



# 11

## True Discipleship



### Key Passages

- Matthew 16:24, 16:27, 22:36–38

### Lesson Focus

- Jesus wants His followers to love Him.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will color the I Am Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 10 and/or play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Jesus wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. And when we love Jesus, the things that are important to Him will become important to us, too.

**Song Time**—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



### Activity 1: Love God More

Students will look at pictures of things they love and be reminded that we need to love God more than any of these things.



### Activity 2: Important to God

Students will search around the room for hidden pictures and discuss some of the things that are important to God.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



### COME ON IN

- Print one I Am Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- I Am Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Lesson Flip Chart



### LOVE GOD MORE

- Print and cut out one each of the 12 Love God More Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- 12 Love God More Illustrations
- Bible



### IMPORTANT TO GOD

- Print one each of the 10 Important to God Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM. Make enough copies that each student will get at least one.
- Students will color the illustrations.

- 10 Important to God Illustrations (at least one per student, to be hidden around the room and then colored)
- Crayons



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven't already done this, print one set of Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM onto cardstock.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages along with this background.

As we study the life of Jesus in the New Testament, we see that He was the one the prophets spoke of; His birth affirmed His humility and His eternal Kingship; He was tempted as man yet without sin; His miracles revealed His power over nature, disease, death, and more. His teachings were unlike any before Him. And we know that in His short three-year ministry, many followed Him.

But as Jesus taught, it became clear that what He asked of His followers—His disciples—was costly. And because of His demands, many turned away from Him.

What was it He demanded? What does He expect of those who would be His true disciples? Many proclaiming Christians do not know what Jesus demands, or perhaps they don't want to consider what He has told us in His Word.

First, let's consider the first and the greatest commandment according to Jesus—to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37–38). Love the Lord your God completely. That is the simple answer to this question about true discipleship. What does this love look like?

Jesus went on to tell us more explicitly what He wanted from His true disciples.

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24–26)

Jesus asks much of His followers—more than just learning about Him. He wants us to deny ourselves, to lose our lives, and to forsake the things of the world. This is a call for submission and obedience to His Word (John 14:23). This is a call to put Jesus above the people in our lives that are dearest to us—father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters—and to love the Lord Jesus Christ so much that we would be willing to give up our very lives for Him (Luke 14:26).

Jesus said, "whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). The biblical principle in this is not to get rid of all that one owns but to live your life as evidence that you love God more than money. Jesus warned that it's impossible to have two masters, so we can't serve both God and money

(Matthew 6:24). The heart of a true disciple is guarded against the love of money, and consequently the things money can buy. The Bible tells us that love for things and money becomes the root of all sorts of evil (1 Timothy 6:10). Jesus's disciples endeavor to live their lives so that nothing would distract from their love, obedience, and submission to their Savior and God.

In all of this, Jesus Christ is calling His disciples to take up their crosses daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). Jesus requires that we put aside our own selfish desires and ambitions and that we mimic Christ in His obedience to God (Philippians 2:4–8). For His sake, we must be willing to forsake the world and all it offers (1 John 2:15–17).

In summary, if we are to be true disciples of Jesus Christ, we must live our lives with the intention and the longing to put Jesus Christ above everything and everyone else in our lives. Our strongest desire should be to please Him—the one who died and rose again for sinners. As disciples, we should long for His fellowship and seek to know Him better each day.

The Scriptures tell us to examine and test ourselves to see if we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Does your life reflect the characteristics of a true disciple of Jesus Christ? Does your walk back up your talk (Titus 1:16)? Would you be willing to give up all He has given you—even to the point of death—for His sake?

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Jesus made some pretty demanding requirements for those who want to follow Him:

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. . . . whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:26–33)

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:23–26)

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take

his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matthew 10:37–39)

Is it any wonder that, “many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (John 6:66)? As we consider these strong words, how are we to respond to them? Can we “measure up” to Jesus’s demands? How can anyone possibly qualify as His disciple? The answer to these questions is found in the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

We must realize that the gospel is not only the entry point into the Christian life but also the foundation and source for all we do as disciples of Jesus. The gospel—the good news of what God has graciously done in the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ to secure forgiveness of sins and perfect righteousness for all who trust in Him—should inform, control, and empower all we do.

Do-it-yourself, pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps spirituality has no place in Christianity! Of course, the way some of us approach our own spiritual growth as disciples might suggest otherwise. We sometimes think that sanctification is really all about what we do, how we live, and how disciplined we are. We grit our teeth and try harder. While it is true that we have an active role to play in our sanctification, that does not mean relying on the flesh but walking in the Spirit—the Holy Spirit who indwells and strengthens us to do God’s will (Galatians 5).

Jesus does not make demands of His own without giving the ability to fulfil those commands. The Apostle Paul wrote: “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6). These words assure us as Christians that what God started in us He will finish. While some teach that we can achieve perfection in this life and be completely free from the presence of sin, Scripture is clear that it will not be completed, or matured, until the Lord Jesus returns. As an example, even at the end of his life, the Apostle Paul called himself the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). While Christians should experience ever-increasing victory over sin as they mature, it is not until we are glorified at the Resurrection that we will be perfectly conformed into the image of Jesus.

God’s purpose or goal for each of His disciples is Christlikeness. Paul explains God’s plan: “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29). One way that God conforms believers into the image of Christ is through the work and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. When we were saved, we were indwelt by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:13). The indwelling Spirit of

God gives us the inner spiritual resources to overcome sin. He gives us the desires and abilities to resist temptation and overcome it.

The Scriptures often speak of our responsibility to obey Jesus, to pursue holiness, to strive for perfection, and yet with surprising regularity they also speak of the Spirit’s role in accomplishing our sanctification. It is the Spirit who sanctifies. For example, Philippians 2:12–13 tells us to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,” and yet it tells us that ultimately it is “God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” We work and strive, but ultimately it is not our working that brings about our spiritual growth.

The Apostle Paul spells out for believers time and again that they are transformed, sanctified, and made to increase in holiness because of what God does (2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

This doctrine creates some tension to be sure. The demands of Jesus Christ on His disciples are strenuous as stated above. But those of us who accept the grace of the gospel realize that these demands provoke us to lean into God, His gospel, and the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish what He asks. The truth is, because of the influence of indwelling sin, we will continually have to fight the flesh (Romans 7:17–20). And as we meditate on these difficult truths, we understand the Apostle Paul’s proclamation in Romans 7:24–25 where he clearly shows the battle we are in, but it is a battle that must always end with the gospel message. “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

It is Christ and the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit that will ultimately grant us freedom from sin, to His praise and glory!



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Lord, help us all to realize that following Jesus is not all about being happy and living the dream. It’s not about being part of a special club or having a better life now. Living a life submitted to Jesus Christ involves suffering and sacrifice—being willing to give up what we have for the sake of Christ. I pray for my students that they will one day follow you, and they will come to know that this is not their home but that an eternal prize awaits the children of God—a prize that will make all the glamour and glitz of this world pale in comparison.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the I Am Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 10.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**God is the almighty Creator. We should praise Him for who He is. Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

**I'll start. Dear God, you are great and good. I love you so much because . . .**  
*(insert personal prayer).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God how much they love Him.

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **What is sin?** *Sin is any disobedience against God!*
- ? **Who is a sinner?** *Every person is born in sin.*
- ? **Did Jesus ever sin?** *No. He lived a sinless life.*
- ? **Does everyone go to heaven?** *No. Only those whose hearts are changed and believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to believe in Jesus?** *To trust that Jesus alone can save me.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.*

### Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.** *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

*Refer to Lesson 10 Flip Chart.* **Last week we talked about some of the names Jesus called Himself.**

- ? **What were they? Do you remember?** *Point out the various pictures on the Flip Chart. Allow students to tell you. Explain what He meant by each one.*
  - **The bread of life. We need Jesus for eternal life. Whoever comes to Him will not be hungry for spiritual life.**

- The light of the world. He is the truth. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness.
- The door. If anyone enters through Jesus, he will be saved. Jesus is the only way.
- The good shepherd. Jesus knows His sheep—the people who believe in Him. He loves them and guides and protects them like a good shepherd.
- The resurrection and the life. Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive. He has the power to give eternal life to whoever believes in Him!
- The way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is the only way to come to God the Father for eternal life. His way is the only true way.

Jesus's life and His miracles showed that He was God in the flesh. Many people hated Him and wanted to kill Him. But many people loved Him and wanted to follow Him. Jesus wants His followers to love Him. Hmm . . . what does it mean to love God? And to follow Him. Let's see what that means.

We're going to start by looking in Matthew chapter 22. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

Jesus was talking to a Pharisee. Pharisees were teachers. They knew God's laws very, very well. One day as Jesus was teaching, a Pharisee asked Him a question.

Listen to his question. *Read Matthew 22:36–38.*

- ? What did the Pharisee ask Jesus? *Re-read Matthew 22:36. Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*

He wanted to know which commandment from God was the greatest.

Now I am going to re-read Jesus's answer. Listen very carefully. This has to do with loving someone.

- ? Who did Jesus say we should love? *Re-read Matthew 22:37a. The Lord our God.*
- ? That's right. And how much should we love God? With all our what? *Re-read Matthew 22:37b. With all our heart, soul, and mind.*
- ? And what did Jesus say about this commandment? What was special about it? *Re-read Matthew 22:38. This is the first and greatest commandment.*

*Refer to Flip Chart.* That's right! Jesus said the greatest commandment that God has given is to love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind! He wants His followers to love Him more than anything else. Sometimes that's hard to do. We all have things that we really like. But if something becomes more important than God, we should think about whether we like it TOO much. We shouldn't love anything more than we love God.

### Matthew 22:36–38

- Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

We should love God with all our heart, our soul, and our mind. He is our Creator, and He deserves all of our love and respect.

The Bible tells us more about how we can love God and love Jesus with all our heart. Jesus was talking to His friends—people who loved Him and were following Him. He wanted them to know how to love Him better. Listen to what He told them. *Read Matthew 16:24.*

## Matthew 16:24

? Jesus was talking about someone who wanted to follow Him. What does that person have to do? *Re-read Matthew 16:24b. Deny himself.*

? What does that person have to take up? *Re-read Matthew 16:24b. His cross.*

What? Did Jesus mean we would carry a cross like He did? No! He meant that He wanted us to do something that might seem hard to do. When Jesus said we had to deny ourselves, He meant that we need to think of Him first. This means we might have to give up some things that are important to us—if they are too important to us. Jesus wants to be our biggest treasure.

This might be hard sometimes. Following Jesus can be difficult. But Jesus promised His followers something. Listen as I read it. It is Matthew 16:27. *Read Matthew 16:27 emphasizing “He will reward.”*

? This verse says that one day Jesus will come back. And what will He do when He comes? *Matthew 16:27. Reward them.*

? What will the reward be for people who follow Jesus? *Allow discussion.*

? *Refer to Lesson 1 Flip Chart Page.* In Lesson 1 we talked about the reason Jesus came. How did Jesus die? *On the Cross.*

Yes. He died on the Cross for sinners. And all who turn away from their sin and believe in Him will go to heaven and live forever with Jesus! That is great news, right? And that is the reward Jesus is talking about—heaven and eternal life.

*Refer to Flip Chart.* Jesus promises that reward if we can learn to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind! We can't love Him that much unless He is the most important thing in our life. We can't love Him that much unless we love Him more than the things we have. Sometimes the things we have seem VERY important! But Jesus said we must deny ourselves if we want to follow Him! And if we can love Him with all our hearts and love the things that He loves, He promises to reward us.

## SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. That reward Jesus promises is better than anything on earth, better than anything we could ever buy with money. But Jesus is the only way we can get that reward. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Jesus. Let's sing about Jesus and who He is. We learned this song last time. It is called, "The Great I AM." *Sing together once or twice with clapping and stomping.*

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse reminds us of all these same things. Let's sing that. I think we all know it really well! *Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.*

*Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.*

► You may want to refer to the Lesson 10 Flip Chart Page as you sing this song. Or turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.



## Love God More

### MATERIALS

- 12 Love God More Illustrations
- Bible

### INSTRUCTIONS

Show the children the Love God More Illustrations. Follow the script below as you show each picture. Have the children repeat the answers after each picture. They can answer in different ways—shout, whisper, girls, boys, etc.

Jesus said we must love God with all our heart. We must deny ourselves. That means Jesus should be the most important thing in our life! I'm going to show you some pictures. I want you to tell me what they are and answer four very special questions. Ready? *Hold up pictures one at a time.*

- ? What is this? *A swing set!*
- ? Should we love our swing set more than Jesus? *No!*
- ? Who should we love more than anything else? *We should love Jesus.*

- ? How do we learn about Jesus? *Hold up Bible, have children shout "Bible!"*
  - ? What is this? *A dog!*
  - ? Should we love our pets more than we love Jesus? *No!*
  - ? Who should we love more than anything else? *We should love Jesus.*
  - ? How do we learn about Jesus? *Hold up Bible, have children shout "The Bible!"*
- Continue asking these questions as you show all 12 of the pictures.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus came to save sinners. He must be the most important thing in our life. We have many blessings from God. God wants us to have fun with our special things. But the Bible says we can't love the things that God has given us more than we love Him or Jesus! God wants us to love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind.



# Important to God

## MATERIALS

- 10 Important to God Illustrations hidden or scattered around the room (at least one for each student)
- Crayons

## INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out the 10 illustrations. Make enough copies so each student will have one. Hide or scatter the illustrations around the room. Assign one student at a time to go and find one of the pictures and take it back to his seat. You will help each child show and discuss why his picture shows something that is important to God. Then students will color the pictures.

Today we're going to play a hide and seek game. There are pictures around the room. I want each of you to go one at a time to find one of the pictures and bring it back to your seat. Then each of you will show your picture to the class and explain what it is.

After students have found their pictures, go around the room asking (and helping) each child to hold her picture up and discuss what is in the picture. See the script below.

- ? **What are they doing in this picture?** *Reading the Bible.*

- ? **Why is reading the Bible important to God?** *We learn about God in the Bible.*

- ? **What is happening here?** *Listening in Sunday school.*

- ? **Why is that important to God?** *God wants us to listen and learn about Him.*

- ? **What do you see in this picture?** *A happy family.*

- ? **Why is that important to God?** *God wants us to love each other—especially our families.*

Continue in this vein as you and the students discuss each picture. Then have students color their pictures.

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We should love God and Jesus with all of our hearts. Part of loving God is wanting to do what is important to Him and not always doing what we think is the most important thing. Jesus said we have to deny ourselves, and that means putting God first. Your pictures show some things that are important to God. And if we are following Jesus, these things should be important to us, too.



# Memory Verse Review and Activity

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

## MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Print and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards, preferably onto cardstock. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time reciting the whole verse between each one.*

**We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first.** *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

**Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards**

**down. Then we'll have to say the verse without that card! Do you think you can do it? Of course you can. Let's get started.** *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone.*

*You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? **Who is the only way to God the Father?** *Jesus.*
- ? **Why do we want to come to God the Father?** *For forgiveness of sins and eternal life.*
- ? **Who is the only truth?** *Jesus.*
- ? **Who is the only one who can give us eternal life?** *Jesus.*

**Good job! Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.**



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.*

Someone asked Jesus what the greatest commandment from God was. Jesus said we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind. Think about that! Out of all the commands God has ever given, He wants us to love Him most of all! And when we start to love God with all our hearts, the things that are important to God will become more important to us, too.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Loving God is something that takes a whole lifetime to learn. As you grow up, there will be some things that you really, really love. And that's OK. God gives us many great gifts to enjoy. But we still need to be careful that we don't start to love anything more than we love God—He wants all our heart, soul and mind.

When we love God like that, we will begin to care about the things that are important to Him more than the things that are important to us. Some of the things that are important to God might be praying, reading the Bible so we can know Him better, loving other people, and wanting to know about God more every day.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



### Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth and the life for us.
- Praise God for Jesus and His great love for us.
- Pray that God will help us grow to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## JOHN 14:6

*(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")*

Jesus said to him, "I am

*(Jesus loves me, this I know.)*

The way, the tru-uth, and the life.

*(For the Bible tells me so.)*

No one comes to the Fa-a-ther

*(Little ones, to Him belong.)*

Except through Me."

*(They are weak,)*

John fourteen six.

*(But He is strong.)*

## THE GREAT I AM

*(To the tune of "Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes")*

Oh, Jesus is our God,

*(Oh, be careful, little eyes,)*

The Great I Am.

*(What you see!)*

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

Oh, Jesus is our God,

*(Oh, be careful, little eyes,)*

The Great I Am.

*(What you see!)*

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

He's the way, the truth, the life.

*(There's a Father up above,)*

He's the door and bread of life.

*(Who is looking down in love.)*

Oh, Jesus is our God,

*(Oh, be careful, little eyes,)*

The Great I Am.

*(What you see!)*

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

Oh, Jesus is our God,

The Great I Am.

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

Oh, Jesus is our God,

The Great I Am.

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

The good shepherd and the light,

Resurrection and the life,

Oh, Jesus is our God,

The Great I Am.

*Clap, clap or stomp, stomp.*

**Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.**

