
  - Remember the names of newer kids and help them feel welcomed and know they belong to the group!
  - Air high-fives, fist bumps
  - Playing small ice breaker games
- Remind the kids that the BEST rules still apply during Huddle Time.
- \*Choose any of the activities that best suits your age group, needs of kids and as per time permits - you do not need to go through everything!

**Activity 1: Games / Ice Breaker**

**Objective:** To open the small group time with the kids. To connect kids to each other, to huddle leaders.

**Preparation Needed:**

- Have in mind to pick 2 kids and Prepare a List of differences/ similarities (see below for the game!)

**Welcome:**

- Introduce yourself and welcome the kids to Huddle Time (small group time).
- If there are new kids, make sure to go one round of introduction.

**Game:**

- Pick two kids each round (plan to go at least 1-2 rounds) and ask the group to spot their differences.
- To make it competitive, you may want to split the group into 2 subgroups. The subgroup which can spot more differences wins.

- Some examples of differences that kids can point out:
  1. Long / short hair
  2. Big / small eyes
  3. Wear /Don't wear spectacles
  4. Colour of clothes
  5. Schools
  6. Height
- *Allow kids to respond and point out the differences.*
- Point to the kids that we can spot the differences between our two friends very quickly, but can we spot the similarities between our two friends?
- Some examples of similarities:
  1. Same age?
  2. Surname?
  3. Hobbies?
  4. Neighbourhood?
  5. Lifegroup?
- *Allow kids to respond and point out the similarities.*

**Sharing (*After the game*):**

- Actually, HopeKids! There is one more similarity for these \_\_\_\_ (state how many kids picked) friends.. But it is not easily seen. Can you guess what is it?
- The truth is they are all loved by GOD unconditionally, no matter how different or how similar they are. No matter how many differences or similarities we can spot between them, GOD sees them all and values them the same, and loves them the same! We are all loved by GOD.
- **As GOD loves all of us, similarly He wants us to all grow in GOD's love for all people.**

**Activity 2: Discussion and Reflection**

**Materials Needed:**

- Bible
- HopeKids Journals
- Writing Materials

## Discussion / Reflection

**Note:** Please choose the questions according to your kids' current level of understanding.

- Get kids to turn to Ephesians 3:17-19 and read.
- Growing in Love (Ephesians 3:17-19): Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in him. And I pray that your love will have **deep roots**. I pray that it will have a **strong foundation**. **18** May you have power **together with all the Lord's holy people** to understand Christ's love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is. **19** And may you know his love, even though it can't be known completely. Then you will be filled with everything God has for you.

**General Qn:** Why is it good for a plant to have deep roots? Why is it important for a building to have a strong foundation?

- Allow kids to respond and feel free to discuss.

**Perspective Qn:** In relation to Paul telling the Ephesians, what does it mean to have deep roots and strong foundation in GOD's love?

- Allow kids to respond and feel free to discuss.

**Perspective Qn:** Let's take a look again at Ephesians 3:18. It says "together with all the Lord's holy people", so to understand GOD's love, why is it that we need one another?

- The truth is, we cannot say we truly love others until we show it through our actions to the people around us. (eg: take care of the person, help the person, pray for the person etc)
- Sometimes, it is hard to love another person on our own, but when together with others, we see how others show love, we can imitate, and we can do it together.
- This is why it's so important that we are also in a church community - when we try to do lots of God's commands on our own, it can get tiring. We need each other's support and help to continue following God's commands.
- And we definitely need God's help too, in following His commands.

- Get kids to turn to Luke 14:12-24 and maybe get them to take turns to read out one verse each / practise responsive reading (e.g. with you or girls read even and boys read odd verses)
- Growing in Love (Luke 14:12-24:) Then Jesus spoke to his host. "Suppose you give a lunch or a dinner," he said. "Do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, or your relatives, or your rich neighbours. If you do, they may invite you to eat with

them. So you will be paid back. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite those who are poor. Also invite those who can't see or walk. 14 Then you will be blessed. Your guests can't pay you back. But you will be paid back when those who are right with God rise from the dead."

**General Qn:** What kind of people did Jesus tell his host to invite? Why do you think Jesus said that?

- *Allow kids to respond and feel free to discuss.*

**Perspective Qn:** In both scenarios, the host will be "paid back" as in (v12, v14). What do you think is the difference in terms of how they will be "paid back"?

- *Allow kids to respond and feel free to discuss.*
- V12 the friends, brothers, sisters, relatives, rich neighbours will invite the host back to eat with them.
- V14 the poor, cant see, cant walk , they cant pay back but GOD will pay back at the end times when Jesus comes back again.
- Jesus told his host (the person who invited him to dinner) who was a Pharisee this parable to show him and his guests (other teachers of the Law) that the great banquet that Jesus is going to have at the end when he comes back again, is an open invitation to all people, because **GOD loves all people**.
- Jesus emphasises the radical generosity and care that his disciples are to show toward those who may be different from us (e.g. physically impaired/disabled, the poor), because God's heart is for all people and he wants us to love all people without prejudice/bias).
- God wants us to love all His people by inviting all people to know Him.

So today, I want you to think and reflect: (you may want to write in down in your Hopekids Journal)

**Application Qn:**

- Who are the people I can love better? Or who might be the type of people I may have a prejudice / bias against?
  - Huddle leaders can also be vulnerable to share to an appropriate extent.. E.g. Teacher (*your name*) struggles to be kind / show love towards homeless people because I notice they are dirty and smell.. But I know God loves them too, and that is the extent of their need too, that they don't even have money to be able to access showering...

- What is one thing I can start doing to grow in GOD's love for all people?
  - Huddle leaders can use the analogy of growing a plant to explain to kids: Like when we are growing a plant, we need to water the plant, and make sure the plant has enough sunlight. Similarly, to grow in GOD's love for all people, we have to take care and cultivate that love for people by taking small actions in our everyday lives!
    - E.g. make friends with different cultures/ ages/ schools. Offer help to our neighbours or bless our neighbours with small gifts. Pray for friends in need.

### Prayer

Shall we pray together, HopeKids?

Dear God,

Thank you for loving me with Your perfect love. I know that **God, You love all people**. Help me to grow in Your love so that I can love others.

In Jesus' name, amen.

### Memory Verse

**Objective:** To hide God's Word in the children's hearts

#### **Materials needed:**

- *According to how you are deciding to test the kids!*

**Memory Verse:** Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIRV)

**Take time to explain the memory verse since it's the first week of the series:**

This is a command from Jesus, for his disciples to love one another, just as God and Jesus Himself have loved them. In the same way, for us to love one another just as Jesus has loved us. If we love each other - this is what tells the world that we are indeed Jesus' disciples with God's love in our hearts! After all, like what we learnt today, **God Loves All People**.

Even in Moses' time, God has taught and commanded His people to love the Lord with all one's powers and to love one's neighbour as oneself (Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:5, Mark 12:28–33) - that means that you must love others as much as you love yourself. It is normal for human beings to love ourselves - but can we also love others as much as we love and think of ourselves? So indeed, the command to love one's neighbour (loving others) is not new, Jesus' "new" command is in loving one another as how Jesus had loved his disciples (John 13:1, 15:13). And to bring it one step further, Jesus even taught about loving one's enemies (Matthew 5:43–48)!! **God Loves All People** and we can all afford to grow more in our love for all people!

*Huddle leaders can do this in various ways.*

*If using small strips of paper/post-its:*

- *You can give each kid one of the strips of paper for them to write on like a dictation.*
- *You can make it a game by having each kid in your huddle group write one word and have the kids put the memory verse together using their word.*

*If using verbal means:*

- *You can say the verse out word by word, and ask each kid to fill in the next word after you.*
- *Each kid can take turns to say out one word at a time, completing the memory verse together.*