



The Story God Is Writing

EXPEDITION TITLE

The Story God Is Writing

Expedition Driving Question:

How do I live in God's story by reflecting God's love in my community and the world around me?

Expedition Deep Hope:

We will interact with God's love in the context of our community and the world by looking at the story God is writing.

Expedition Verse:

"A new command I give you: 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." —John 13:34-35

LEARNING PLAN TITLE

Loving God & Our Neighbors

Learning Plan Number: 2

Learning Targets:

1. I can recognize God's love for me and my love for God.
2. I can begin to reflect God's love to my sponsored child, who is my neighbor.

Habit(s) of Learning:

Curious Thinking, Courageous Designing

CUMULATIVE TIME



60-80 MIN

ICON KEY



Learning activities that support your document panel with visual artifacts are indicated by a push-pin and paper icon in the activity title.




Learning activities connected with sponsored children are indicated by a helping hands icon in the activity title.






Learning activities that support your community engagement project are indicated by a community icon in the activity title.



ENTRY EVENT

| ACTIVITY TITLE | TIME | RESOURCES |
|--|--|--|
| <i>The Greatest Commandments</i> <i>Engage the Learning Targets (ELT)</i> |  10 min | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.a Student Material: “18 Bible verse” <i>(works best if cut apart)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have the students gather together in a circle. Share with them that you have printed some Bible verses (see Student Material 2.2.a). Hand out the Bible verse to each student (or a partner of students) and invite them to take turns reading out loud their verse to the class. Explain that we will be looking for things in common with all of these verses. Ask, “What did you notice about all of these verses?” (they all talk about love). “Our greatest commandment is to love God.” Remind them of the mirror that we used from our first learning plan. “When we learn about love, why do you think we want to remember the mirror?” (We get to see God’s love reflected in us. Only God’s love is perfect. We must first learn about God’s love so we can reflect it to others!) | | |

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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| <i>Reflect on Love</i>  <i>Introduce the Learning Targets (ILT)</i> |  5 min | <input type="checkbox"/> Posted learning targets <input type="checkbox"/> Student notebooks and pencils |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display the learning targets for the class to see and read them out loud together. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>I can recognize God’s love for me and my love for God.</u> <u>I can begin to reflect God’s love to my sponsored child, who is my neighbor.</u> Share that today we are going to recognize God’s love for us and our love for God. We will also design ways to display Christ’s love to our neighbors. Draw a box around the word ‘love,’ which appears once in each of the two learning targets. Invite students to take out a notebook and pencil. Give the students 60 seconds to write in their notebooks what they think of when they hear the word ‘love.’ As a whole class, give the students opportunities to share what they recorded in their notebooks. | | |
| <i>John 3:16</i> <i>Engage the Learning Targets (ELT)</i> |  10-15 min | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.b Teacher Resource <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16 on chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Colored markers <i>(to unpack John 3:16)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> One index card per student |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write out John 3:16 doubled-spaced on chart paper and read it out loud together. Repeat the same process from learning plan 1 to ‘unpack’: box the key words, ask the students to help you ‘unpack’ what they mean, and write their responses on the chart paper next to the word. See Teacher Resource for example. | | |


Continued ...






- Share, “This verse is so powerful. Now I want to think about what it means to us. Each of you will rewrite this verse on an index card adding your name: For God so loved ____ that he gave his one and only Son, that if ____ believes in him (he/she) shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- When students are finished rewriting their verses on their index cards, use the *Think, Pair, Share* protocol and have the students answer the following prompts:
 1. What does this verse mean to you?
 2. On the backside of the index card: how will you live in response to this verse?
- Remind students that they are dearly loved by God, and we can reflect that love in how we love others.

Think, Pair, Share:

In this protocol, students first are given time to think by themselves about the question, then given a set amount of time to discuss their thoughts with a partner. Finally, they share their responses with the whole class

| ACTIVITY TITLE | TIME | RESOURCES |
|--|---|--|
| <p>We Love Our Neighbors Engage the Learning Targets (ELT)</p> |  10-15 min | <p> Bibles</p> <p>Paper to make a word web (8.5x11 inch size paper or 12x18 inch so it is not too big to fit on the document panel)</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask, “Has anyone ever heard of the golden rule?” • Invite students to turn in their Bibles to Matthew 7:12. Read out together, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” • Tell students that reflecting and mirroring God’s love helps us tell the story of God’s love for everyone! When we love our neighbors, we are reflecting how much God loves them, too. • Using the Think, Pair, Share protocol, have students wonder the following prompts with their elbow partner: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “What does this verse mean to you?” (Our words and actions toward the people around us should reflect how we want other people to treat us.) 2. “In the verse who is the word “others” referring to?” (Our neighbors.) 3. “What is a neighbor?” (A person whose life story intersects with yours.) 4. “What is a neighborhood?” (Where you live with only some of your neighbors.) 5. “How do we mirror God to our neighbors?” (Help them, care for them, love them.) 6. “How can we love our neighbor?” (Taking care of their needs, encouraging them, doing things with them.) • Share, “When God talks about neighbors in the Bible, he doesn’t just mean the people living on the same street as you. We are going to think of neighbors as anyone that we come in contact with. Maybe we see the person, maybe we talk to them, or maybe our lives have a big impact on theirs.” | | |



| ACTIVITY TITLE | TIME | RESOURCES |
|---|---|--|
| <p><i>Who Are Our Neighbors?</i>  </p> <p><i>Assess the Learning Targets (ALT)</i></p> |  20-25 min | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.c Teacher Resource: “We Are Neighbors” example <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2.d Student Material: “My Neighbor is from ____!” cards <input type="checkbox"/> World Vision sponsored child welcome packets |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using a blank sheet of paper, draw a word web with the class that has the word ‘neighbor’ in the middle. Brainstorm with the students “Who are our neighbors?” Add their ideas to the web (i.e. people on our block, family, school friends, church friends, people that live in our community, people that live in our state, people that live in our country, people that live in other countries, our sponsored child, etc.). See <i>example resource</i>. Explain that today, we will be focusing on loving our sponsored child—they are one of our neighbors. Hand out their World Vision sponsored child welcome packet and show students a sample of what their welcome packet will look like. Spend some time allowing students to look at their sponsored child’s picture and learn where their sponsored child is from using their sponsored child welcome packet. As they are exploring, walk around the classroom engaging with the students and asking them what they are learning about their new neighbor. Hand out the ‘My neighbor is from ____!’ cards and invite students to write the name of the community their new neighbor lives in on the card. We will be sharing these cards today during our closing circle. <p>Note: Add the neighbor word web to the document panel as a visual.</p> | | |

EXIT EVENT

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| <p><i>My Neighbor is From ...</i>  </p> <p><i>Reflect on the Learning Targets (RLT)</i></p> |  5-10 min | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite students into a closing circle, bringing with them their completed ‘My neighbor is from ____!’ card. Explain that this circle will be a time where we will ‘reflect’ God’s love to our community and the world around us (reference deep hope). Share that today, we will be reflecting God’s love by sharing about our new neighbors, our World Vision sponsored friend. Go around the circle asking each child to read out their card. Alternatively, invite students to share the name of their sponsored child friend. Close the learning plan in prayer, praying for our global neighbors, our World Vision sponsored friend. <p>Note: Place these cards up on the document panel or invite students to place them.</p> | | |



LEARNING EXPEDITION VISUAL GENERATED THROUGH THE LEARNING PLAN

ADD TO DOCUMENT PANEL

- Neighbor word web
- “My neighbor is from _____!” card

OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN THE LEARNING

- Read to the class from Rich & Renee Stearns' *World Vision Bible Storybook: God's Love For You*, “God Created Me with Love” (pg 18-19).
- Continue to deepen your connection with your sponsored child by going around the circle and sharing other facts about your neighbor with the class.
- Reflecting God's Love Prayer template (2.2.E Student Material)