

IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 10

LEADERS GOAL

Create understanding how much Jesus love us and what agape love looks like

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- IPAD to watch Bible story videos
- Create welcoming space by engaging with students as they enter the space

SCRIPTURES

Luke 23:26-50

1 John 4:9,11

John 15:13

ACTIVITIES

Darling If You Love Me
Do You Love Your Neighbour

PRAY

BOTTOM LINE

We can show unconditional love to others even when they don't deserve it - just like Jesus does with each of us

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

Imagine this! You've been charged with a crime, and the judge decides you are guilty! But then someone comes along, someone you don't know, and they tell the judge that they will take your place and pay the price for your penalty.

You get to walk home, set free by this stranger, who took your place before you even met him. How would you feel?

STORY CONNECTION

Last week, we talked about rescue and how Mufasa saved Simba and Nala in the Elephant Graveyard.

Not only did Mufasa come to the rescue, he also showed sacrificial love. We see this sacrificial love when he saved Simba in the stampede, risking and giving his own life for his son. (Script, p65)

When Simba returns to the Pride Land to save the animals from Scar, he shows the same kind of sacrificial love.

OUR STORIES

- Now, what do we think sacrificial love means?

The definition used in the video below is “Not a feeling such as ‘fell in love with someone’ but action, the choice we make to seek the wellbeing of other people other than ourselves without expecting anything in return.

- How has someone shown you sacrificial love?
- How can you show sacrificial love to others? In your family or at school?

TRUTH & TREASURE

Jesus Shows the Greatest Love, Agape – Luke 23:26-50, I John 4:9,11

The Bible says, Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for a friend. John 15:13 NIV

This means the greatest, biggest kind of love is when someone is willing to give up everything – even their life – to help or protect their friend. It’s the kind of love you see when someone steps in to stop a friend from being bullied, or when a person dives in to help someone struggling in the water, or when firefighters run toward danger to rescue others. It’s a love that puts someone else’s safety above your own.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=slyevQ1LW7A>

What sacrificial love Jesus showed for us when He died on the cross!

Jesus is like the stranger in our opening story who was willing to pay the penalty for our crime even before we knew Him.

As our video said, this agape love Jesus showed is the highest form of love. It is unconditional (loving without any limits or special rules, no matter what someone does or how they act), selfless, and sacrificial.

DISCOVERY TIME

GAME | Darling If You Love Me

Students sit in a circle. Choose one student to be “It.” This person starts in the middle of the circle and approaches another student saying, “Darling, if you love me won’t you please, please smile?” The person who is “It” can make funny faces or silly gestures to try to make the chosen person laugh, but they are not allowed to touch the person.

The chosen person must respond without smiling or laughing, saying in response, “Darling, you know I love you, but I just can’t smile.” If they can do this without laughing or smiling, the person who is “It” must move on to another player and try again. If the chosen person smiles or laughs, they become the new “It” and the game continues.



GAME | Do You Love Your Neighbour

Arrange the chairs in a circle with everyone sitting in a chair except for one student who stands in the middle.

The student in the middle approaches someone sitting and asks, “Do you love your neighbor?” If the person says, “Yes, I love my neighbor,” the two people sitting on either side of them must quickly swap seats while the person in the middle tries to sit in one of the vacated chairs.

If the person says, “No, I don’t love my neighbor, but I do love people who (insert description like wear glasses, have brown hair, etc.), everyone who fits that description must stand up and scramble to find a new seat, with the person in the middle also trying to find a seat.

The person left without a seat is the new person in the middle, and the game continues by asking, “Do you love your neighbor?”

PRAYER

God, thank you that you are a God of steadfast love and kindness. We are amazed by your unconditional love. You love us without any limits or special rules, no matter what we do or how we act. You showed us your great love when Jesus died for us. We thank you. We love you and want to love others with your kind of love. Help us to be patient and kind and thoughtful of others, even our enemies. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

If at any time this week, you find it hard to show love, kindness, or patience to a sibling, a classmate, or your parents, remember our silly game, “Darling, if you love me won’t you please, please smile?” In your head, say “Darling” in the funniest voice or accent you can, smile, laugh, and remember God’s sacrificial love for you. Then ask yourself, “How can I show love to them even if they are annoying me?” Then do it.