

WEEK 1: Love

Big Idea: The good news is Jesus shows us God's love.

HANGOUT

1. In advance, collect one toilet paper or paper towel tube for each child in your group.
2. Let everyone know that you're making good news blasters. Give each child a tube and provide some colouring supplies. Encourage them to decorate their tubes.
3. Demonstrate how to hold a tube up to your mouth so that it amplifies your voice. Use it to introduce this week's Big Idea: **The good news is Jesus shows us God's love!** Encourage the children to repeat the Big Idea using their blasters.
4. Emphasize that we can tell everyone about Jesus.

HEAR

5. Let the children know that today's story from the Bible is about a son who left his home, then later returned to his loving dad.
6. Read about the lost son in a children's Bible (from Luke 15:11-31).
7. Discuss:
 - Why did the son leave home? (he wanted to live his own way)
 - Why did he come back? (he was sad and hungry)
 - What did the dad do when he saw his son returning home? (ran to meet him)
 - Did the dad love his son?
8. Play a game of hide-and-seek. Hold up two stuffies for everyone to see. Lead the group to decide which one will be the son, and which will be the dad. Place the dad stuffie in a central spot. Invite someone to hide the son stuffie while everyone else waits out of sight. Encourage the children to find the lost son and bring him back to his dad. Hold up the dad stuffie and pretend that he's super excited to see his son. Repeat the game so everyone gets a turn hiding the son. Emphasize how much the dad loves his son—just like God loves us!

HUDDLE

9. Introduce the Key Verse for this series ("Tell the good news to everyone" from Mark 16:15, ICB).
10. Discuss:
 - What is this good news? (Jesus shows us God's love!)
 - Who can we tell? (everyone)
11. Encourage the children to think of one person they'd like to tell this good news. Pray together that each of these people would know how much God loves them.
12. If time allows, lead your group in a fun parade using your good news blasters to make some joyful noise!

