

IDENTITY & SELF ACCEPTANCE | WEEK 11

LEADERS GOAL

Help students understand that despite people or circumstances God's love connects us.

SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 7:6-8
Romans 8:38-39

ACTIVITIES

Separated without God's Love

PRAY

SUPPLIES

- Scripture decoding strips
- Sign that reads "GOD'S LOVE," one per small group, for the Separated without God's Love Activity
- Painter's tape
- Bible marked and open to Deuteronomy 7:6-8, Romans 8:38-39
- Both Scriptures printed out for two students to read.

BOTTOM LINE

Through God's love, we are meant to belong and be connected

AS STUDENTS ARRIVE

We've been talking about friendships. Who did you tell this week, "Thank you for being my friend." What do you admire most about this friend?

STORY CONNECTION

We are meant to belong with friends who care about us and want to help us. Gertrude was that kind of friend to Horton.

Choose a reader for Gertrude and Horton's lines. (Script, p.55)

"O Horton! There's nothing that I wouldn't and I couldn't and I haven't gone through. And Horton...it took me seven weeks, but I found your clover."

"Gertrude...I never noticed...you're...amazing!" (Script, p.55)



TRUTH & TREASURE

Scripture Decoding Race: Split your small group into two groups. The following scriptures will be split and hidden around the room (strips of paper in different colours to easily identify which group they belong to), then once students have collected all strips, they will try to put their verses together. Verses are printed on a piece of paper as well so that students can use as reference to put the scriptures together correctly. First group to do both wins.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NIV

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

God's love connects us and helps us to belong together.

OUR STORIES

- When or where do you feel you belong? Where do you feel most comfortable?
- Why do you think God created us to belong in community instead of alone?
- What makes people feel like they don't belong?
- No one is perfect. Friends and family may hurt us sometimes. Does that mean we shouldn't be in community with them?

DISCOVERY TIME

ACTIVITY: SEPARATED WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE

Mark two lines on the floor with painter's tape about 4 feet in length. Lines are opposite each other with an open space in between. Choose two students to act out the prompt on each side of the line.

The prompt is first acted out in separation from each other. Then a student holding a sign that reads "God's Love" steps into the open space between the lines inviting the students to re-act the prompt, now belonging together.



Repeat with two new students and new prompt, each time demonstrating separation first (on each side of their line) and then belonging together with God's love (in the middle).

Prompts:

- First, walking through a dark, scary forest alone. Then, walking together feeling brave.
- First, riding a new rollercoaster, hands gripping the bars tightly. Then, riding together with arms raised and laughing.
- First, sitting all alone at lunch. Then, eating together as friends.
- First, receiving sad news on the phone. Then, comforting each other through the sadness.
- First, messing up a dance move and falling down. Then, messing up the dance move but helping each other get back up and continuing.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for loving us first. It's because of your love that we belong with you and with each other here in K2K. Even when people aren't perfect and sometimes hurt us, we still see the goodness in being part of a community. We are stronger together. Help us to see the best in others and be supportive and loving. Amen.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Who do you know at school, at home, or in your extracurricular activities that needs to be reminded of God's love? You can tell them and show them His love. Let's plan now how you can do that this week.



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GOD'S LOVE

