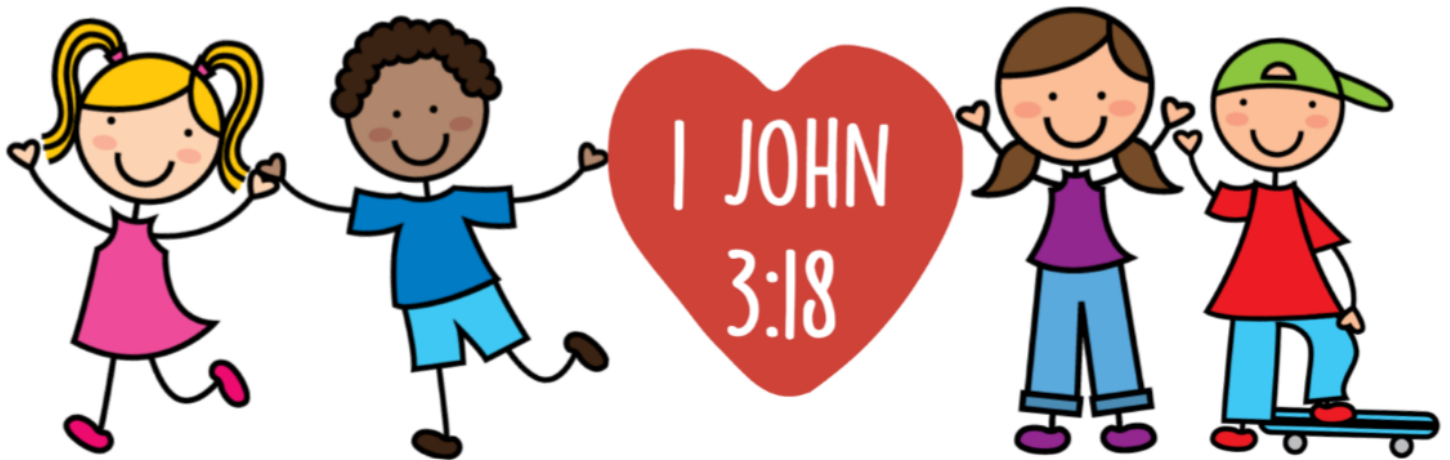


MISSION MOMENTS

— for kids —
SUMMER OF 2016

WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN



Building
Families for
Children

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INTRODUCTION

Note to the Teacher:

This week we will share stories of hope based on difficult life situations experienced by the children and families who have come to our agency for help. We changed their names to protect the privacy of these individuals who have been through so much.

As Christians, we are to share God's love with everyone every day. The children in your class are here to learn about what it means to be a child of God and each lesson focuses on putting love into action! If your church is willing, this includes the opportunity to provide a monetary gift through a missions offering. As you talk to the children about what it means to find hope in the midst of desperation, we will also give them a glimpse of what it means to show love to one another through giving.

Each day's lesson includes an opening statement, a scripture verse, a story, an activity, and then ends with a prayer. So gather the children together in an area where they can participate comfortably. We are praying for your church and the precious kids you are caring for and teaching.

SESSION ONE – WHAT TRUE LOVE LOOKS LIKE

Opening Statement:

We are going to take a few minutes each day to hear stories that will help us see all the amazing ways that God loves us. These stories also tell about some of the different ways that we can show God's love to others.

An organization called Building Families for Children helped all of the people in these stories. They do this kind of work because they follow God faithfully and they love others because of the example that God has given. Today we will talk about what true love looks like.

Scripture Reference:

First, let's read from one of the smallest books in the Bible, I John. Even though it is small, it tells us some important things that God wants us to know! Let's look at what it says in chapter 3, verse 18...

My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.

Tell the Story:

How does it say we show love?

(give the kids a moment to respond)

That's right! We show love by what we do!

The story you will hear today is about a little boy named Lucas whose mom and dad help other families when things are not going so well. They do this in a very special way. Becky and Bryant are "host parents" with Safe Families for Children, a program of Building Families for Children.

This means that Lucas's mom and dad share their home with children from different families. That way, those children could stay in a safe and loving place for a short time while their moms or dads take care of emergencies.

Many kinds of emergencies can happen. Sometimes the parent needs to find a new job or go into the hospital for a week or two. Sometimes the parent needs to find a place for their family to live. All of these parents really need someone to help, and that is what Safe Families for Children is all about.

Lucas was not so sure about the baby girl who came to stay with them. Alaina could not sit up very well and was even smaller than his brother was, so she really could not play with him that much. She was noisy and sometimes she was smelly!

Becky, his mom, said to him, "Jesus taught us that if someone is hungry we should give them food, and if someone needs a home, we should open ours. We are trying to do our small part."

Lucas thought about that and about the Bible verses that told about God's love. One night during dinner, Alaina was really making a fuss. She was kicking her feet and crying. Lucas went upstairs and got his blanket and favorite stuffed animal to give to her. He knew that little Alaina probably missed her mom and that sharing his favorite things with her would probably help her feel better.

What if he brought down things that he didn't really care about? Do you think that is different from sharing your favorite things?

(give the kids a moment to respond)

If you were feeling sad, what would you remember more: someone who said, "I'm sorry you are sad" or someone who gave you a hug and something special to hold on to?

(give the kids a moment to respond)

The Bible verse we read teaches us that we should not to show love just with what we say, but by what we do. Our actions mean a whole lot more than our words.

A little while after Alaina went back home to her mommy, a brother and sister came to stay with Lucas and his family for a short time. Now his house was really a full house! Lucas realized that it isn't always easy to love others like God said.

One day, when Lucas and his mom were in their car at a bus stop, they saw a boy helping another child in a wheelchair. Lucas laid, "Look Mommy, someone is helping that boy just like we are helping the brother and sister in our house. When they leave, we'll let some new kids stay at our house too, right?"

He remembered how he showed love to Alaina when he shared his favorite things. He thought about the brother and sister who did not have a home and came to stay in theirs. Lucas had to give up his bedroom for a short time, but he soon got it back. It made him feel happy because he knew that he made a difference by helping others until things got better for them. Lucas knew that what he did showed true love, so he decided that even though it isn't always easy, it is worth it!

Activity:

- Supplies*
- Crayons, colored pencils, or fine point markers
 - Make sure each child has a RED color to use

- Instructions*
- Ask each child to write their name on their sheet
 - Read the content in the Find the Hidden Pictures box to guide the activity and provide assistance as needed
 - Instruct the children to color the picture after they find the hidden objects

Closing Prayer:

Now, let's bow our heads together to pray.

Dear God, it is amazing to see people who share love in such a meaningful and personal way. Sometimes it is hard to take that step and reach out to others. Please help us to learn how to show love in ways that are real and true. Amen.

SESSION TWO – GOD THE FATHER LOVES US VERY MUCH!

Opening Statement:

Yesterday we talked about what true love looks like when we reach out to others. Today we are going to learn that “God the Father Loves Us Very Much!”

Scripture Reference:

Before we begin the story, let’s read a verse from God’s Word, 1 John 3:1...

The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are His children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God’s children, because they have not known Him.

Tell the Story:

Today’s story is about two boys who went through some very tough times. I know that sounds sad, but just wait until you hear how their story turns out!

Daniel loved going to school because his friends made him feel special and he worked hard to get good grades. He had never met his father and his mom had some friends who were very mean to him. That made Daniel feel angry all the time. Daniel, his mom and her friends did not know about God’s love.

Did you know that in some parts of the Bible, people call God “Abba”? Abba means Father. This shows a very personal and special relationship to God the Father. Daniel had never heard about this and did not understand that he was God’s child, too.

One day, Daniel’s mom said that he was going to have to find a new family. She said that she could not take care of him because he was angry all the time. Plus she wanted to be with her special friend who did not like Daniel and was mean to him. Now Daniel was angry and sad, too.

Then there was James, whose mother was very sick and had a hard time with remembering to take her medicine. When she forgot her medicine, she also forgot James. This made him feel scared; worrying about how he would find enough food to eat or get the things he needed for school. Plus, James’ father had gone away just like Daniel’s father.

God brought James and Daniel to a place where they could get help in the CHOSEN foster care program, which is part of Building Families for Children. CHOSEN means Children of Special and Exceptional Need. God knew that James and Daniel had a special need for a new, loving and caring family.

Now, let's stop for a minute. I want to ask you a question that is going to sound strange at first.

What is a pizza?

(allow time for the kids to answer... we're looking for things like "it's something you eat"... "it has cheese"... etc.)

Well then, have you ever heard of a fruit pizza?

(allow time for responses)

A fruit pizza has a crust and a shape just like a regular pizza, but the toppings are very different. Even though the toppings are different, a fruit pizza can be just as delicious as a regular pizza! When you first bite into it, it might seem a little strange because it is sweet instead of savory, which means something like salty. Once you get used to it you will really like it!

James and Daniel learned that the same thing could be true for substitute families. They went to live with Mrs. Carter and her daughter, Mrs. Lewis.

Mrs. Lewis had some little children who loved James and Daniel. This made them feel just like big brothers. Even though Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Lewis were not their real mom or their real aunt, and James and Daniel were not real brothers, after a while, they sure felt like it!

Yes, it was hard at first to get used to a new family and sometimes they missed their moms, but they were also happy to be in a new home. They had food, clothes, and people who cared about them. Mrs. Carter told them about how God loves them. She said that they were God's children just like her.

When they were in high school, someone from a special Advisory Group invited James and Daniel to join them. With this group, they could tell other kids about what they learned that helped them make their lives better. The Advisory Group was invited to the White House where James and Daniel met the Vice President of the United States and a famous movie actor.

This was an exciting time for James and Daniel. They were very thankful for how Mrs. Carter showed them God's love by being their new mom and giving them a family. They saw just how much God the Father really loves them, even in the tough times. They learned how He watches out for them and cares about their needs, just like He does for you and me every single day.

Activity:

Supplies • A pencil or ink pen for each child

Instructions • Ask each child to write their name on their sheet
• Read the content in the Lost in a Maze!! box to guide the activity
• Point out that there is an arrow to help them get started in each maze and provide assistance as needed

Closing Prayer:

Now let's bow our heads and talk to God for a minute.

Father in Heaven, we thank you for showing us how much you really love us by being with us no matter what. I am so happy that I am your child and that you took good care of James and Daniel so they could learn about you and have a safe place to grow up. Amen.

SESSION THREE – BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD

Opening Statement:

Yesterday we heard about two boys who went to live in a CHOSEN foster home where they learned about God's amazing love and found a new family. Today, we are going to talk about how God can change a person's life, so the story is called "Becoming a Child of God."

Scripture Reference:

Did you know that God has rules that we are supposed to follow? Here is what the Bible says about that in I John 3:9.

When God makes someone His child, that person does not go on sinning. The new life God gave that person stays in him. So he is not able to go on sinning, because he has become a child of God.

Tell the Story:

When we break God's rules that means we are sinning. His rules help us to know what is important so that our lives are pleasing to Him. Jesus Christ, God's Son, always does what is right and God wants us to be like Him. Remember that He loves us and wants only the best for us. He shows us that He wants the best for us by giving us a chance to start over, just as he did for Marvin.

Marvin had a hard time doing things like everyone else. It just took him a little longer to think about things before he did them. Sometimes, people had to tell him things over and over again before he would say, "Oh! Now I get it!"

Other times, though, Marvin just could not understand and he would get mad and do things that were wrong.

Marvin was different and he needed to learn that he was God's child. Sometimes the other kids did not understand why Marvin was slower than they were or did things wrong, so they would pick on him.

I am sure that some of you had a time when another kid picked on you. How did that make you feel?

(allow time for a couple responses)

Well, Marvin got mad and he tried to hurt the other kids with his words and his actions. His foster mom loved him, but said that he needed to move to a new foster home where someone could help him get better.

CHOSEN foster care provides homes for about 70 children each year. They get a chance to work on their problems, like how to stop being afraid or angry about things all the time, and instead enjoy life as a kid. They also get a chance to heal from sad things that have happened in their life. Marvin needed that chance, so he moved to a new home and school where he felt comfortable and wanted.

Marvin knew that some of the things he did were wrong, like when he was mean to other kids just because he felt bad. He did not know about God's law because no one had taught him. He did not know about God's love because no one had shown it to him. He had never even heard about Jesus Christ, the Savior. So how could he know why he felt so bad about the things he did?

Well, God built Marvin and the rest of us that way. We feel bad when we do something that we know is wrong. God wants us to look for Him, to find Him, and to get to know Him. He does not want us to live without Him because if we do that we will never really feel His love. We would keep breaking His rules, and He would be sad that we would not let Him help us.

Mr. Young was Marvin's new foster dad and had been a foster parent for 15 years. He adopted two of the boys that he fostered and had another foster son living with him. Mr. Young was happy to welcome Marvin into his home. He saw the good things in Marvin, just as God sees the good things in us.

Marvin came to know and understand what it means to be loved and to give love, both with God and with other people. When we feel God's love, God changes us and

He helps us to understand what is right and what is wrong. He helps as we learn more about Him and His Word, the Bible. He helps us to understand His rules and why they are important.

Through the example of God's love shown by Mr. Young, Marvin was able to change how he acted. When he sees other kids having a hard time he helps them. When he sees other kids being left out, he invites them to play ball. He has learned to do what is right as a child of God and has a whole, new life.

Activity:

Supplies

- Crayons, colored pencils, or fine point markers
- Make sure each child has black, orange, blue, purple, green, brown, yellow and red

Instructions

- Ask each child to write their name on their sheet
- Read the content in the Color by Number box to guide the activity; provide assistance as needed

Closing Prayer:

Now, let us bow our heads and pray together. Why don't you repeat after me?

Dear God... please help me to learn ... what it means to be your child ... and try to show love ... when other kids are unhappy ... Thank you for the Bible ... and for showing me how ... to do what is right... We pray in the name ... of your Son, Jesus Christ ... Amen.

SESSION FOUR – SHARE SO OTHERS SEE GOD'S LOVE IN US

Opening Statement:

You have heard that God the Father really loves us and He wants us to do what is right, just like His Son, Jesus did. He also wants us to "Share So Others See God's Love in Us."

Scripture Reference:

In I John 3:17 God's Word the Bible says...

Suppose a believer is rich enough to have all that he needs. He sees his brother in Christ who is poor and does not have what he needs. What if the believer does not help the poor brother? Then the believer does not have God's love in his heart.

Tell the Story:

This Bible verse says that people who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior are supposed to share what they have with others who are going through a tough time. This could be sharing their extra food, their extra clothes or blankets. It could mean sharing their money or even, their homes. If believers do not share, how can they show others the love of God that is in their hearts? This is one of the rules that God wants us to learn so we can be more like Him.

Sheryl was one of those people who went through a tough time. She had to work hard after her husband died so that her children could have what they needed. Sheryl was a believer and went to church every Sunday. Sheryl said that she could not have made it through that tough time without the help of her church family along with her own family.

When Sheryl was doing better because of the help she received, she wanted to help someone else who was going through a tough time. Do you remember the story about Lucas, who wanted to share his things with the children his mom and dad took care of in their home? Well, Sheryl decided to become a "host mom" with Safe Families for Children just like Becky and Bryant.

Sheryl said, "I believe that in meeting the needs of others, you share Christ. I truly believe I'm doing God's work."

Safe Families for Children has an employee named Tammy. She talks to other workers in places like schools, churches, or even government offices who might know families who need help. Tammy also looks for people like Sheryl who love God and want to show His love by helping others. With Tammy's help, Sheryl received special training so she could share her home with someone's child for a short time while that child's parents take care of their emergency.

Nancy was a mom that needed help. She did not have a home, so she and her two children were living in their car. Nancy could not go out and look for a new job and a new home without someone's help. She did not want to leave her children all alone.

Nancy found out about Safe Families for Children, so she called and talked to Tammy. Tammy told Nancy about letting her children stay with Sheryl for a little while. Nancy was happy that her children were safe and warm with Sheryl. She had help from Sheryl's church while she looked for a job and a place to live.

She said, "It was tough when I left my children with her. I sat in my car and cried.... [But] I got to see them every weekend. And I called every night."

It was a joyful day two months later when Nancy and her children were finally able to go live in their own little apartment.

Then, Sheryl helped another mom, named Susan. Susan had to go live in a special shelter for homeless people and there was no place for her children. Tammy and Safe Families for Children stepped in and Sheryl opened her heart and her home once again to take care of Susan's children.

Susan said, "Without Safe Families, I think I would have lost my children. It gave me a chance to do what I needed to do and get myself together." Three months later, Susan and her children were together again and looking forward to a happy, healthy future.

Safe Families for Children works hard to help families stay together and become strong. Sheryl showed without a doubt that she was willing to share what she has with others who need help. She lets God's love shine!

Sheryl said, "The blessings you receive from helping these children and families are more than you can ever imagine."

Activity:

Supplies • A pencil or ink pen for each child

Instructions • Ask each child to write their name on their sheet
• Read the content in the Word Search box to guide the activity;
provide assistance as needed

Closing Prayer:

Let's close our eyes, bow our heads, and say a prayer.

Dear God, thank you for people like Sheryl who show the world your love by helping others. Sometimes it is hard to let go of what we have, but when we see other people who are going through tough times, we know you want us to help. We love you Lord! Amen.

SESSION FIVE – WE MUST LOVE EACH OTHER

Opening Statement:

Here we are on the last day with the mission moments from Building Families for Children. We have learned that there are many different ways to show love. We learned that God cares about us and takes care of people in need.

At Building Families for Children, some of the ways they show God's love is through the CHOSEN foster care program and through Safe Families for Children. They help hundreds of children and families every year. They could not help all of these people without the gifts of time from volunteers, or material things like furniture, school supplies, money, and gift cards from donors.

All of these things come from people who really care. So, we are going to end our week with a story that talks about how "We Must Love Each Other."

Scripture Reference:

Taking a final look at the book of I John, we will read chapter 3, verse 23...

This is what God commands: that we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love each other, just as he commanded.

Tell the Story:

That verse sounds a lot like what we have been talking about all week. God commands us to believe in His Son and to love each other. It shows you just how important love is to God, because He even commands it! Have you ever heard the verse that says, "God is love?" That verse is also in I John, under chapter 4, verse 8.

Now, tell me about some of the ways that you can show love to another person this week, or how you already have.

(give the children a little time to share several ways)

I'm going to tell you a story about a baby who shared her birthday presents! Yes, I said a baby.

Katie was turning one year old and her parents, Kevin and Laura, wanted her first birthday party to be special. Kevin and Laura had everything they needed for Katie and she was still too young to play with many toys. They wondered if they could use the party to help others.

Laura knew about Safe Families for Children because she went to church with Tammy. Do you remember us talking about Tammy being a worker for Safe

Families? Well, Laura and Tammy came up with the idea of having a “Party with Purpose”!

Kevin and Laura invited their friends and family to come to Katie’s first birthday party. Using a special party invitation, they asked anyone who was thinking about bringing a present to bring a gift card instead. That was why they called it a “Party with Purpose.” They got together and had birthday cake and other treats with their friends. While they celebrated with Katie, they had a chance to share with others.

During Katie’s party, they collected 14 gift cards! The cards were from local stores and Katie’s parents passed them along to Tammy to give to children and families who were going through a difficult time.

Kevin and Laura showed God’s love by collecting gift cards for people who needed them rather than collecting gifts for their baby, when she really did not need anything. When Katie grows up, she will learn how much her first birthday meant to people that she will probably never meet. That is one way to show love for one another, just as He commanded.

Activity:

Supplies • A pencil or pen for each child

Instructions • Ask each child to write their name on their sheet
• Read the content in the Follow the Story Paths box to guide the activity; provide assistance as needed
• Review the results when they are done

Closing Prayer:

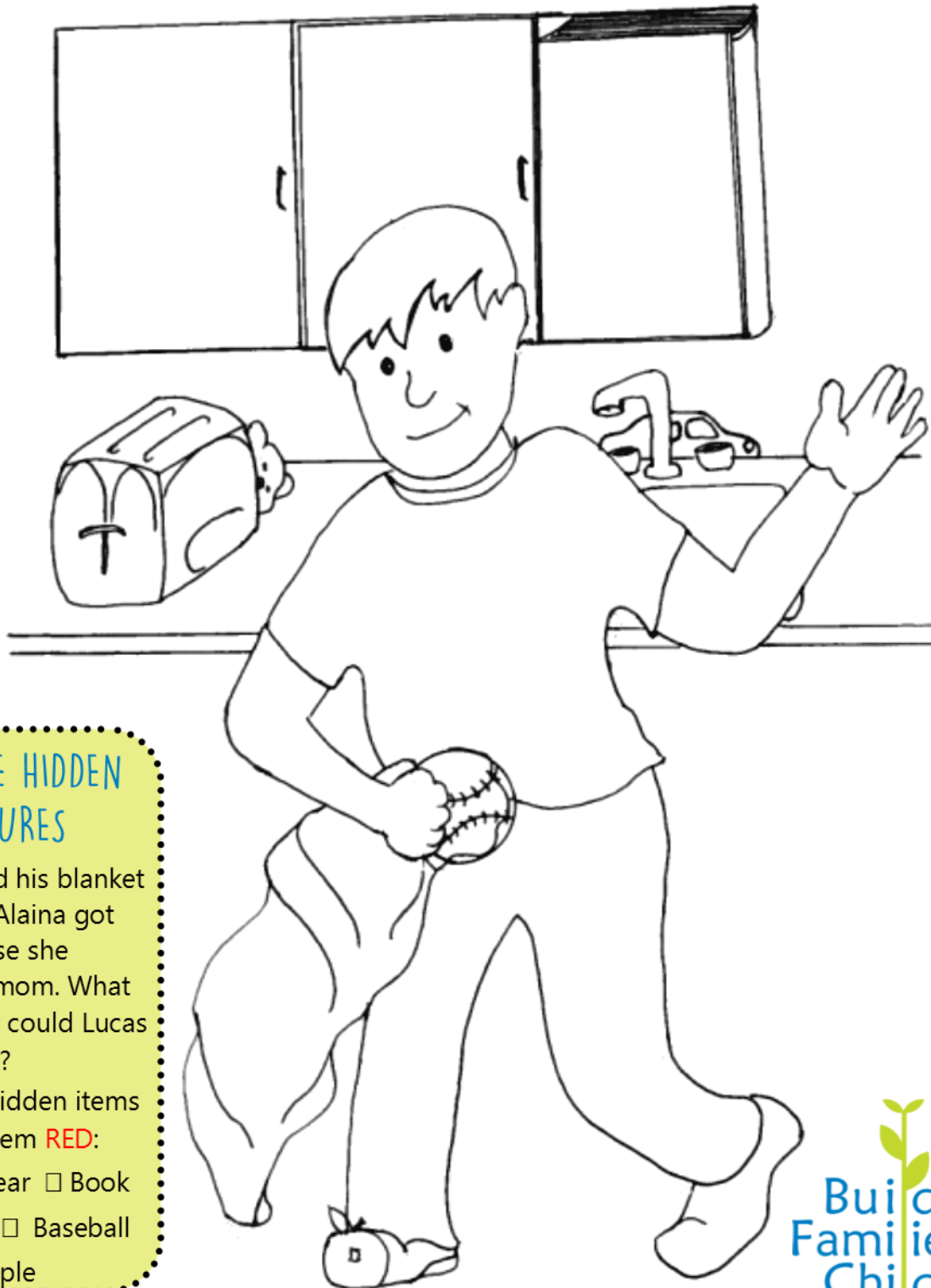
Let’s pray.

Heavenly Father, this week we learned about the people that Building Families for Children has helped. We ask that you give Building Families wisdom and help them to do good work and share God’s love. Help the families who are going through difficulties so that they can see your love. Amen

Session 1 Activity

What True Love Looks Like

"My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love.
And we should show that love by what we do." I John 3:18



FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURES

Lucas shared his blanket when baby Alaina got fussy because she missed her mom. What other things could Lucas have shared?

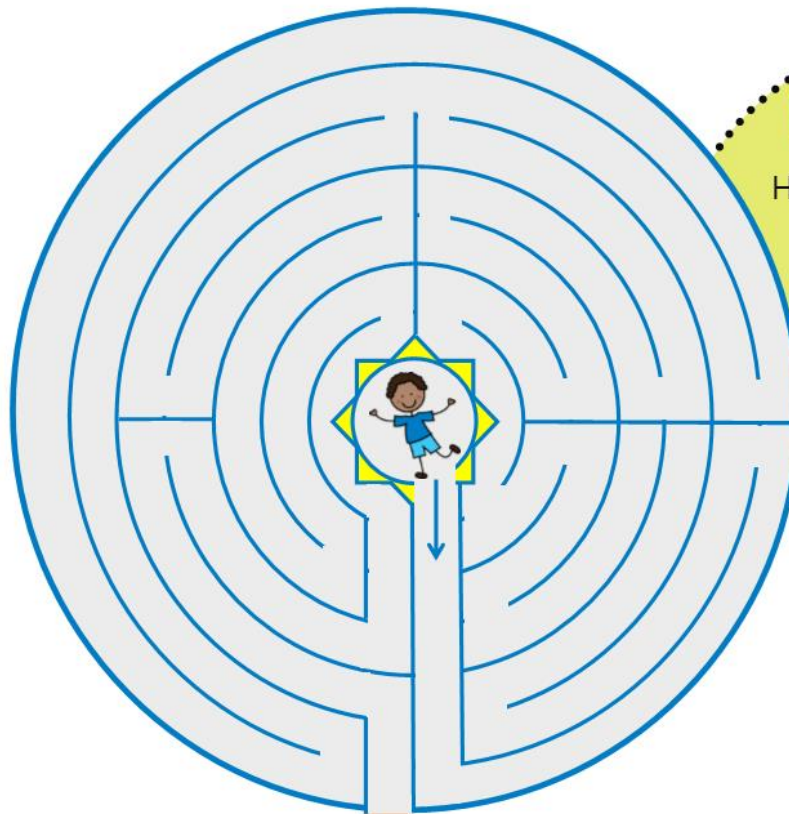
Find these hidden items and color them **RED**:

- ☐ Teddy Bear ☐ Book
- ☐ Car ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Apple

Session 2 Activity

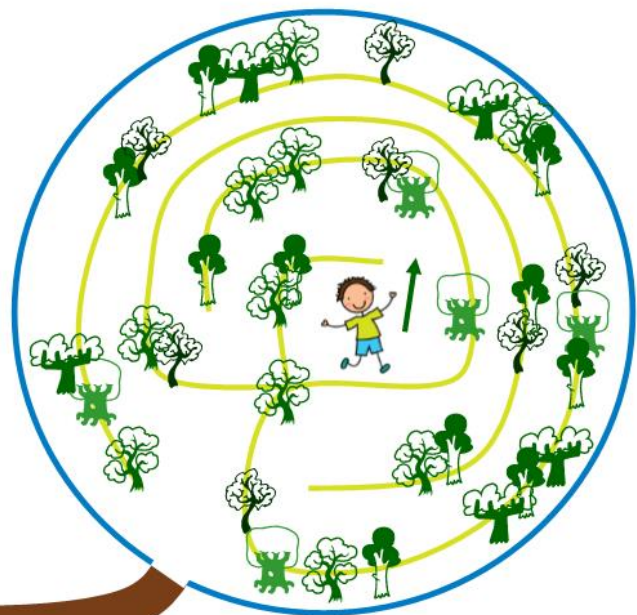
God Loves Us Very Much

"The Father has loved us so much! He loved us so much that we are called children of God. And we really are His children. But the people in the world do not understand that we are God's children, because they have not known Him." 1 John 3:1



LOST IN A MAZE

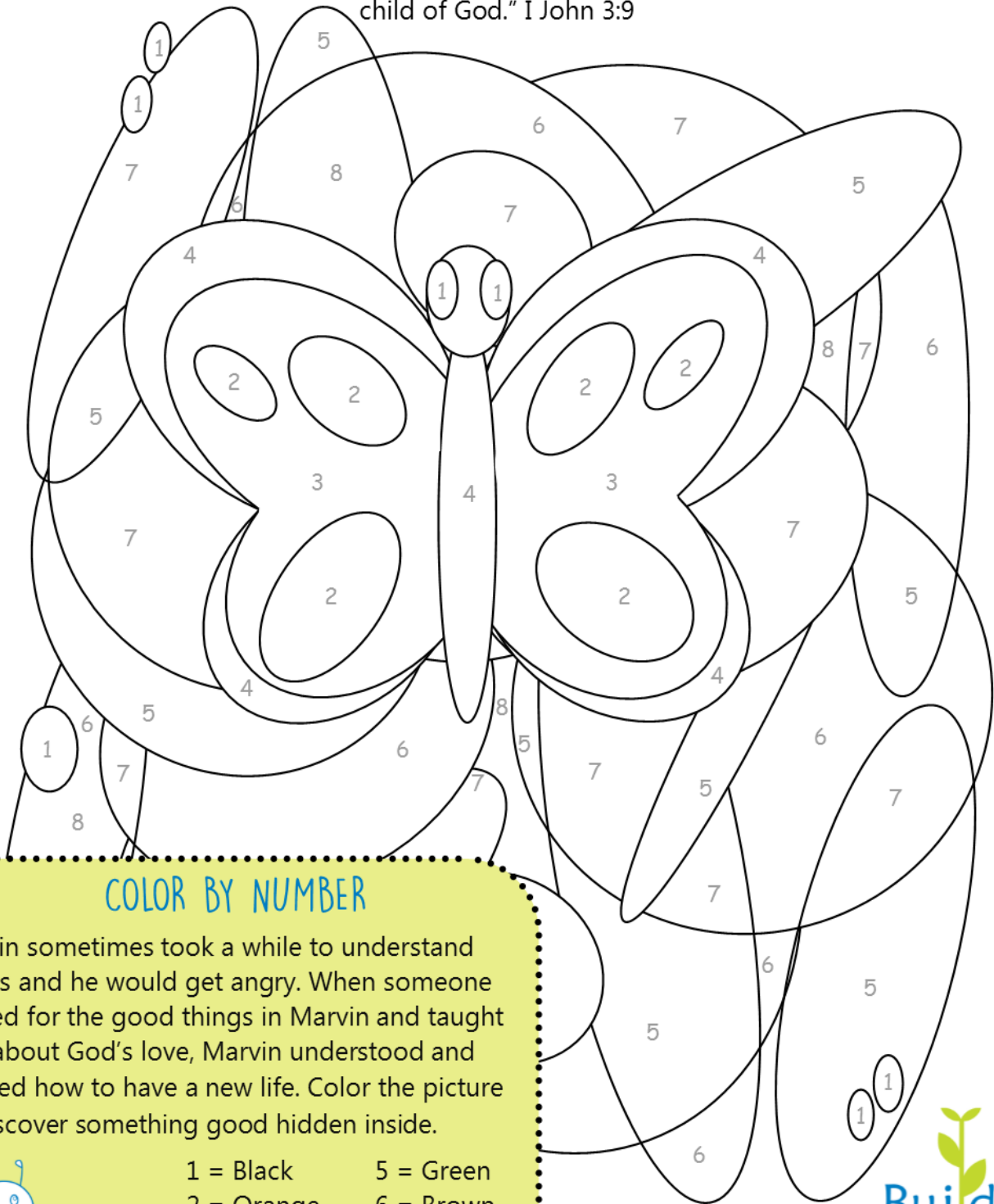
Help James and Daniel find their way to a new home where they will receive the care they need to grow and learn about God's love.



Session 3 Activity

Becoming a Child of God

"When God makes someone His child, that person does not go on sinning. The new life God gave that person stays in him. So he is not able to go on sinning, because he has become a child of God." 1 John 3:9



COLOR BY NUMBER

Marvin sometimes took a while to understand things and he would get angry. When someone looked for the good things in Marvin and taught him about God's love, Marvin understood and learned how to have a new life. Color the picture to discover something good hidden inside.



- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1 = Black | 5 = Green |
| 2 = Orange | 6 = Brown |
| 3 = Blue | 7 = Yellow |
| 4 = Purple | 8 = Red |

Session 4 Activity

Share So Others See God's Love

"Suppose a believer is rich enough to have all that he needs. He sees his brother in Christ who is poor and does not have what he needs. What if the believer does not help the poor brother? Then the believer does not have God's love in his heart." I John 3:17



S	H	S	L	H	O	M	E
A	C	H	R	I	S	T	T
F	O	A	S	S	D	R	I
E	H	R	F	H	L	A	M
T	E	E	O	H	O	P	E
Y	A	G	O	E	V	O	D
C	R	H	D	L	E	S	T
C	T	H	A	P	P	Y	O
M	E	U	N	T	O	M	E
B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G

WORD SEARCH

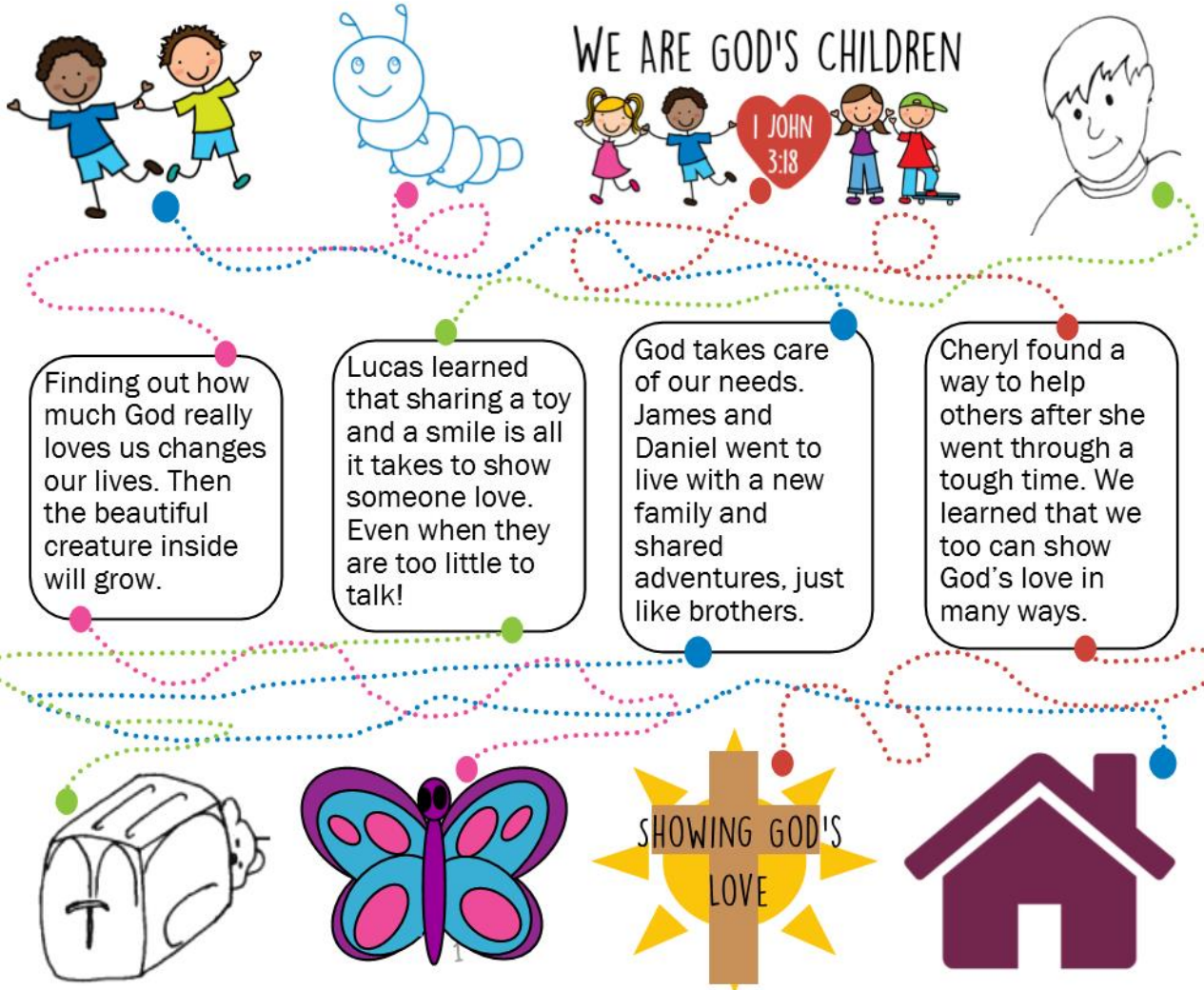
Cheryl showed that her heart was full of God's love because she decided to help others who were going through a tough time. Find and circle these words that describe some of the things involved with helping others.

SHARE, FOOD, CHRIST, LOVE, HELP, HOPE, HOME, BLESSING,
HEART, HAPPY, SAFETY, TIME

Session 5 Activity

We Must Love Each Other

"This is what God commands: that we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love each other, just as He commanded." I John 3:23



FINISH THE STORY LINES

Every person is a child of God, created by God, and loved by God...including you! God tells us that we must love each other just like He loves us. When we show that love by what we do, good things happen! Use your pencil or pen to follow along each story line. Remember how each story had an awesome ending!



serving out of love, faith, & community

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