

WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY SPECIAL NEEDS LESSON



Need to Know: God Is Loving

Bible Story: John (1 John 4:7-19)

Circle Up

1

1. WELCOME the child to our series, "Amazonia"! Then, TELL him/her your name.
2. SAY: *To start small group today, I'm going to hand you this talking stick. While you're holding it, you can share your name and answer this question: If a monkey stole your bananas in the Amazon, would it be hard to love him?*
3. GIVE the talking stick to the child, and ALLOW him/her to share.
4. Once the child has had a chance to share, SAY: *It's funny to think about loving a monkey in the rainforest, but there's someone who loves us, no matter what we do! Do you know who it is? (God) Yes! He always loves us. That's what we need to know today about who God is. Say this after me!*
5. HAVE the child repeat the Need to Know after you with motions:

God Is (both hands point up)

Loving (cross arms over chest)

Read the Bible

2

1. SAY: *Let's play "Pictionary" while we read a story from the Bible. I'm going to draw pictures, but I'm not going to tell you what I'm drawing. As soon as I start, you can guess what the picture is supposed to be.*
2. FOLLOW the **Bible Story Sheet**, and USE the **dry erase marker** and **dry erase board** to DRAW the pictures from each section of the Bible story.
3. As you are drawing, ALLOW the child to guess the picture. If the child has trouble guessing, GIVE him/her two choices about what the picture could be. FINISH drawing the picture, and then READ the corresponding section of the **Bible Story Sheet** to the child.
4. ERASE the **dry erase board** with a **paper towel**, and REPEAT for all pictures until you have finished reading the **Bible Story Sheet**.

Let's Practice

3

"Coconut Cup Surprise"

1. SAY: *We're going to play "Coconut Cup Surprise" to help us remember that God is loving!*
2. GIVE the child five **Banana Cards** to start the game.
3. SPREAD the remaining seven **Banana Cards** and the **Monkey Cards**, picture side up, between you and the child. TELL the child to close his/her eyes while you prepare the rest of the game.
4. MIX the remaining **Banana** and **Monkey Cards**, and COVER each one with a **cup**.
5. Once all the Cards are covered, ALLOW the child to open his/her eyes. Then SAY: *You'll have a chance to turn over a "coconut" to reveal the card hidden underneath. If you find a banana, you can answer a question and keep the card. But if you find a monkey, it will steal some of your bananas. You want to have as many bananas as possible at the end of the game!*
6. ALLOW the child to choose a **cup** to turn over and reveal the **Card** underneath.
7. When a **Banana Card** is found, READ the first question on the **Question Sheet** to the child, and ALLOW the child to answer the question and keep the **Card**. For each **Banana Card** found, CONTINUE moving down the **Question Sheet** until all "bananas" are collected and all questions discussed.
8. When a **Monkey Card** is found, READ the back of the **Card** and COLLECT the appropriate amount of "bananas" from the child. HAVE the child close his/her eyes, and then PLACE the **Monkey Card** back underneath the **cup**, moving it to a different location.
9. PLAY until all **Banana Cards** have been found. COUNT the child's bananas and celebrate! SANITIZE his/her hands, and GIVE the child **candy**.
10. REVIEW the Need to Know by having the child repeat it after you with motions:

God Is (both hands point up)

Loving (cross arms over chest)



1. SAY: *We're memorizing a verse that helps us remember who God is! If you can say the whole verse by yourself at the end of the series, you will win a special prize. Let's practice it together today* (SAY it with motions):

"*Lord God*, (both hands point up)
with your great power (make muscle arms)
you made the earth and the sky. (make circle with hands)
There is nothing too hard (make "X" with arms)
for you to do." (pound fists)
Jeremiah 32:17 (make book with hands)

2. SAY: *Let's work together to remember the verse.*
3. OPEN the **puzzle bag**, pulling out the **puzzle pieces**.
4. ASSIST the child in putting together the **puzzle pieces** to reveal the memory verse.
5. MIX the **puzzle pieces**, and COMPLETE the puzzle with the child again, seeing if you can put it together faster. REPLACE **puzzle pieces** back in the **puzzle bag**.
6. REMIND him/her to practice the verse at home this week.



ASK the child for any prayer requests. Then, PRAY the following for him/her:

- That he/she would remember that God will never stop loving him/her
- That he/she would show love to others



KEEP the child engaged in Small Group until he/she is checked out by doing any of the following activities:

- PLACE **coloring utensils** between you and the child, and ALLOW him/her to complete a **Monkey Maze**.
- USE the **dry erase marker** and **dry erase board** to play "Amazon Pictionary," drawing things you would find in the rainforest for the child to guess. Some examples include:
 - Snake
 - River
 - Toucan
 - Frog
 - Leaves
- PLAY "Hidden Object":
 - PLACE three **cups** between you and the child, and PLACE a small object from your bin (e.g. candy) underneath one of the **cups**.
 - ALLOW the child to watch you as you **MIX** the **cups** by sliding them around.
 - Then, ALLOW him/her to guess which **cup** the object is hidden under.