



## “God Is Love” Elementary Lesson Activities for Families

### Shapes of Prayer

#### **SUPPLIES**

- Modeling clay/play dough
- Toothpicks (1 per child)
- Optional: worship music

#### **RELATE**

Gather your kids in a circle on the floor. **Jesus’ parable about the good Samaritan showed His listeners that God is love, and He desires for us to show His love to everyone. Throughout the Bible, God reminds all who trust and follow Jesus that we’ve been made to love all people. Let’s listen to some verses from God’s Word that talk about this.** Read the verses below aloud as kids listen quietly. You might ask kids to close their eyes as they listen.

**Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God ... This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:7a, 9)**

**The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Romans 13:9)**

**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)**

**We live in a broken world full of hurting people. This world desperately needs God’s love. How might God work through you to bring love to this world?** Invite kids to ponder this question, and hand each child a lump of clay. Invite kids to form their lumps of clay into shapes of people or places that need God’s love. They can also write the names of hurting people or places onto their clay using toothpicks. After kids have had some time to respond, invite them to share what they molded. Pray over each of the prayer creations—that God would bring His love to those people or places.

### Ping-Pong Bounce

#### **SUPPLIES**

- Ping-pong balls (20–30)
- Empty tissue boxes (2, rectangular)
- Belts (2)
- Scissors

#### **PREPARE AHEAD**

Cut two slits (the width of the belt) just above the bottom edge of the tissue box (in the small end of the box). String the belt through the box. Repeat with the other box and belt.

**SET UP**

Fill the empty tissue boxes with ping-pong balls.

**RELATE**

**In the parable we heard today, all the men walked down a path. They probably wanted to get to their destination quickly by traveling this route—and they probably also wanted to avoid thieves.**

Split into two teams. Have each team line up, one behind the other, against one wall. Explain that, on your signal, one member from each team will put on the “ping-pong belt.” They’ll “bounce” to the other side of the room and back—all the while trying to shake the ping-pong balls from the box. Each member of the team will have a chance to bounce from one side of the room to the other. Play until each member of the team has had a chance to bounce. As the team bounces, keep score. Each ball that falls out of the box counts as one point for the team. See which team bounces out the most ping-pong balls.