

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

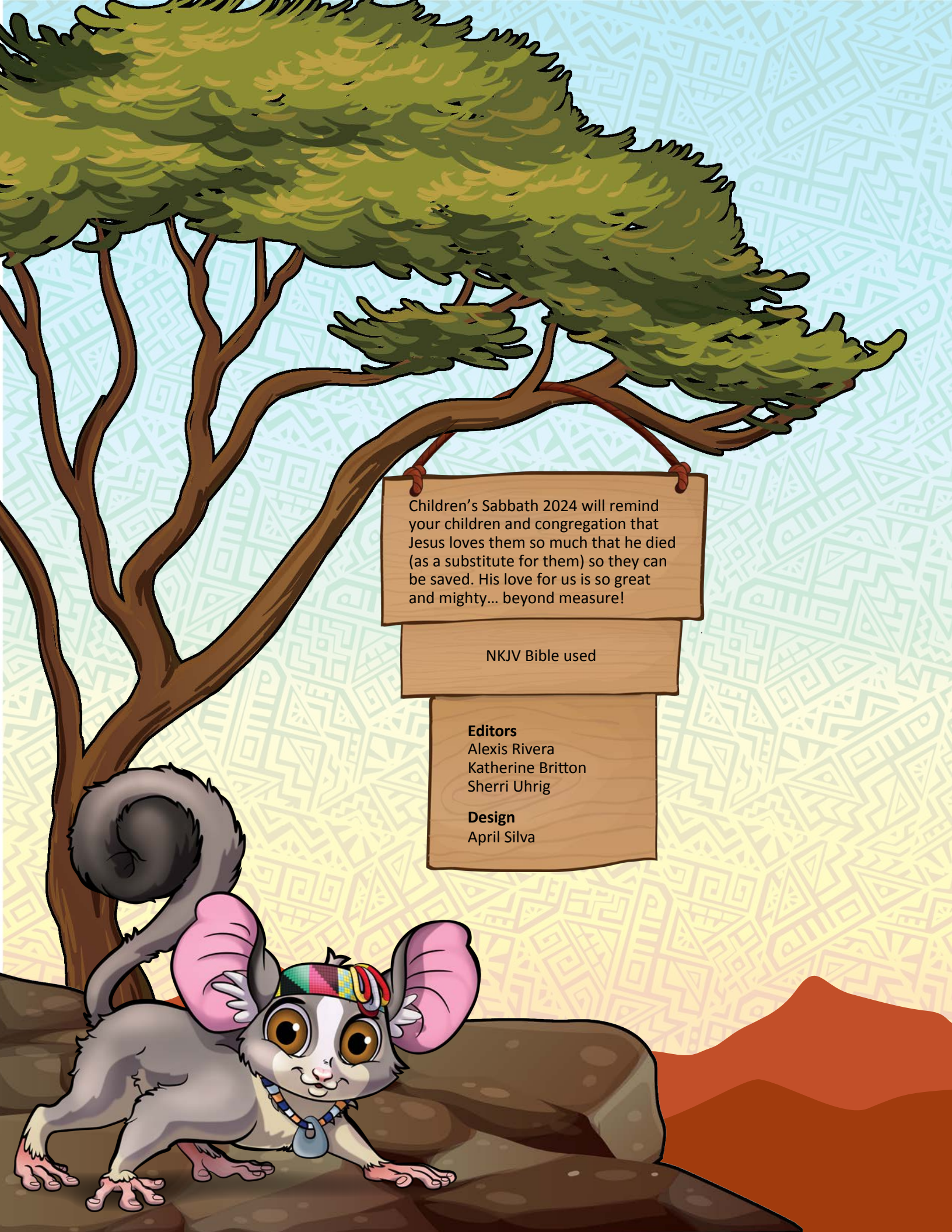
GOD'S
AMAZING
GRACE!

2024



Helping kids say
YES to Jesus!





Children's Sabbath 2024 will remind your children and congregation that Jesus loves them so much that he died (as a substitute for them) so they can be saved. His love for us is so great and mighty... beyond measure!

NKJV Bible used

Editors

Alexis Rivera
Katherine Britton
Sherri Uhrig

Design

April Silva

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

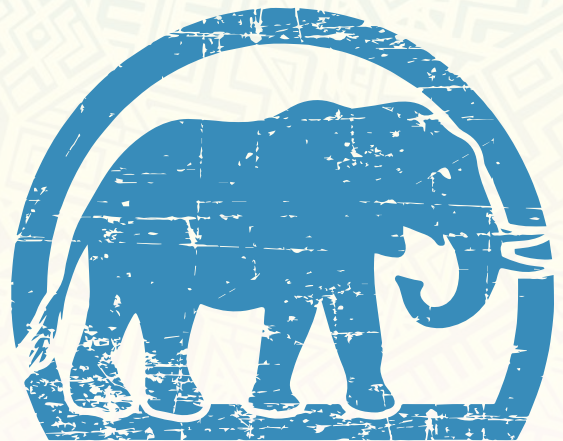
A LESSON ON GOD'S
UNCONDITIONAL LOVE
FOR ALL OF US!

Based on "Jamii Kingdom" VBS Day 1 Program:
"Jesus loves me! I am saved!" Mark 1:29-31; 5:21-43



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RESOURCES & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- ◆ Greeters
- ◆ Ushers
- ◆ Praise Leaders
- ◆ Prayer Leader
- ◆ Skit Participants

Other Volunteers will also be needed depending on the Activities chosen to include.

DOWNLOADS AVAILABLE AT CHILDMIN.ORG

Invitations

Poster

Letter to the Pastor

Songs

Invitation Flyer

Decision Cards

A Jami Kingdom VBS music CD/DVD/USB audio tracks and music videos featuring kids performing the actions to each song is available from AdventSource at adventsource.org and 402.486.8800. Catalog #039601

SUPPLIES

LIST

SKIT

HOW BIG IS GOD'S LOVE

- ◆ Ruler
- ◆ Yardstick
- ◆ Measuring tape
- ◆ Items to measure: lamp, table, chair, plant
- ◆ Bible

Jamii Kingdom VBS Music DVD/CD/USB: adventsource.org **PRODUCT #039601**
Jamii Kingdom VBS Program DVD: adventsource.org **PRODUCT #039602**



ACTIVITY | DEMONSTRATION SERMON PART 1

GOD'S LOVING GIFT OF GRACE

- ◆ Decorated and wrapped gift box: inside a large paper "Grace" printed in bold and large print
- ◆ Male Bible character costume
- ◆ Paper cross (the size of a person)
- ◆ Masking tape
- ◆ Heart stickers
- ◆ On-screen timer or countdown

ACTIVITY | DEMONSTRATION SERMON PART 2

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

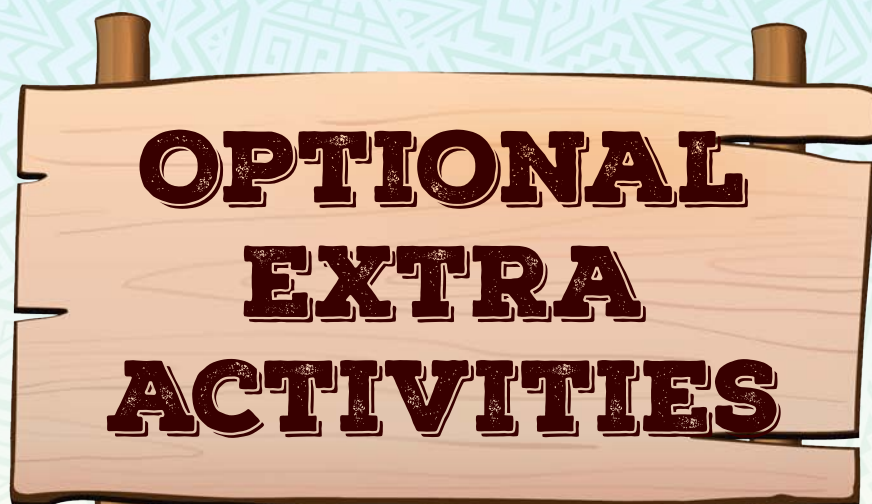
- ◆ 3 large signs: "Ahab", "Phileo", "Agapao"
- ◆ Bucket labeled: "God's Love"
- ◆ 2 clear ups
- ◆ 2 dish sponges
- ◆ Table
- ◆ 3x5 blank colored index cards (without lines)
- ◆ Crayons/markers/pens/pencils

ACTIVITY | DEMONSTRATION SERMON PART 3

GOD'S GREAT BIG FAMILY

- ◆ Bible

- ◆ Child Focused Potluck. Invite the church family to the Let's Eat Potluck with child-friendly activities at each table. (See "Let's Eat" for ideas)
- ◆ Outreach at the park or another public place. Provide music for children, story time and games. Children can color and deliver the flyer invitations the week before.
- ◆ Visit a retirement center and maybe even begin an Adopt a Grandparent program with regular visits.
- ◆ Invite the whole church to work together on a Pathfinder Nature or Outreach Honor or Adventurer Nature Award. Go to this website for a list of Pathfinder Honors complete with requirements and answers: https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book
- ◆ For Adventurer Awards go to https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Adventurer_Awards
- ◆ Children's Sabbath can also include plans for additional service projects on Sunday, giving children something more to look forward to doing together for others, such as helping someone with yard work or baking cookies and delivering them with a handmade note. Children involved in these activities not only is fun for them and instills in them a passion to serve, but also brings joy to the hearts of those they are serving.



The following activities are ideas that can be used to promote children's ministries within your church, and also be used to involve the children, families and congregation to participate together.

GOD'S GREAT BIG FAMILY EASY CRAFT

LOVE ONE ANOTHER! CARDS

- ◆ Place a table at each corner of the Fellowship Hall or room.
- ◆ Invite children, their parents, and church members to participate in this activity.
- ◆ Make a display of large cards. Use one large sheet of red card stock for each child, folded in half to make a greeting card.
- ◆ Use your computer or pattern included to print a frame that says "I love you!" to stick on the front of each card.
- ◆ Provide all kinds of fun stickers, pom-poms, lace doilies, ribbons, and shiny things for the children to use to decorate their card.
- ◆ Instruct participants to draw a picture of themselves inside the card.
- ◆ Help each child write their name inside their card. Put the cards on the wall at a height where the children can open their own card and see their message and drawing.

KIDS DECORATION

- ◆ Decorate the potluck room with balloons. Play music with children's songs during potluck.
- ◆ Line tables with rolls of Kraft paper. Provide cups with crayons on tables for guests to draw and doodle.

LET'S EAT

Activities to involve the children and families during or after the Children's Sabbath potluck meal.

PLANNING TIMELINE

- ◆ To make the most of Children's Sabbath, make sure your pastor is on board and knows the details of this Sabbath.
- ◆ Plan ahead to advertise in your church and community.
- ◆ Present the program during the worship service.
- ◆ Prepare a special potluck to honor the children.
- ◆ Plan an outreach using Real magazine.
- ◆ Visit adventsource.com to purchase witnessing tools children can use to share their faith.

RIGHT AWAY

1. Download materials from childmin.com
2. Establish a Children's Sabbath prayer support group.
3. Form a planning team, involving the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club directors as well as the children's Sabbath School division and VBS leaders.
4. Determine the specifics of your afternoon outreach activity—the venue you choose, the sponsors and adults who will accompany the children, etc.
5. If your church has children who are preparing for baptism, work with their families and the pastor to plan a baptism as part of the Children's Sabbath service.

SIX WEEKS BEFORE

1. Ask the church communications leader to advertise your program in the church bulletin, in local newspapers, and on local radio stations— ample inserts and announcements available for download: childmin.org
2. Send “Amazing Grace” postcards as invitations to inactive (or former) members. Hand out postcards in church, encouraging members to invite their neighbors, friends, and relatives.
3. Ask the church’s hospitality team to plan a potluck or special meal for guests after the Children’s Sabbath service. (see Potluck ideas)
4. Plan for someone to take pictures at your Children’s Sabbath program.

THREE WEEKS BEFORE

1. Post “Amazing Grace” posters around your church and school.
2. Put a bulletin announcement in your church bulletin each remaining week.
3. Enlist several children to help with a creative announcement during church.
4. Start practicing the entire program in the church. (Avoid keeping kids out late on Friday night.)
5. Firm up final details about your outreach event.

CHILDREN’S SABBATH DAY

1. Pray with your team and with your children before the program.
2. Present the program during the worship hour.
3. Provide a potluck to honor the children and their families and guests.
4. Organize and implement the Children’s Sabbath afternoon outreach.
5. Thank your team and the children for a great Children’s Sabbath!

PLAN THIS SERVICE

as an opportunity to reach out to the community to showcase children and their ministry. To get the ball rolling for your Children’s Sabbath program, work with your pastor to develop a vision for Children’s Sabbath and assemble a team to follow through on the organization and planning. Meet together as often as necessary; this lowers confusion among your leaders and keeps misunderstandings at a minimum. To get the children involved in the preparation and outreach, share with them the logo and the theme; talk about its meaning; encourage children to pray every day and to investigate how God is calling them to work for Him. Guide them in seeking God through the verses in the Bible. Normally the children’s coordinator organizes Children’s Sabbath. If your church has not appointed a children’s coordinator, ask the pastor to appoint someone to act as coordinator for this important day.

**CHILDREN'S
SABBATH**

**AMAZING
GRACE**

**DEAR PASTOR &
PARTNER IN MINISTRY,**

WHAT IS CHILDREN'S SABBATH?

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of spotlighting and affirming the children around us. It also draws attention to the needs of children at risk in our world.

The NAD Children's Ministry Department is excited and is looking forward to celebrate this very special Sabbath. This year, July 27, 2024 is Children's Sabbath throughout the North American Division. We have been celebrating this special day for over ten years. This is a Sabbath when the children of our church will have the opportunity to share the gospel in their own words. Perhaps this may be the day when a future teacher, a church leader, and yes, even a preacher may be introduced to their calling for the very first time. This day provides a great reason to invite neighbors, friends, and inactive members to bring their children to church. The more you invest in planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and community. On July 27, why not give the opportunity for your children's ministry leaders to partner with you and guide the children as they share from the pulpit the depth of their love for Jesus!

As an additional resource we have included a sermon outline that has been prepared especially for this occasion. You can add your content or use as it is. This can be presented by a child, teen or young person with your mentoring. The NAD Children's Ministries supports and prays for you in your ministry with the children of your church!

Thank you for your partnership with Children's Ministries!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Sabbath 2024 will reinforce to your children we are all part of God's great big family! This day will be an encouraging reminder that because Jesus loves us, we are able to love one another freely and unconditionally!

WELCOME

This is a wonderful opportunity for the pastor to introduce the children's ministries leaders in your church; public recognition and support are a positive acknowledgement of the dedication of your team.

PRAISE IN SONG

Let the children lead if possible; see the list of suggested songs and theme song. The songs included are suggestions—choose music that fits your church's culture.

SCRIPTURE

Assign several children to read and teach the hand motions to the scripture verse.

OFFERING

This is a great time to include the Deacons in mentoring the children to take up the offering.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The skit provided is appropriate for the sanctuary; however, it is just an added option. Keep in mind that whatever you do, the important thing is to have the children in the forefront the entire Sabbath.

SCRIPTURE READING

This is written to be led by the children. Practicing this section will help your children feel comfortable up front.

SERMON

Work with your pastor ahead of time. There are three sections to the 'Amazing Grace' Children's Sabbath sermon. Each section has options for engaging the congregation.

AMAZING GRACE ORDER OF SERVICE

CHILDREN'S SABBATH
JULY 27, 2024

CALL TO COMMITMENT

Work with your pastor to decide what to include in the Call to Commitment.

PRAISE IN SONG

Let the children lead if possible.

CLOSING PRAYER

A closing prayer is included. Make a copy and assign one or several children to pray. Encourage children to either memorize the prayer or to pray naturally from their hearts.

FINAL INVITATION TO LUNCH

Assign several children to extend the invitation.

◆ **PRAISE SONG** *Through The Jungle*

◆ **SCRIPTURE** *1 John 4 : 7-12*

◆ **OFFERING**

◆ **SPECIAL FEATURE** *(your choice)*

- a. *What is Love* YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcYla58E_ss
- b. *Kid Panel*. Choose 4 or 5 children to sit up front and ask them the questions, "What is love? How do people show you love? How does God show you love? (this is a live version of the video. Look at the video for an example)

◆ **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

◆ **SKIT** *God's Great Big Love*

◆ **PART 1**

Song 1: *Amazing Grace*

Sermon Part 1: *God's Loving Gift of Grace*

Up Front Demonstration: *God's Gift Bridges the Gap*

Group Activity: *Spreading Hearts*

◆ **PART 2**

Song 2: *This is Love*

Sermon Part 2: *Love One Another*

Up Front Activity: *Fill It Up!*

Group Activity 2: *Letters of Encouragement*

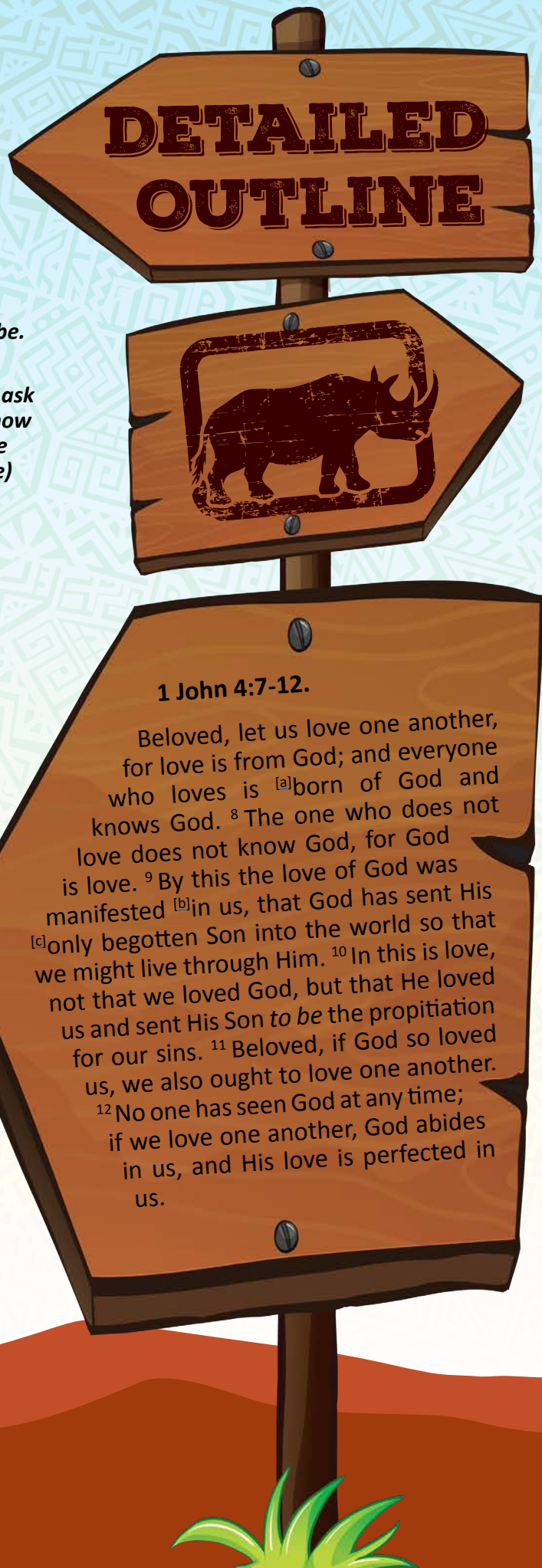
◆ **PART 3**

Song 3: *Song of Freedom*

Sermon Part 3: *God's Great Big Family*

Call to Commitment

Closing Prayer



INTRODUCTION



We are all a part of God's great big family! Acts 2:42-47 shares that those who followed Christ in the early church devoted themselves to the apostle's teachings, to one another, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They met in the temple courts and they met in their homes. They shared with those who had need and had everything in common. They broke bread together, praised God together, and enjoyed the favor of all the people. Because of this, God added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The people in Acts were a family! These early followers understood that as they came closer to Jesus and chose to follow him, they also grew closer to one another. This was a strong testimony of Jesus' love acting in their lives. There is power in connecting with a family of believers! We are able to uplift one another, encourage one another, and care for one another's needs.

Not only do we support each other when we are a part of God's family, we can also be a witness to those around us. Jesus tells us in John 13:34 and 35 to "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

This children's sabbath is designed to draw people into the meaningful presence and fellowship of the family of God. Its program is an encouraging reminder that because Jesus loves us, we are able to love one another freely and unconditionally. The world is full of loneliness. As we open our hearts to the love of God and allow Him to guide our footsteps, we CAN touch the lives of those who are hurting. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are able to share the authentic, unconditional love of our Savior with one another, and with the world around us. When we do so, God helps his family grow even greater!

LEADER TIPS

- ◆ Allow the children to lead as much as possible.
- ◆ Find "behind the scenes" things the quieter children can do.
- ◆ Ask the Pathfinders and Adventurers to collect the offering—encourage them to come to church in their uniforms.
- ◆ Have the children make a thank-you card for the pastor and his or her family and present it to them during the praise and worship time.
- ◆ Try to have the kids memorize their parts—the program will flow much easier if they do



SERVICE

◆ WELCOME

Say: Good morning, everyone. Welcome. We are thankful that you are a part of our Children's Sabbath program. We hope that today you will experience God's "Amazing Grace" in a personal way, and that you will be filled with joy that comes from God as you share with one another what God has done for you! Please turn around and greet your neighbor, and say "Jesus loves you, and so do I" or "Happy Sabbath my friend!"

Child reads: In 1 John 4: 7-12 we read "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Child Say: Today we will focus primarily on God's amazing grace!, and we want to realize that God is calling all of us to love one another.

◆ PRAISE IN SONG

Suggested feature: (your choice)

a. What is Love Youtube Video www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcYIA58E_ss

b. Kid Panel. Choose 4 or 5 children to sit up front and ask them the question "what is love? How do people show you love? How does God show you love? (this is a live version of the video. Look at the video for an example)

Choose a few songs from the list below or other songs that fit the theme of the program. Jamii Kingdom VBS 2019 Music CD: adventsource.org)

Theme Song: "Through the Jungle"

Options:

- "Amazing Grace"
- "Song of Freedom"
- "I've Got Joy"
- "This is Love"

◆ SCRIPTURE

Preparation: 1 John 4: 7-12 (NKJV) can be divided into parts for several children or have one or several children present the whole verse. Beforehand motions can be learned to add to expressing it with lots of emotion and feeling.

1 John 4: 7-12 Bible reading:

Child 1: In 1 John 4: 7-12 we read “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Child 2: The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Child 3: By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

Child 4: In this love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Child 5: Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.”



◆ OFFERING

ADRA Water Kiosk Project

If possible have a child call for the offering and let children collect the offering. Show Jamii Kingdom ADRA Water Kiosk Day 1 video

Let's pray; Dear Jesus, our hearts are sad when we think of the many boys and girls who do not have clean water to drink or to bath in! Thank you for those who have answered your call to help provide money to build water kiosks so our friends can get the clean water they need to stay healthy. Thank you for the opportunity you have given us today to be a part of this work and make a difference by donating to ADRA.

Attention Church Treasurers: The offering appeal explains what the offering is for. Joining in support is greatly appreciated. Please put this Memo on the check: **VBS Mission Project ADRA Water Kiosk offering code 3752 (TRS)**

Send to: **NAD Children's Ministries Department**
North American Division of SDA
9705 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

◆ SPECIAL FEATURE

The special feature is an opportunity to highlight a mission project story from your local church family or children sharing their talents in singing, playing a musical instrument, reciting a poem, creative arts such as signing a song, etc. Seek to make this time personal to your church family and their personal involvement in sharing the love of Jesus.



Child 1: *(comes onstage takes ruler and measures random things in the room. Focused and concentrating, he/she does not notice the other child coming in)*

Child 2: *(taps child 1 on shoulder)* Hey!
What are you doing?

Child 1: Me? Oh I'm measuring...

Child 2: What are you measuring for?

Child 1: Well... someone told me that God's love is a great big love... and I wanted to see just how big it could be! So I'm using my ruler to see if I can measure for it.

Child 2: Oh... I don't think a ruler will be big enough to measure God's love... *(thinking)* Hold on one second I have an idea! *(goes offstage and gets a yardstick)* This should do the trick!

Child 1: Wow hey! This yardstick is much bigger! Now we can measure God's love!

(Child 3 comes onstage... child 1 and child 2 are concentrating on measuring random things and do not notice child 3)

Child 3: Hey! What are you guys doing?

Child 1: We're measuring!

Child 1: What are you measuring?

Child 2: We're seeing if we can measure God's love!

Child 3: Oh, I don't think you can measure God's love with a yard-stick. *(thinking)* but I have an idea! I'll be right back! *(goes offstage and returns with measuring tape)*

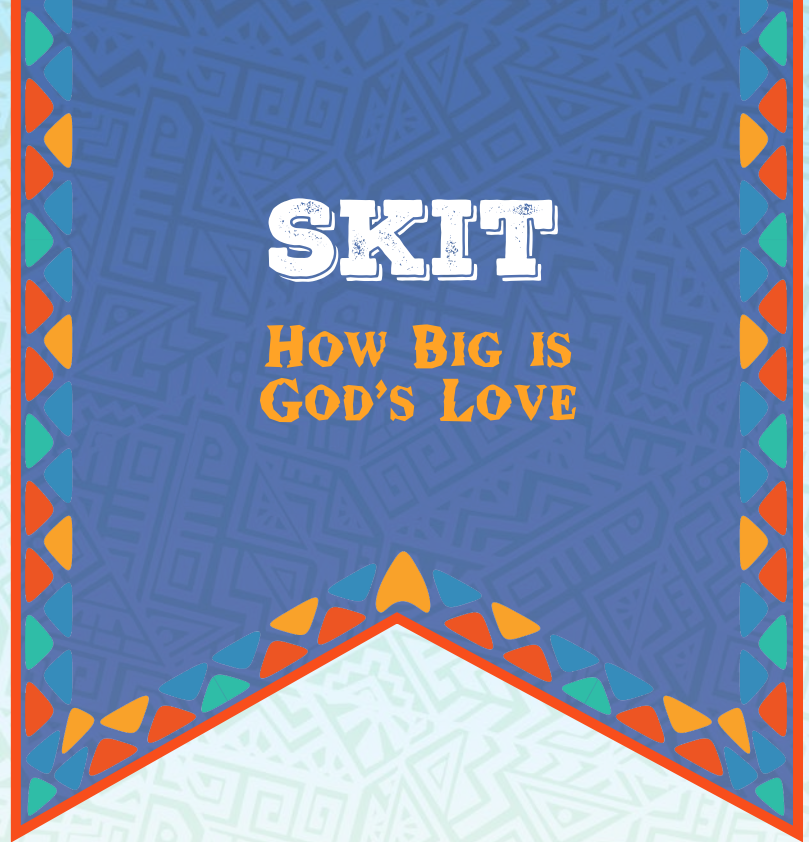
Child 1: Hey that's perfect! Now we can measure much bigger things!
(all 3 work together to stretch out the measuring tape and focus on measuring random things)

Adult: *(comes onstage reading a bible, notices child 1, 2 and 3)* Hey what are you guys doing?

Child 1: We're measuring

Adult: What are you measuring?

Child 2: We're trying to measure God's love!



Child 3: Yeah!!! It's pretty big I think, so we got a measuring tape! Can you help us?

Adult: Oh I don't think that measuring tape is big enough to measure God's love... but I might know where you could find that measurement...

Child 1, 2,3: REALLY?! Where?

Adult: In the Bible, it says in Ephesians 3:18 that we may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. I think when we get to know Jesus, HE is the measure of God's great big love.

Child 1, 2,3: Ooooooooooooooh!!!

Child 1: So God's love is bigger than a ruler?

Adult: Yes!

Child 2: Bigger than a yardstick?

Adult: Yes!

Child 3: Bigger than measuring tape?

Adult: Yes! God's love surpasses anything we can measure. But that's ok! That just means that his love is so big it can be for anyone!

Child 1: Wow! That's great! I guess we'll have to measure something else then huh?

Adult: Sounds like it!

Child 2: Hey I know! Lets go measure that tree over there! Goodbye (adult's name)

Adult: Bye kids!

(everyone walks offstage)



PART 1



◆ **SONG 1** *Amazing Grace* (Jamii Kingdom Music CD/DVD)

◆ **SERMON PART 1** *God's Loving Gift of Grace*

Prop: Gift Box with a large paper labeled "Grace" placed on the inside.

Child 1: Have you ever given a gift? Maybe you shared a toy with your brother or sister, or gave flowers to a grandparent. Maybe you surprised your son or daughter with a birthday present. Or maybe you gave a card to a person who was ill. When you gave that gift, you gave it out of love! There were no expectations in return. The person you gave the gift to did not pay any money for it

Child 2: It always feels good to receive gifts! God gave us one of the greatest gifts of all! John 3:16 tells us ***16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.***

Child 1: Like any other gift, God's gift is absolutely free! (open gift box and show the paper that say's grace) The gift that God gives is grace. The bible tells us in ***Romans 6:23, the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus took the consequences of sin for us! And in return, we can accept his gift of eternal life.*** (take the paper that says' Gods' grace and give it to child 2)

Child 2: When we accept that gift of grace, every day we are set free! God's grace changes us, helps us grow, and covers our sin! All we have to do is open God's gift by accepting it.

DID YOU KNOW #1

(optional, have a person dressed as Nicodemus up front. Have Nicodemus quote what he says in John 7 and John 19. His quotes are in red)

When Jesus shared in John 3:16-17, he was talking to a Pharisee named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He approached Jesus in the dark of night because, as an important leader, he did not want to be discovered talking to someone who was causing so much controversy. He and Jesus have a stirring conversation which includes how to enter the kingdom of God through his gift of eternal life, as well as how important it is to live by the truth and God's light. Nicodemus' response to all of this is a question. ***"How can this be?"*** Although John Chapter 3 does not have a solid conclusion, it is not the last we hear from Nicodemus.

In John chapter 7 we see him speaking up for Jesus in the presence of the chief priests and pharisees by saying ***"our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?"*** Perhaps he has not yet become a true disciple, but he finds the courage, in the daylight this time, to speak up for fairness and keep an open mind about Jesus.

In John Chapter 19 we then see him teaming up with Joseph of Arimethea, another Jewish leader, to bury Jesus. ***Yes, I brought myrrh and aloe to anoint him, and to give him a proper burial.***

Think of the progression Nicodemus makes through John's Gospel. He moves from the cover of darkness, to public open-mindedness, and finally to a public expression of love for Jesus. He experiences God's great big love from the beginning of his story, and he changes and grows from it. God's love and grace does the same for us. When we come to know of his love and grace, we are changed by it. We grow to love Jesus as he has loved us.

◆ UP FRONT DEMONSTRATION 1 *God's Gift Bridges the Gap*

Supplies:

1. Make a large cross out of paper, or make a cross out of two wooden planks large enough for a person to walk across and be seen by the congregation
2. Masking tape

Preparation Instructions:

1. Have several children chosen ahead of time to participate in the activity
2. Tape two lines far enough apart that children can not reach the other line. Be sure that the cross fits in the center of the two lines



Presenter 1: Why is God's gift so important to us? To illustrate this, we will need four volunteers (point out the two lines on the ground) notice that I have two lines taped on the ground. Lets see if our first two volunteers can jump the gap between the two lines *(Have volunteer 1 jump, then volunteer 2 jump. The lines should be far enough apart that they cannot reach the other side.)* *(To the volunteers)* Is there any way that you can make it across this gap without touching the floor in the middle?

Presenter 2: We have a problem here! The lines are too far apart! Its impossible to jump to the other side alone. We will need something that can bridge the gap. *(Get the cross cutout, show it to the congregation, then lay the cross on the ground between the two lines)*. Now that we have the cross in the center, lets have our other two volunteers try to cross. You can use the cross as a bridge. *(The other two volunteers can walk from one side to the other)*. *(To the volunteers)* Were you able to make it across? Why? That's right! Because of the bridge!

Presenter 1: God's Gift is important because Sin separates us from God, But when God gave us the gift of grace, by giving his one and only son Jesus, that gap was closed. Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Presenter 2: Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven, and we are no longer separated. When we believe in this gift and accept it, we become a part of God's great big family!



◆ GROUP ACTIVITY 1

Spreading Hearts

Supplies:

Heart Stickers

Instructions:

Give each person in the congregation one sheet of heart stickers. Set an onscreen timer (1 minute or 5 minutes)

Child Presenter: I'm excited because We have a lot God's love to spread around today (pass out the sticker sheets) Each of you will be given a sheet with heart stickers. We'll set a timer for you. Lets see how many stickers you can give out in that amount of time. Be sure to give out hearts to a different person each time you give one.

(Set the onscreen timer, have the child presenter say "GO! Then start the countdown)

Child Presenter: Wow! Look around you! So many different people have hearts! God's love is for everyone. It fills up this church. Look at the smiles on people's faces! God's love gives us joy. I'm happy to be in the presence of God's love this Sabbath day.

PART 2 ◆ ◆ ◆

◆ **SONG 2** *This is Love*

◆ **SERMON PART 2** *Love One Another*

Child 1: God has loved us and given us the gift of grace and freedom from our sins. Because of this, we are now called to give that gift to one another. Jesus told us to share love in John 13:34-35. He says ³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Child 2: This was right before Jesus was taken to be crucified, right before he would take the penalty of the wages of sin for us. He wanted his disciples to know and understand that by loving one another, they were demonstrating God’s love and grace in action. People would take notice of this as part of their identity as Christ followers.

Child 1: The love Jesus tells his disciples about is no ordinary love! It was unlike anything that the world around them had ever seen or heard of. The word Jesus uses is “Agapao” (pronounced Ah-Gah-Pah-Oh) this is unconditional love, even for people who don’t deserve it. This is practical love, which acts unselfishly. This is adoptive love, which accepts people into a family.

Child 2: This is the love God has for us, and this is the love that Jesus asks us to share with one another. He asks us to love those who don’t always deserve it. He asks us to act on our love unselfishly, he asks us to share this love unconditionally just as he has loved us.

DID YOU KNOW #2

Supplies: 3 large signs that say “Ahab” “Phileo” and Agapao/ as an alternative you can have slides that go up on the screen with the same words.

There are several words for love that are listed in the Bible, and which would have been known during the time of Jesus.

The first kind of love is the Hebrew Word “Ahab” (pronounced Ah-Hav) (show sign, then have the congregation repeat the word) This word was used to describe a close relationship, such as with a parent and child, husband and wife, or brother and sister. The second love is Phileo (pronounced Fil-Eh-Oh) (show sign, then have the congregation repeat the word) This word was used to describe the kind of love you have between you and your friends. The Third word, which Jesus uses when he says to “love one another” is agape (pronounced Ah-Gah-Peh) or Agapao. (show sign, then have the congregation repeat the word) This kind of love is different from the others.

Agape love is described as unconditional and is not based on the goodness of the one loved (what they do) or on fondness for the one loved (how you feel about them). Instead, it is an unconditional love that comes directly from God.

Each of us is different. We come from different families, different cultures, we are different ages and we have different likes and dislikes. We may all be different, but we all need God’s unconditional love, and we all need the gift of his grace!

◆ UP FRONT DEMONSTRATION 2

Fill it Up!

Supplies:

1. A bucket labeled "God's Love"
2. 2 clear cups
3. 2 dish sponges
4. Table to set the bucket, cups and sponges on
5. Pick 2 volunteers ahead of time



Child Presenter: When we follow Jesus we are called to love one another. This love is no ordinary love because it comes from God. What makes God's love special? Our two volunteers will help us see the difference.

(To volunteer 1) Take this sponge filled with water, and squeeze as MUCH water as you can into your cup! Try to fill it to the top.

(Wait for volunteer to squeeze as much water as possible out of the sponge then ask the congregation) Is the cup full? Why not? *(wait for answers)* That's right! The sponge only had so much water in it. There wasn't enough water in the sponge to fill up the cup.

(To volunteer 2) Now you try to fill the cup with water, except you can dip the sponge as many times in our bucket. Let's count how many times that he/she dips the sponge in the bucket to fill the cup. *(Count along with congregation, after the cup is full, ask the congregation)* Is the cup full? Why?

The cup is full because our volunteer was able to dip his/her sponge in the bucket as many times as she needed. The bucket has an endless supply of water.

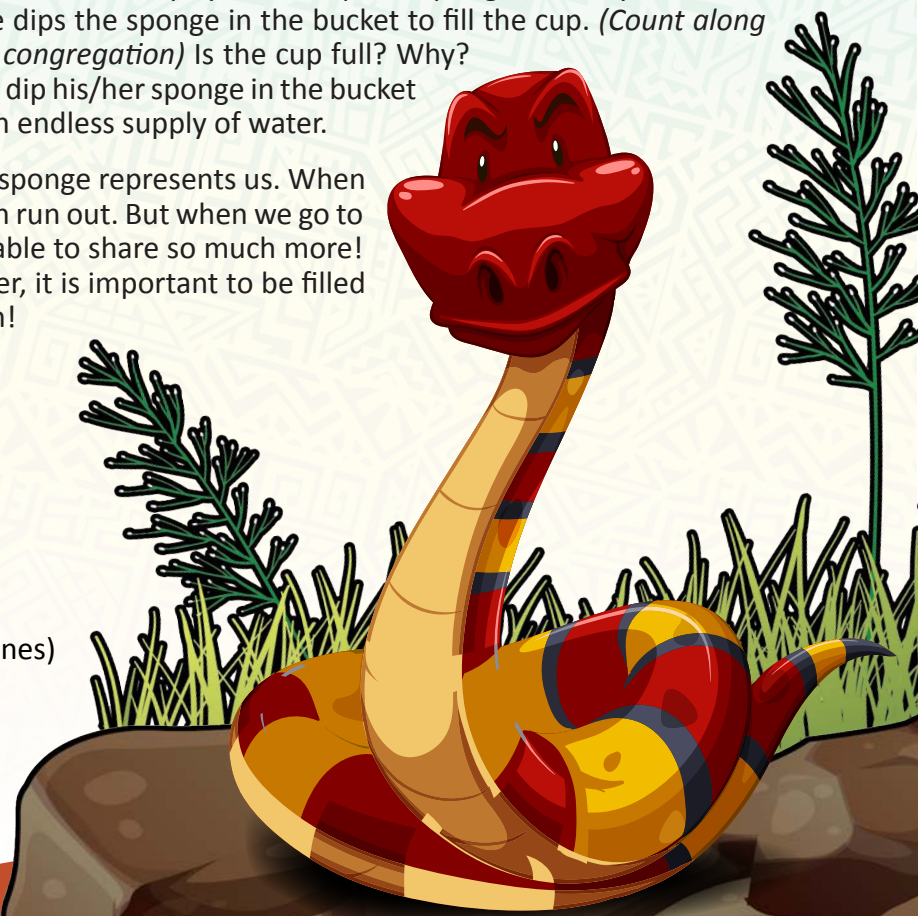
Our bucket represents the love of God, and the sponge represents us. When we try to love by our own strength, we very often run out. But when we go to God and ask him to fill us with his love, we are able to share so much more! God's love is endless! When we love one another, it is important to be filled up with God's love over and over and over again!

◆ GROUP ACTIVITY 2

Letters of Encouragement

Supplies:

1. 3 x 5 blank colored index cards (without lines)
2. Crayons / markers / pens / pencils



Children's Ministry Leader:

As a family, we are going to take a moment to share love with one another! We'll hand you a blank index card, and give you a few minutes to write some encouraging words. For our little ones, you can draw a picture to share!

(Give 1-5 minutes for the congregation to write/draw on their notecards)

Now that you are done take a moment to pray over your card then, give your notecard to someone in the room! Tell that person "God bless you!"

How beautiful it is to share notes of encouragement and blessings! 1 Thesalonians 5:11 tells us to encourage one another and build each other up. That's what our church family does. As we continue on this life journey, We love as Jesus loved us. And we look forward to the day when Jesus returns as he has promised.

◆ SONG *Song of Freedom*

◆ SERMON PART 3 *God's Great Big Family*

Child 1: God's gift of love and grace have set us free. Because of this, Jesus has told us to love one another, he shared that others would recognize them as Christians by how they loved. The disciples and the early church followed in Jesus' footsteps and followed his command. We get a small picture of this in the book of Acts 2:42-47.

⁴²They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³Awe came over every soul,^[a] and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed. ⁴⁶Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Child 2: The early church ate together, prayed together, supported one another's needs, met for worship, and praised God together! People saw God's loving grace through their actions. God guided them as they talked about Jesus, and more and more people became Christians every day! Each day God's great big family became even bigger!

Child 1: The best part about being in God's family is the promise Jesus has given us of forever freedom. The gift of grace does not end at the cross. Jesus has promised to come again. The early church knew and believed this, and we can believe it too.

Child 2: In John 14:1-3 Jesus leaves us his promise of his return. *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

Child 1: This is a promise we can remember. Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven, and he is going to come again so that we can be with him!

◆ CALL TO COMMITMENT

Child 1:

We want to invite you to be a part of our family. We would be overjoyed to share God's love with you! If you'd like to be a part of our church family, come talk to one of our church leaders!

◆ CLOSING SONG

Suggested closing song:

Amazing Grace (Jamii Kingdom VBS)

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Child 2: We also each have a chance to be at that big family reunion with Jesus! Imagine it with me! All of those who have accepted the gift of Grace from the past, present and the future... all together! It's going to be HUGE.! If you would like to accept Jesus' gift of grace I invite you to pray with me now.

Dear Jesus, thank you for your gift of grace. Thank you that we are able to love one another! Because I love those around me, I want to see them in heaven too. I pray that you may bless each one here. We accept the gift of your grace. We give our lives to you. Amen.

Child 2: Invitation to Potluck

◆ LET'S EAT! POTLUCK INVITATION

(When the time is right signal to a child who is prepared to make a final invitation to stay for lunch.)

Final Invitation

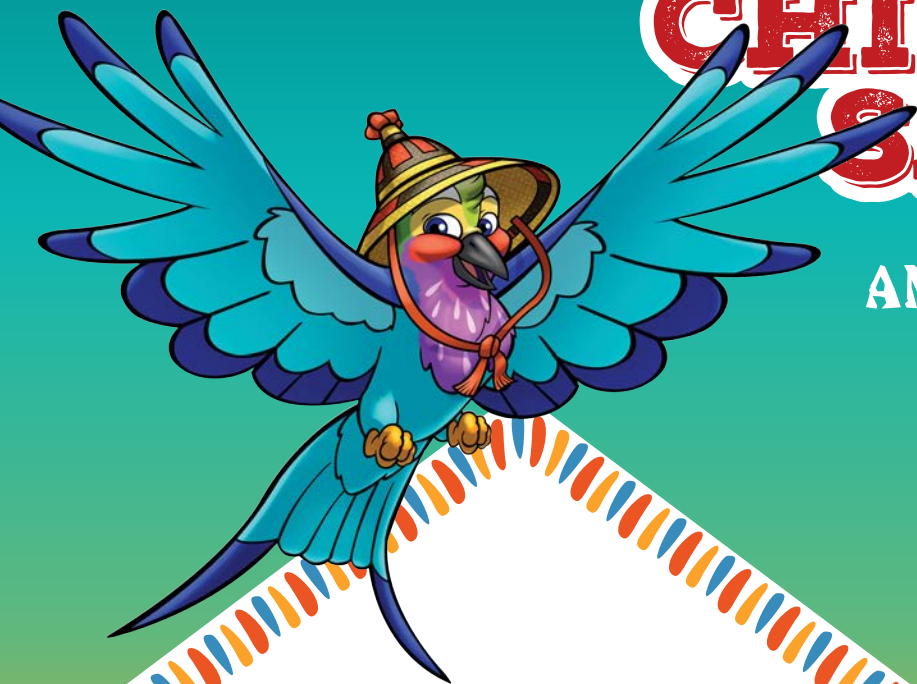
Child Say: It's time to eat! Please join us in the _____ for a delicious meal prepared just for you! All are welcome!



CHILDREN'S SABBATH

GOD'S
AMAZING
GRACE!

2024



**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

Empowering Leaders • Impacting Kids

