

I Heart U

Bible Story: I Heart U (Love one another) • 1 John 4:10-12, NIV

Bottom Line: Friends love each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, NIV

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

As kids arrive, greet them and invite them to place their offerings in the container. Encourage kids to interact with one another by sharing some of the best and worst things that happened to them this week.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

Sweet and Sour Sonata (memory verse activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Make sure everyone has a Bible and ask kids to look up the key verse for the month, 1 John 4:11. Use the following tip to direct those who are not familiar with navigating through the Bible.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from 1 John. Ask kids to tell you whether that’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New*) So we know it’s toward the back of the Bible. It’s close to the back of the Bible. Find Revelation, the last book of the Bible, and then work your way forward. When they find 1 John explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 11 in chapter 4. Then read it out loud as a group.

Read the verse together and then let kids share what it means. Ask them why they think God put 1 John 4:11 in the Bible. What does He want us to know from this verse? What does He want us to do? What do they think is coolest or most exciting part of 1 John 4:11?

Choose one kid to be the “musician.” Tell the remaining kids that they are the “piano.” Ask the piano to sit in a line shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the musician. The kid at one end is the highest note. The kid on the opposite end is the lowest note. The kids in between form the ascending or descending notes. Direct the musician to create a memory verse song on the piano by tapping the keys (heads or shoulders) of the kids in front of him. The first kid that’s tapped must sing the first word of 1 John 4:11 in a high or low pitch depending on his position. The next kid that’s tapped sings the next word and so on. The musician continues to play until all of the words of the verse have been recited. Repeat several times letting other kids be the musician.

What You Say:

“You guys created some very unique music. We could totally start a memory verse band! What could we call ourselves? The Sweet and Sours? Piano Heads? The Peach Cobblers? We just might be on to something! Our music may have been a little off tune, but one thing that is always music to God’s ears is when **[Impress] friends love each other. [Apply] When we love our neighbors, friends, family, and the kids at school or church—even our enemies—we’re actually loving God, too.** That’s the kind of harmony God loves to hear.”

Mi Casa Su Casa**Bible Story:** Mi Casa Su Casa (Welcome one another) • 1 Peter 4:9**Bottom Line:** Friends welcome each other.**Memory Verse:** “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, NIV

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**Early Arriver Activity** (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)**What You Need:** Offering container, paper, markers, pens**What You Do:**

Ask kids to put their offerings into the offering container as they arrive. Set out the supplies and let everyone create several “Welcome Cards” that can be given to any newcomers this month. The cards can be simple, encouraging, and something appropriate for either a boy or a girl. When finished, collect the cards to add to your church’s Welcome Packs or to hand out as visitors come.

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)**Letter Charades****What You Need:** No supplies**What You Do:**

Gather the kids into two teams. Explain that they will take turns working together to form the shape of a letter while the other kids guess what it is.

Mix up the order and randomly assign a letter from the word “WELCOME!” to each team (Team 1: WC!E, Team 2: ELOM) Make sure the kids understand that everyone on their team must participate in forming the shape of the letter. No one should be left out. They can stand together or lie down on the floor to create their letter but they must do so without speaking to one another. When all the letters have been guessed, ask the kids to figure out the word the letters spell.

What You Say:

“What do you think of when you hear the word ‘WELCOME’? (*Pause for answers.*) What do you think of when you hear the words ‘LEFT OUT’? (*Pause for answers.*) In our game of ‘Letter Charades,’ each person on your team connected with another to form a letter in the word ‘WELCOME.’ No one was left out. **[Transition]**

‘Welcome’ is a key word to remember today. You’re welcome to guess what we’ll be talking about!

Let’s head over to Large Group and see if you’re right.” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1**A Welcome Voice (application activity / great for active learners)****What You Need:** coins**What You Do:**

Form two teams and give each team a coin. Send one person from each team out of the room (or have them turn around, close their eyes, and stand at the opposite end of the meeting area). Choose someone from each team to quietly hide their coin somewhere in the room, leaving only one-fourth of it visible. Make sure the remaining kids observe where their team’s coin is hidden but that it is barely visible.

Then bring the two team members back (or have them turn around) and challenge them to search for their team’s coin. Tell the other kids that they are not to offer any help but simply sit silently and completely ignore the searchers as if they weren’t even there. If the coins are well hidden, the kids will most likely not find them.

After a few minutes, pause the game and offer some clues by way of the following: Assign each team a different song to sing. Keep the songs simple such as, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” “Jesus Loves Me,” or a favorite praise chorus your kids know. The important thing is that all the kids are familiar with the song. Tell the teams to guide their searcher to the coin by singing softly when he or she is far from the coin and louder when near it. Signal the teams to begin singing simultaneously and searchers to resume looking.

When the game is over, congratulate the winning team and then bring the kids together. Ask those who did the searching how it felt to be the only ones who didn't know where the coins were. Did they feel ignored, left out, awkward, frustrated, embarrassed? How did they feel once their team joined in and became part of the game?

Give the coin searchers a round of applause for being good sports. Let them keep the coins as a thank you gift for helping you with this activity.

What You Say:

"We all know what it's like to be in a situation where it feels like we're the only ones who don't know what's up. We feel left out. It can be awkward, embarrassing, and even scary. In our game, I asked team members to ignore the kids who were searching, but in real life, people who follow Jesus should NEVER purposely leave someone out or ignore them. Maybe there have been times when you've left others out without thinking about how it made them feel. **[Apply] We have opportunities every week to make somebody feel welcome or to leave them out. You can show someone friendship by welcoming them. Invite them to join your lunch table. Ask them if they want to play a game. Ask yourself, 'Do I make people feel included?' or 'Do I make sure people feel important when they're with me?'** **[Impress] Friends welcome each other.** We can each make a point to be on the lookout for new kids to our group and find ways to make them feel included whenever we can. When we welcome others, we are shining for God, because God has welcomed each one of us."

Catch On #2

Friendly Gestures (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do: Guide kids to look up this month's key verse, 1 John 4:11, in their Bibles (use the tips from last week if necessary) and choose someone to read it aloud to everyone. Then ask them to find today's verse, 1 Peter 4:9.

Discuss the meaning of today's verse by having kids put it into their own words. Ask them what makes them feel the most welcome. How can they treat others the way they want to be treated when it comes to not feeling left out?

Form groups of two or three. Invite kids to work together to create an elaborate high-five or a handshake that expresses 1 Peter 4:9 in some way. Ask them to give their "Friendly Gesture" a name. When everyone is done, let teams take turns teaching each other their handshakes.

What You Say:

"Those were some incredible and crazy new handshakes! What a great reminder that **[Impress] friends welcome each other.** I don't know about you, but I think 1 Peter 4:9 will stick in my head—wacky motions and all—for the whole week! Today's verse is important for many reasons—the biggest one being that God told us to do it. Making up a 'Friendly Gesture' was fun, but now it's time to think about how to put hospitality into action. **[Apply] How might you be able to show hospitality to someone this week?** (*Pause for responses.*) One of the most exciting things about living out 1 Peter 4:9 by making others feel welcome is that it could open up the door for you to share about Jesus, the greatest friend of all!"

Friendship Train

Bible Story: Friendship Train (Teach one another) • *Romans 15:14*

Bottom Line: Friends teach each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, *NIV*

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Show the kids where the offering container is and let them place their offerings in it. Then invite kids to interact with one another about something they would like to learn one day. It can be as simple as learning to cook their grandma’s waffle recipe or as challenging as playing the bagpipes. It can be something they’ve seen someone do, read about, or imagined, or something they have a special interest in. When one kid shares, ask the others if they know of anyone with that training or ability. How did they go about learning to do that certain thing? Who taught them?

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

How Did You Do That?

What You Need: white boards, markers

What You Do:

Tell the kids that you have a unique ability to guess numbers. Here’s how it works: Ask somebody to think of a number, but keep it secret. Then ask that person to double the secret number and then multiply by 5. Ask them to tell you the total. Whatever the total is, take off the last digit and you will have their secret number. Repeat the trick several times and then let everyone in on the secret.

If time allows, let the kids chime in with tricks they know how to do and invite them to teach everyone.

What You Say:

“Learning new stuff is fun—especially when it’s something you can show your friends. Sometimes half of the fun is in getting to teach it to somebody else. **[Transition] When we’re here at church, we get to learn from one another about something way more exciting than a magic trick. We get to learn about our amazing God! I don’t know about you, but I can’t wait for that to happen each week. I’m excited about this month’s theme of friendship. So let’s move over to Large Group and find out what we can learn from God about being a friend.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

60-Second Lesson (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Bibles with concordances (or Bibles and concordances or smart phones/tablets with concordances), paper, pens

What You Do:

Remind everyone that **[Impress] friends teach each other**. One of the very best things we can teach to one another is God’s Word. Explain that you’re going to give the kids a chance to teach today. The lessons won’t be long—only 60 seconds. The lesson topic will be one word and they can pick the word. The only rules are that the word must describe something they know to be true about God, and the verses they use to back up what they believe must be found by using a concordance.

If some of the kids are not familiar with what a concordance is, explain that it’s a cool tool for helping us find verses on most any topic in the Bible. It helps us find Scripture “addresses” or references that use the word we’re searching for. It’s set up like a dictionary with key words in alphabetical order. For example, if they would like to learn what the Bible has to say about love, they can look that word up and find a list of verses that contain the word “love.”

Begin by brainstorming together a list of words for teams to choose from. Write words on a whiteboard or paper. Prompt kids to consider single words that describe God's character (such as: powerful, loving, forgiving, Savior, etc.). **[Personalize] Let the kids share first, then add your own thoughts here as well.**

Hand out paper, pens, and Bibles. If the Bibles do not have a concordance in the back, provide a separate concordance. Then form pairs or teams based on the number of Bibles and concordances available. Let each team choose a word from the list that they would like to look up and teach. Give them about five minutes to work, and then call the groups together.

Give each team one minute to teach the others by sharing their word and then reading a Bible verse or verses that express what it means. Let each team member contribute. If kids are unsure of what to teach after they have read their verse to the group, suggest that they finish the following sentence: "We learn from this verse that God ..."

What You Say:

"When we know God, we have something incredibly important that we can teach to someone else. Do you have to be a pastor or a missionary or a Small Group Leader or a Bible scholar or have a degree in Bible smartness? No! Those things are all great, but even without them, you can still teach someone else what you know about God. **[Apply] Every follower of Jesus that's here today can tell his or her friends and family about their faith this week.** The more you learn about Jesus, the more you have in your heart to share with others. And the more you share, the more people will hear the Good News of how they, too, can become a child of God. Think about it. If every Christian taught others what they know to be true of God, we could change the world! That's why **[Impress] friends teach each other.**"

Catch On #2

Learn a Verse (memory verse activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Provide Bibles as needed and help kids look up Romans 15:14. Review this month's theme verse as well—1 John 4:11—and then form two teams. Assign one team Romans 15:14 and the other team 1 John 4:11. Invite kids to create a memory verse game and teach it to the other team. Let them know that you have paper, markers, or other standard classroom supplies available if they want to use them. They can also do something active, like coming up with a dance or actions. If kids need help, brainstorm word elimination games, fill in the blanks, jigsaw type puzzles, or putting the verse to a familiar song. Let team members contribute new ideas or draw from review games they've played in the past.

Allow five minutes for the teams to create their "Learn a Verse" games. When finished, let them teach and then play each other's games.

What You Say:

"You guys are amazing teachers! You did a fantastic job of helping each other learn some key Bible verses today. It's important for us to remember that no one knows EVERYTHING about the Bible, but everyone here knows SOMETHING. **[Apply] You may know more than someone else when it comes to cooking or math or soccer. It might be easy to make fun of a person for not knowing what you know. So instead of laughing or rolling your eyes at them, remember that [Impress] friends teach each other.** Use the opportunity to build someone up and show them what a good friendship is all about."

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What would a friendship look like if kids tried to teach each other instead of making fun of someone?
- How does teaching someone show God's love to that person?
- What are the benefits of being known among your friends as a kid who helps others learn?
- What are some things you know and are good at that you could teach to someone else?
- What should you do if the person you want to teach doesn't want to learn?

Wait for It

Bible Story: Wait for It (Be patient with one another) • *Ephesians 4:2*

Bottom Line: Friends are patient with each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, *NIV*

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: Offering container

What You Do:

Greet the kids as they arrive and have them put their offerings into the container.

Review the Bottom Lines from previous weeks.

Week 1 – Friends love each other.

Week 2 – Friends welcome each other.

Week 3 – Friends teach each other.

Invite the kids who have been there throughout June to share what they’ve learned throughout the first three weeks. Ask kids to share any stories of how they treated someone in the way they wanted to be treated. Thank the kids for sharing.

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Sing That Face

What You Need: “Sing That Face” (Activity Page), container

What You Do:

Explain how to play “Sing That Face.” Tell the kids that they will take turns drawing a slip of paper from the basket. Each paper has a different emotion described on it. They will have 15 seconds to demonstrate that emotion while the other kids try to guess what it is. Here’s the twist: They must express the emotion as they sing “Old McDonald Had a Farm” (or another song of your choosing).

Play as one group or form teams and compete to see which team can be the first to guess the correct emotion. If your kids are reluctant to sing, don’t embarrass anyone. Let them speak the words of the song instead of singing, or simply show a face that represents the emotions they’re trying to get the others to guess.

What You Say:

“You guys are so much fun! Thanks for singing with all of those ridiculous faces. Those were some silly expressions, but the truth is, we all share each of those feelings at one time or another. Friends share excitement when their team wins, sadness when one of you gets hurt or sick, boredom when you can’t think of something fun to do, or confused when you’re trying to figure out your math homework together. Sometimes we can get upset or impatient with each other, too. **[Transition] In order for friends to stay friends, we need to learn how to deal with all kinds of feelings and emotions. Let’s go to Large Group and find out more about this amazing thing we call FRIENDSHIP.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

Knot! (application activity / great for active learners)

What You Need: No supplies

What You Do: Have everyone stand and form a tight circle. Direct the kids to reach their arms into the center and grasp another kid’s hand. If someone is holding the hand of a kid directly beside him or is not holding the hand of two different kids, he will need to switch with someone else.

Next, challenge the kids to figure out a strategy to untangle the knot of hands without letting go. They will need to work together and be patient as they twist, turn, and possibly have to step over another’s arms. If they’re patient and their strategy worked, in the end they should be standing in a circle again.

Have the kids remain in a circle and sit down. Congratulate them for their patience with one another and for coming up with a strategy for untangling the knot of hands. Ask them to consider some of the things that typically annoy or frustrate them. Without mentioning names, let them share some moments that tried their patience recently. **[Apply]** Then, as a group, formulate a “patience strategy.” Remind them that **[Impress]** friends are patient with each other, **[Apply]** so it’s important to have a plan to follow when we’re about to lose our temper. Let them suggest key actions that will help develop the quality of patience. For example, they can take a deep breath, pray for help, or put themselves in the other person’s shoes (consider their feelings). Most importantly, they should stop and remember how patient God is with them.

[Personalize] What makes it hard for you to remain patient with others? Share age appropriate thoughts with your kids. Be sure to include your strategy for not losing it. It’s great for kids to see that everyone, young or old, needs to have a plan of attack for times when we feel our temper beginning to boil. How has asking for God’s help made a difference?

What You Say:

“Even our closest friends can get on our nerves sometimes. **[Apply]** Remember some of these ‘patience strategies’ this week when you find yourself in a situation that makes you feel tied in knots. Remember that God is strong enough to help you in any situation, no matter how frustrating it seems. When you feel tangled and twisted, stop and ask God to help you calm down. He will help you unwind by reminding you that **[Impress]** friends are patient with each other, just as He is patient with YOU.”

Catch On #2

Rhythm and Rest (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles, “Rhythm and Rest” Activity Pages

What You Do:

Provide Bibles and whatever help kids need in finding 1 John 4:11, this month’s key verse. Then help them look up Ephesians 4:2.

When everyone has found Ephesians 4:2, invite one of the kids to read it aloud. Ask the kids a few application questions to help them reflect on how to put this verse into action. Ask them why a patient person is more fun to hang around with than someone with a quick temper. What are some benefits of learning how to be the kind of friend who’s patient with others? What could be some consequences for losing their patience?

To practice saying the verse, have kids create a rhythm sequence. Ask them to all sit facing the same direction. Place the “Rhythm and Rest” cards where everyone can see them and then pick a volunteer to choose five “note” cards and two or three “rest” cards. Ask your volunteer to place the cards in a straight line in front of everyone. He can arrange the cards in whatever order he chooses. Assign the first word of Ephesians 4:2 to the first note, the second word to the second note and so on.

Next, have your volunteer begin clapping a slow beat. Each clap is one beat in the music. Point to the first card and have kids begin by saying the first word of the verse and holding it for as many beats (claps) as indicated on the card. When you come to a “rest,” everyone must remain silent for the number of beats (claps) that are on the card.

Repeat several times, letting other kids create a “Rhythm and Rest” pattern by arranging the notes and rest cards in a different order each time. As kids get the hang of what to do, try clapping a faster beat.

What You Say:

[Apply] “When friends start to annoy you this week and test your patience, take a moment to ask for God’s help. Before things get out of hand, it’s important to ‘rest,’ kind of like the way we just did in our activity. Pausing can help us avoid an argument or give us time to cool down. When we are quiet for a moment and talk to God, He might remind us of Ephesians 4:2 because He knows that quick-tempered words and actions can hurt others and damage our friendship with them. **[Impress]** Friends are patient with each other. When we don’t lose our temper, we’ll make better choices about what we say and do.”

Service with a Smile

Bible Story: Service with a Smile (Serve one another) • *Galatians 5:13b*

Bottom Line: Friends serve each other.

Memory Verse: “Dear friends, since God so loved, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11, *NIV*

Life App: Friendship—treating others the way you want to be treated.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Early Arriver Activity (8:45) (10:30) (5:45)

What You Need: An offering container

What You Do:

Let kids share about preparations that go on at their house when friends or family are coming for dinner, a party, or a holiday. Are they given specific jobs to do ahead of time? How do they feel about those jobs?

Invite the kids to put their offerings into the offering container.

Plug In (9:00) (10:45) (6:00)

Do You Love It?

What You Need: Paper, pens, stopwatch or other timing device

What You Do:

Give everyone a sheet of paper and a pen. Tell them they have one minute to write down things they DON'T like to do. They should write down as many as they can think of. Instruct them to not let anyone see what they're writing and then signal them to begin.

When a minute has passed, tell kids to stop and turn their papers over. Give them another minute to write down things they LOVE to do. Again, have them write as many as they can but not to share answers yet and then signal them to begin.

When finished, ask one volunteer to share his or her answers. If any of the other kids wrote down the same thing, both must cross it off their lists. Let everyone take a turn sharing any answers that have not been shared. The winner is the kid with the most answers that have not been crossed off.

What You Say:

“It’s easy to do the things we LOVE to do, right? And it’s great when we get to do them. But we all know what it’s like to get stuck cleaning out the cat’s litter box or watching a boring video about purple ponies with our little sister. **[Transition] Today’s lesson just might change the way you feel about stuff like that! Let’s go to Large Group and learn some more about how to be a great friend.**” Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Prayer Time

After large group, gather children in their small groups. Lead them in prayer focusing on “The Bottom Line.”

Catch On #1

Serving Lines (application activity / review the Bible story / great for active learners)

What You Need: Bibles, tape, snacks or prizes (optional)

What You Do:

Review today’s Bottom Line: **[Impress] Friends serve each other. [Apply] Remind the kids that one of the ways we can serve others is by putting them first.**

Lead your Small Group in a game called “Serving Lines.” Form two teams with the same number of kids in each group. Ask teams to stand inside the rectangle areas you prepared ahead of time for each group. Assign one end of the rectangle as the front, which means the person standing there is first in line.

At your signal, tell kids to create a “serving line” according to height. The person who is the shortest on their team needs to move to the front of the serving line, then the next shortest after him or her. No one can step out of the rectangle. No one can talk. The group that lines up the fastest—without stepping out of the rectangle or speaking—wins. (Optional: Provide a snack or a prize for each round and let the first person in line serve the others.)

After each round, have kids pick up their Bibles and locate the corresponding verse according to the “Serving Line Chart” below. Use the following discussion questions following each round.

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What does this verse teach you about serving others?
- Is it possible to live out this verse but for the wrong reasons, such as to get ahead, get a reward, or get a pat on the back? Explain why or why not.
- How can you put someone at the head of the “Serving Line” this week by following this verse—not literally, but by serving them in some way?

Serving Line Chart		
Round	Line Up	Read
1	By height	Galatians 5:13b
2	By shoe size	John 13:3-5
3	By amount of blue they are wearing	Mark 10:45

What You Say:

“Life sometimes feels like one huge ‘Serving Line’ with everyone trying to be first. Jesus switches that self-centered attitude around and says, **[Impress] ‘Friends serve each other.’** That means putting others ahead of ourselves. Loving and serving others starts with our love for God and a desire to serve Him. **[Apply] There’s a good chance you’ll have to choose if you’ll serve someone this week—and it may not be what you feel like doing at the time. You’ll need God’s help to serve the way He serves. That means serving even those who are hard to get along with or who treat you badly.** We can show our gratitude for all Jesus did for us by following His example this week. Serving won’t always be comfortable, but if you learn to think ‘OTHERS first’ instead of ‘ME first,’ you’ll be following Christ who served you all the way to the cross where He took the punishment for your sin.”

[Personalize] Share about a time someone put your needs, plans, or wishes above their own. Why did they do it, and how did it make you feel? Remind kids that when a person serves someone by doing something completely unselfish, it’s one of the most powerful expressions of the kind of love God has for us.

Catch On #2

Fingerprint Songs (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles, “Fingerprint Songs” (Activity Page), inkpad or markers, pens, hand wipes

What You Do:

Invite kids to sit down as a group. At your signal, ask them to race to look up Galatians 5:13b and stand up when they have found it. When everyone has found the verse, ask someone to read it out loud. Point out that in this week’s verse, we’re focusing on the last part. That’s why the reference uses the letter “b” at the end. If we were focusing on the first part of the verse, we’d refer to Galatians 5:13a. Recite the verse several times as a group to help kids learn it.

Review this month’s theme verse as well: 1 John 4:11.

Give each kid a copy of the “Fingerprint Songs” Activity Page. Some kids may not be familiar with what a musical staff is. Explain that composers create music by adding notes in different places on the staff or lines to indicate how the song will sound. Notes on the bottom part of the staff are lower tones. Notes on the upper part are higher.

Next, invite the kids to compose their own original memory verse songs. To make a note, have them press their pointer finger onto the inkpad (or rub a marker over the tip of their finger) and then onto the musical staff. For each word of Galatians 5:13b have them add a “finger note” on or in between the lines. Below each of the notes, ask them to write the word that goes with it. They should end up with as many notes as there are words in Galatians 5:13b. Let kids use the hand wipes to clean the ink or marker from their fingertips.

When finished composing their “Thumbprint Songs,” use them to practice reciting the verse by singing each other’s songs as a group. Tell the kids to follow the music and sing the words in a high and low pitch according to where it is on the musical staff. There really is no right or wrong to the sounds for this. Most likely it’ll sound pretty terrible, but in the end, they will have memorized Galatians 5:13b.

What You Say:

“Those were very creative songs! Definitely one of a kind. I doubt whether the ‘Fingerprint Songs’ will make it onto this week’s Top 10 Music Chart, but that’s okay. They helped us memorize Galatians 5:13b and reminded us that **[Impress] friends serve each other. [Apply] Maybe you can hum your song this week as you do something nice for a friend or offer to walk your neighbor’s dog for free. Sing out your ‘Thumbprint Song’ as you do a big job like pulling weeds along the fence in your yard.** In whatever way serve, remember to do it because of your love for God. Offer your friendship to others by doing for them what you’d like them to do for you.”