Welcome to the Student Life Camp 2018 Life Group Leader’s Guide! Our hope is that this Leader’s Guide will equip you to effectively walk your Life Group through each day’s Bible Study. The next few paragraphs will give you some handles for what to expect in each day’s lesson.

First…THANK YOU! Someone found you trustworthy to lead students in studying the Bible, but you still had to be willing to leave your comfy bed at home to come pour into students at camp!

DAILY OVERVIEW
The first page of each day’s Bible Study has an overview with the big idea that we will be studying. It also has a Big Takeaway with the central truth we want students knowing, along with an applicational thought. This page should help frame where the Bible Study will take you.

PICTURES OF STUDENT’S BIBLE STUDY
In the bottom right-hand corner of each page, you will find a picture of the corresponding page in each student’s Bible Study. Our hope is that these images will make it easy for you to lead discussion, while knowing what your students are seeing as they follow along in their booklet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
The Bible Study largely relies on discussion. Instead of having students sit and listen to you read pages of content, our hope is that discussion will keep students engaged and lead them to consider the truths of Scripture and how they relate to their lives. With each question, we have provided a suggested answer in parenthesis in your guide. These are not necessarily the only correct answer, but are meant to help you get to the key thoughts of that question.

You may be terrified with the thought of awkward silences or avoided eye contact, but don’t panic! If your students go quiet, give them a few minutes to answer a section of questions individually and then ask them to share what they wrote. We think your students will open up!

Finally…We’re Praying for You! Know that we have been praying for this summer for many months and that we are continuing to pray for you as you lead this week. God is faithful and sufficient and His Word does not return void.
LESSON 1: I AM WHO I AM

OVERVIEW
Many people today have some sort of opinion about who God is. But what does God have to say about Himself? God says He is the great I AM. He is eternal, infinite, all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-present. He is also near and personal and He cares about His people.

BIG TAKEAWAY
While the God of the Bible is so infinite that we can never fully understand Him, He is also extremely personal, involved with, and caring for every detail in our lives. He is the great I AM.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?
We have both a healthy fear of God and also a desire to draw near and know Him intimately.

FOCUS VERSE: EXODUS 3:14

God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”

We are praying for you and your students!

- Student Life
ICEBREAKER: WOULD YOU RATHER?

Say: Welcome to camp! We’re so excited that you made it all the way to your first Life Group Bible Study. We know you’ve been in some type of vehicle for an extended period of time so, to get things started, let’s go around the group and share a few things about ourselves:

Ask: Would you rather know when you are going to die or how you are going to die?

Ask: Would you rather live without the internet or live without A/C and heating?

Ask: Imagine if you are going to travel through space. You can either take your cell phone or toothbrush, which do you choose and why?

GETTING STARTED

Say: With so many movies to choose from, there are endless possibilities for what movie you would choose to live in. Most of you have likely heard of Guardians of the Galaxy or Star Wars, so let’s take a minute and think about what life might be like in either of these movies. Have you ever been outside at night, far enough away from city lights, to look up and see nothing but stars in the sky? According to a recent study done by NASA, there are approximately 10 billion planets in our galaxy. Yes, you read that correctly: 10 billion. Let that sink in for a moment. It’s incredible to know that much exists inside the galaxy that we see every night in the sky.

If that’s the rough estimate of how many planets are in our own galaxy, how many do you think there are in the entire universe? If you’re head hurts thinking about it, good. That’s supposed to happen. As far as we know from NASA, our universe may go on forever. We just can’t know how big it is.

In the same way, it’s impossible for us to fully comprehend God, the One who made this universe. We are able to know about this God, who He is, what He’s like, and how He relates to us through His Spirit and His Word, the Bible. It’s here that we find out this God is both infinite—unable to be fully comprehended—and extremely personal.
Today in our Life Group Bible Study we’ll be looking at Exodus 3:14, specifically about who God says He is. He told His servant, Moses, that He is “I AM who I AM.”

Invite a student read Exodus 3:1-10 aloud.

Say: What would you do if you saw a bush that was on fire, but it wasn’t being burned up? On top of that, the bush starts talking to you. Welcome to Moses’ world. Forty years after fleeing Egypt, Moses was 80 years old and living in Midian with his family where he worked as a shepherd. As he led his flock of sheep up a mountain, he encountered God speaking to him through a burning bush. God commanded Moses to leave Midian, go back to Egypt, and lead the Israelites out of slavery into the promised land that He had sworn to their ancestors.

Ask: How would you react if God started talking to you through a burning bush? (Answers will vary...we want students to relate to this passage and think through how it is relevant to them.)

Ask: What did God tell Moses to do in these verses, and why is it important? (God told Moses that Moses would lead Israel out of Egypt, freeing them from their slavery to Pharaoh.)

Ask: What do verses 7-10 reveal to us about the character of God? (The God of the universe not only sees what His people are going through, but He also cares about their earthly troubles. Though He doesn’t always save us from our earthly troubles, He is always a personable God who loves and cares for us and works all things for our eternal good (Rom. 8:28).)

Enlist a student to read Exodus 3:11-15 out loud.

Ask: Why do you think Moses reacted the way he did in verse 11? (Moses saw himself as the last person God would want to lead His mission of freeing Israel from slavery because Moses fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian who was beating an Israelite. He didn’t see himself as someone God would have anything to do with, much less use in such a great task.)
Ask: **How would you respond if God asked you to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? Would you feel confident and well equipped? Or like God had chosen the wrong person?**
(Answers will vary, and students may be hesitant to share. The main goal is to help students relate the passage to their lives. We want students to see that their confidence should be in who God is, not in themselves.)

Ask: **What do you think “I AM WHO I AM” might mean?**
(Answers may vary, and you may also get blank stares, but don’t worry. We’re covering what this means below, as well. What we’re looking for is some variation of: “I AM WHO I AM means that God is different from all of us; God does not change; God is not dependent upon anything for His own existence; etc.”)

Ask: **What was the significance of God telling Moses His name? How is this important for us today?**
(Someone’s name tells us about that specific person. By sharing His name with Moses, God communicated to Moses who He is and what He is about. God sharing His name with Moses also points to a personal relationship. To know someone more deeply, one must first know that person’s name.)

Ask: **What is the significance of God being “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob”?**
(This let Moses know, along with the rest of Israel, who God is and what His plans are. God had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and He will not break it. See Genesis 12, 15, and 17 for more background on this covenant.)

Ask: **What do verses 14-15 tell us about the character of God?**
(These two verses tell us that this God is the I AM who rules over all things and has Israel’s best interest in mind through keeping His covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These verses also tell us that God always keeps His promises, never leaves His people alone, and that the great I AM is infinite, but also near to the brokenhearted, caring for His children.)
LESSON 1: I AM WHO I AM

Say: Have you ever wondered why the Bible sometimes capitalizes the word, Lord? It’s not a typo, and, no, someone isn’t yelling at you because he or she forgot to turn off caps lock. It’s written that way for a reason. Since the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, the native language of the Israelites, we sometimes have to look back at what Hebrew words mean to get a better understanding when we read the Bible. In this case, when you see the word, Lord, in small caps, understand that it’s the English translation of God’s name in Hebrew, Yahweh. Just like your name tells others something about you, God’s name, Yahweh, tells us more about who He is. Here are four things we can know about God from the meaning of His name:

1. He is eternal.
   - He has no beginning and no end. (Psalm 90:2)

2. He is self-existent.
   - He is not dependent upon anyone or anything for His existence. (Psalm 50:10-12)

3. He is Creator.
   - God made all things by His Word, and in Him all things live, move, and have their being. (Genesis 1-2; Acts 17:28)

4. He is unchanging.
   - He is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Heb. 13:8)

Say: Yahweh is a God who is near to and cares for His people (vv.7-10), but He is also the eternal, self-existent, unchanging Creator of all things. He is the One who spoke galaxies and stars into being, knowing them all by name and placing them exactly where He wanted them to be, including those that we read about earlier. He is the One who has no beginning and no end. He is the One who heard His people’s cries in Egypt and did something about it. This unfathomable God has made Himself known to Moses, the Israelites, and us. This is the I AM!

Ask: If this is who God is, how should we respond or live in light of this truth? (We have both a healthy fear of God and also a desire to draw near and know Him intimately. Answers will vary, shoot to get practical in how this plays out.)
LESSON 1: I AM WHO I AM

Ask: If this is who God is, how should we respond or live in light of this truth? (We have both a healthy fear of God and also a desire to draw near and know Him intimately. Answers will vary, shoot to get practical in how this plays out.)

Ask: What does this tell us about God? (God is both an all-powerful, all-knowing, completely set apart, infinite, Creator God AND a loving, near, faithful, caring, personal Father.)

Ask: Have you ever thought about God being the I AM? Why or why not? (Answers will vary).

Ask: Is it hard to think about God in this way? Why or why not? (Answers will vary).

Ask: How would you respond to someone who says that God can’t be personal and care about the details of our lives because bad things happen to us? (Remind your students that God is personal. He created each and every one of us uniquely in His image, there is no other person quite like us. Even though we live in a world broken and hurting because of the problem of sin, God has not abandoned us, even if it might feel like it. He made it personal by sending His son, Jesus, to deal with our sin by being the sacrifice for our sins. We can take comfort and trust that God cares for us in the midst of tough times through several promises in Scripture: 1) Psalm 34:18, “The Lord is near the brokenhearted.” 2) Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.” 3) 1 John 4:9, “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him.”)

WRAPPING UP: CHARACTER OF GOD

Instruct different students turn to and read the following passages in Scripture. The point of this activity is to show God is the I AM, both infinite and personal.
LESSON 1: I AM WHO I AM

GOD AS INFINITE
Genesis 1:1
Exodus 19:16-20
Job 38:1-7
Isaiah 55:8-9
Romans 11:33-36

GOD AS PERSONAL
Exodus 33:11
Deuteronomy 34:10
Psalm 18:16-19
Matthew 18:10-14
Revelation 21:1-4

REFLECTION
Give students time to individually answer these questions. Come together, discuss (if you have time), then pray and dismiss.

Ask: What did you learn from today’s Bible study?

Ask: What questions about God do you have after this Bible study?

Ask: Do you struggle to believe any of what we talked about today? Why?

Ask: How can you take what you have learned to help combat these doubts?

Spend the last few minutes of your time praying through the following topics. (Don’t be afraid to ask your group what else you can be praying for!)

1. Ask God to open your minds and hearts to what He has to say to each of you this week.
2. Ask God to teach you new things about Himself this week.
3. Spend time praying for the communicator and worship band who will be leading us this week.
LESSON 2: I AM HOLY

OVERVIEW
Set apart; morally and spiritually excellent; sacred; different. These are just a few words that help us understand what the word “holy” means. But what does it mean when God says He is holy, and how do we relate to Him? God’s holiness is a big deal. Because of our sin, we are separated from God.

BIG TAKEAWAY
God is completely different, perfectly unique, and incomparable to anything in all of creation. In a word, God is holy. There is nothing and no one else like Him.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?
In view of God’s holiness, we recognize that we are sinners. We can never be holy on our own. We must repent and put our faith in Jesus, who forgives us of our sins.

FOCUS VERSE: EXODUS 12:12-13
“I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both people and animals. I am the Lord; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”
ICEBREAKER: SLC TRIVIA

DIRECTIONS
Similar to HQ Trivia, you will ask 12 trivia questions with three answer choices each. Give your students 10-15 seconds after reading the question to make a choice. To keep them honest, designate areas where students must stand to choose A, B, or C. After everyone chooses an answer, reveal the correct answer. If a student gets the question wrong, he or she is out and will be a spectator for the rest of the activity.

(The hope is that everyone will be out by the end of the 12 questions, continuing to drive home the idea that only God is perfect/holy. As an added element of fun, see who can last the longest before getting a wrong answer. If someone gets all of the questions right, then obviously he or she cheated (OK, maybe not!), that person can be crowned the Trivia King or Queen of the week!

OBJECTIVE
The objective of this game is to show that perfection, at least in human terms, never lasts. Sooner or later, everyone falls short or loses. (Correct answers in bold)

1. What sound does a cow make?
   A. Oink
   B. Moo
   C. Woof

2. What is the most popular soft drink in the world?
   A. Coca-Cola®
   B. Pepsi™
   C. Dr. Pepper®

3. What is the most downloaded iPhone app of all time?
   A. Angry Birds
   B. Fruit Ninja
   C. Candy Crush

4. Which superhero is not in the movie Avengers: Infinity War?
   A. Captain America
   B. Batman
   C. Spiderman

BIBLE STUDY

SLC TRIVIA

1. 7.
2. 8.
3. 9.
4. 10.
5. 11.
6. 12.

Read Exodus 12:1-11, 14.

What were some of the guidelines given to the Israelites for the Passover?

Why was it important for the Israelites to continue celebrating the Passover?

Why is the Passover still important to us today?
LESSON 2: I AM HOLY

5. Which member of One Direction was the first to leave the band?
   A. Harry Styles
   B. Niall Horan
   C. Zayne Malik

6. Who is the most followed account on Instagram?
   A. Justin Bieber
   B. Instagram’s Official Account
   C. National Geographic

7. Who was the most listened-to artist on Spotify in 2017?
   A. Ed Sheeran
   B. Bruno Mars
   C. Taylor Swift

8. What age was the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest?
   A. 10 years old
   B. 13 years old
   C. 15 years old

9. What is the record for the most hamburgers eaten in three minutes?
   A. 5
   B. 7
   C. 12

10. What is the most T-shirts ever worn by one person at the same time?
    A. 249
    B. 256
    C. 263

11. Which German clothing brand was born out of the Dassler brother rivalry?
    A. Nike®
    B. Adidas®
    C. Under Armour®

12. At how many days did the longest Snapchat streak end in October of 2016?
    A. 798 days
    B. 851 days
    C. 932 days

BIBLE STUDY

SLC TRIVIA
1. 7.
2. 8.
3. 9.
4. 10.
5. 11.
6. 12.

Read Exodus 12:1-11, 14.

What were some of the guidelines given to the Israelites for the Passover?

Why was it important for the Israelites to continue celebrating the Passover?

Why is the Passover still important to us today?

EXODUS 3:14

SUMMER 2018
GETTING STARTED
Say: It’s hard to be perfect. Did you know, according to God’s Word, it is impossible for us—or any other human—to live a completely perfect life? Of course, you did. Only God is perfect and will never fall short. In other words, He alone is set apart and holy.

Yesterday, we read about Moses encountering God through a burning bush. Can you remember what God said to Moses? In verse 5 of chapter 3, God told Moses not to come any closer, “…for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” God’s very presence is holy. And while every human being is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26), humans are not like God. We are sinful and imperfect. This poses a problem for us, since we are sinful.

Approaching the presence of God is like approaching a tall building. The closer and closer you get, the bigger and bigger it appears. The closer we get to God, the more we see His holiness and the more we see our sin in light of His perfection.

Yesterday, we looked at God as the I AM, both infinite and personal. Today, we are going to talk about God’s holiness.

Invite a student to read aloud Exodus 12:1-11,14.

Ask: What were some of the guidelines given to the Israelites for the Passover? (They are to celebrate Passover during the first month of every year; they are to take a one-year-old, spotless lamb for the sacrifice; they were to sacrifice the lamb and put its blood on their doorposts; they were to dress in a specific way; and so forth.)

Ask: Why was it important for the Israelites to continue celebrating the Passover? (The Passover feast was set in place to remind the Israelites that God alone is their savior. He was the One who freed them from Egypt and slavery. The annual celebration served as a way to remind the Israelites of their dependence upon God for all their needs.)

BIBLE STUDY
SLC TRIVIA
1. 7.
2. 8.
3. 9.
4. 10.
5. 11.
6. 12.

Read Exodus 12:1-11, 14.

What were some of the guidelines given to the Israelites for the Passover?

Why was it important for the Israelites to continue celebrating the Passover?

Why is the Passover still important to us today?
LESSON 2: I AM HOLY

Ask: **Why is the Passover still important to us today?**
(It reminds us of God’s faithfulness to His people. It also helps us to remember that we are like the Egyptians and need to be freed from spiritual slavery to sin.)

Instruct a student read Exodus 12:12-13 aloud.

Ask: **Put yourself in the Israelites’ shoes for a moment. How would you feel about all of this?**
(Answers will vary).

Ask: **What was the purpose of putting blood on the Israelites’ doorposts?**
(The blood of the Passover lamb was spread on the Israelites’ doorposts to protect them. God passed over every home that had blood on its doorposts.)

Ask: **How does verse 12 show us God’s holiness?**
(God is holy. Executing His judgments on the gods of Egypt distinguished Him as different or from anything Egypt had ever seen.)

Ask: **Something had to die in order for God to “pass over” the Israelites. Why?**
(Putting the Passover lamb’s blood on their doorposts signified their faith in what God had said and showed their obedience to Him. When God struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, those with the blood of the Passover lamb would be saved. The blood distinguished the Israelites from the Egyptians.)

Ask: **How does Exodus 12:1-14 apply to us today?** (Hint: look at John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7.)
(Jesus is the better Passover Lamb whose blood covers and protects us from the wrath of God. When we put our faith in Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, His blood shed for us preserves and delivers us from sin and death.)

WRAPPING UP

Enlist a student to read Isaiah 6:1-7 out loud.

Ask: **How would you have reacted if you were Isaiah?** (Answers will vary.)

Ask: **Why did Isaiah respond the way he did?** (Isaiah clearly saw how great and glorious
God is and immediately saw the depth of his sin and how unworthy he was to be in the presence of God.)

Ask: What do you think the coal that touched Isaiah's lips represents? (The coal represents that God alone could be the One to make Isaiah pure. There is nothing that Isaiah could do to cleanse himself of his sins, so the coal was a symbol of God purifying and cleansing Isaiah. It was a foreshadow to Jesus cleansing us of our sins through His death.)

Say: God is holy. Because we are not, we cannot be in His presence. Isaiah recognized this as soon as he stood before God. He knew that he was lost and unclean (another way of saying sinful) and had no business being in God's presence.

But instead of casting Isaiah out, God sent an angel to touch his lips with a coal from an altar in the throne room. A peculiar things happened: Isaiah's sin was atoned for. His guilt and sin were taken away, not because of what he did, but because of what God had done.

In the same way God sent Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, into the world to save lost, unclean sinners like us. Jesus came and lived a sinless life, then died a sinner’s death, bearing our sins upon Him, paying the debt that we owed, so that we may be called sons and daughters of God!

REFLECTION

Ask: What did you learn from today's Bible study?

Ask: What questions about God do you have from this Bible study?

Ask: Do you struggle to believe any of what we talked about today?

Ask: How can you take what you have learned to help combat these doubts?

How would you have reacted if you were Isaiah?

Why did Isaiah respond the way he did?

What do you think the coal that touched Isaiah's lips represents?

PSALMS OF PRAYER (PSALM 51)
Forgiveness (v. 1 - 2)
Confession (v. 3 - 5)
Restoration (v. 6 - 13)
Worship (v. 14 - 17)
Strengthen (v. 18 - 19)
Spend the last few minutes using Psalm 51 as a prayer guide. Read the selected verses, spending time reflecting on and praying through each section:

1. Ask God to forgive you of your sin and have mercy on you, according to who He is (vv. 1-2).
2. Begin confessing your sins to God. He is the One we have ultimately sinned against (vv. 3-5).
3. Ask God to cleanse you and restore and renew your heart (vv. 6-13).
4. Ask God to help you genuinely worship Him in all areas of your life (vv. 14-17).
5. Pray for each other, asking God to strengthen you all to live lives that are pleasing to Him (vv. 18-19).

Keep it up!

Today, we are specifically asking the Lord to save lost students in your group.

- Student Life
MISSION CAMP CHURCHES: This will take place for Recreation groups while you are teaching your Bible study. Use this material at your mission site if time allows.

WHY PRAYER GATHERING?
Prayer is an essential aspect of being a Christian. James 5:16 states, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...”. As a Life Group Leader, we believe one of the most important practices you can establish with your group is to pray with them.

WHAT IS IT?
Prayer Gathering is an intentional opportunity for you to make disciples in your Life Group by leading them in prayer. We have Prayer Gathering after dinner so that you have time to prepare for Worship.

SO HOW DOES IT WORK?
Simply find any space on campus that works for your group, and then lead your group in prayer. This could be in your dorm rooms, outside by the dining hall or worship center, or any safe area in the space Student Life is using on campus. We provide a focus verse for each day, and then a few topics to pray for. This is a great time to catch up with your group about what they have learned that day and to share prayer requests. We encourage you to get everyone in the group to pray, whether that means you go around the circle one by one, or “popcorn” around the group until everyone has a chance to pray.

Remember, doors to Worship open about 20 minutes before service starts, so when you finish up, head on over to the Worship Center.

If you would like any help, or if you want to get a fresh face to hop in your group, ask any of the Student Life Staff to join you. We would love to serve you however we can!

READ TOGETHER:
“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:14-16

Briefly discuss how this verse fits in with the Bible Study from today. How does it practically look for us to be holy?

Ask God to help you see areas where you need to give things up in order to be holy.

Ask that God would help you develop a posture of obedience to His Word.

Pray that God will prepare your heart for Worship tonight as we dive into His Word.
OVERVIEW
In our culture today, the word love can be used to describe our emotional feelings for just about anything: food, movies, people, and so forth. Emotions are good, but are emotions all that love is? God tells us His love is not dependent upon our actions, but is promised through His commands. His love is steadfast, faithful, and gracious.

BIG TAKEAWAY
God is love. God loves us and desires a relationship with us. He gave the commandments to guide us, protect us, and reveal our need for Him.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?
I can be released from the chains of sin and be free to love others because of the great love Christ has shown me.

FOCUS VERSE: EXODUS 34:6-7A

The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: “The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”
ICEBREAKER: LEGIT LAWS

DIRECTIONS
Instruct your group stand up while you read out the Wacky Laws one at a time and see if they can correctly guess whether the law is real or fake. Create two separate areas for your students to stand to make their choice, kind of like drawing a line in the sand forcing them to choose one side or the other. Create one spot to denote real and another for fake. For an added element of fun, encourage your students keep track of how many correct answers they get to see who can get the most!

OBJECTIVE
To help students realize that laws are usually created for the good of the citizens who will be impacted by the laws. This will help students understand that God has given us commandments because He loves us.

1. It is legal in most U.S. states to have a skunk as a pet.
   (Fake, it is illegal in 30 states, and the majority of states in which it is legal require special permits or regulations).

2. In New Jersey, it is against the law to commit murder while wearing a bulletproof vest.
   (Real, wearing a bulletproof vest while committing crimes can lead to additional charges against the criminal.)

3. In Canada, one cannot solely use coins as their form of payment.
   (Real, stores can legally refuse excessive amounts of coins.)

4. In Devils Lake, North Dakota, it is illegal to set off fireworks after dark.
   (Fake, but it is illegal to set off fireworks after 11 p.m.)

5. In the country of Holland, every man under 25 is legally required to be clean-shaven in public.
   (Fake, we totally made this one up.)

6. In San Francisco, California, you could be fined if you feed pigeons.
   (Real, San Francisco blames pigeons for spreading disease and damaging property.)

BIBLE STUDY

LEGIT LAWS
1.  
6.  
2.  
7.  
3.  
8.  
4.  
9.  
5.  
10.

How do you think our culture today defines love?

What do you think love is?

Have you seen examples of love in your life?

Read Exodus 34:1-10.
7. In Bangladesh, students 15 years or older can go to jail if they cheat on their final exams.
   (Real! Think about that the next time you’re tempted to cheat).

8. The sale and import of all water guns has been banned in the capital city of Cambodia.
   (Real, to cut down on accidents and incidents of people maliciously using the toys).

9. In the state of Alabama, it is illegal to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church.
   (Real. I “mustache” you to leave all fakes at home.)

10. A law in Texas requires criminals to give their victims a 24-hour notice, either orally or written, to explain the nature of the crime to be committed.
    (Fake, it was proposed, but never passed.)

GETTING STARTED

Say: Most laws are created for a reason, generally to ensure the good of the citizens who are affected by the laws. Laws generally protect our safety and preserve our rights, however we often don’t see laws or rules as loving. But what is love? Is it an emotional feeling or something much deeper? How can laws or even God’s commandments be loving? Ultimately, we all have something in common: everyone has a desire to be loved. So what does God say about love? Before we look at God’s definition of love, let’s spend a few minutes talking about our culture’s view of love.

Ask: How do you think our culture today defines love? Explain.
   (Answers will vary.)

Ask: What do you think love is?
   (Answers will vary.)

Ask: Have you seen examples of love in your own life? Explain.
   (Answers will vary.)

Say: While culture may have love figured out, unless it starts with God, love’s definition is incomplete. As we look at Exodus 34:1-10 today, I want us to take everything we’ve ever thought about love and put it aside, and instead see what God’s definition of love is.

Call for a student to read aloud Exodus 34:1-10.
Ask: **What do verses 6-7 reveal about God’s character?**
(God cannot be boxed in by one characteristic. Even though Israel had rebelled many times, God was still faithful to keep His promises. God’s love for His children is unconditional and limitless.)

Ask: **Verses 8-9 give us a snapshot of Moses’ reaction to God’s proclamation about who He is. Why do you think Moses reacted this way? How would you have reacted?**
(Moses recognized that he was standing in the presence of God and was overcome by God’s love. Moses recognized that God is truly a loving, merciful God who has rescued Israel even though they rebelled against Him.)

Ask: **Was Moses’ reaction to God in this passage different than his encounter with God at the burning bush? Explain.**
(Moses had witnessed and experienced God’s love since the burning bush and was changed by it. Moses had grown to know God more deeply and had seen His love on display for His people time and time again.)

Ask: **What does that tell us about how we should respond to God?**
(Even though Moses had grown closer in His relationship with God, Moses never stopped worshipping God. In the same way for us, our worship of God should grow as our understanding of God’s love grows.)

Ask: **In verse 10, God told Moses that He would make a covenant with Israel. How is this an act of love?**
(Hint: check out Exodus 19:4-6) 
(God chose Israel as His people out of all the nations on the earth to be His treasured possession. God was establishing a covenant with Israel to bind them together forever, no matter what.)

Say: **If we were to continue reading Exodus 34, we would learn more about what the covenant entails as God explained it Moses. These verses are basically a recap of Exodus 20, where God gave Israel the famous Ten Commandments.**

Some of you may still be asking how a covenant shows love toward Israel. That’s a great question to be asking! Let’s turn back to Exodus 20 and find out.

Enlist a student to read Exodus 20:1-21 out loud.
Ask: When you think about the laws and commandments of God, what is your usual attitude toward them? Explain. (Answers may vary. Many students may have a negative attitude toward them, as with any rule.)

Ask: What did God remind Israel of before giving them the Ten Commandments? (Hint: check out verse 2.) What has God done in your life that helps you remember how loving He is? (God reminded Israel how He had rescued them out of Egypt and that His deliverance came before His commands. God revealed the greatness of His love before telling Israel to obey Him.)

Ask: Why did God give Israel commandments to follow? (Because God loved Israel, He gave them commandments and guidelines by which to live. He loves His people and desires to protect them from sin and death. Israel was to represent God and be a light to the nations.)

Ask: How was it loving for God to give Israel commandments to follow? (Yahweh is a loving, caring God who wants what is best for His people. He desires to maintain an intimate relationship with His people, which is hindered by sin. The commandments reveal what sin is and guide us to right living. The commandments show us how to love God and people around us.)

**ACTIVITY: COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE**

**DIRECTIONS**
Take a few moments to compare the Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20 with the Scripture passages paired with them, discussing what happens each time someone broke one of these commandments.

**OBJECTIVE**
To show the grace of God through Christ and reveal that God’s commandments are not burdensome. He gives them to us because He loves us and cares for our well-being.
Now this does not give us freedom to break all of His commandments. To be clear, this activity exists to show what happens when God’s children, those in a covenant relationship with Him, break a commandment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMANDMENT GIVEN</th>
<th>COMMANDMENT BROKEN</th>
<th>GOD’S RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You shall have no other gods.</td>
<td>Psalm 106:28-45</td>
<td>God relents His anger and is faithful to His covenant with His people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You shall not take the Lord’s name in vain.</td>
<td>1 Timothy 1:12-17</td>
<td>God’s grace, through Jesus, covers Paul’s sin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remember and keep holy the Sabbath day.</td>
<td>Isaiah 58:13-14</td>
<td>God gives joy to those who turn from disobedience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You shall not murder.</td>
<td>Acts 22:20; Gen. 4:8-11</td>
<td>God redeems Paul and protects Cain despite their transgression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You shall not commit adultery.</td>
<td>John 8:2-11</td>
<td>God doesn’t condemn those in Christ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You shall not covet.</td>
<td>2 Samuel 11:1-5; 12:13</td>
<td>God counts us righteous and gives eternal life through Jesus’ death. (2 Samuel 12:13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GOD’S RESPONSE

Ask: After reading these commandments and the Scripture passages paired with them, what stuck out to you?  
(Answers may vary. What we want is for your students to be thinking along the lines of: What stuck out to me was how God showed grace toward those who broke His commandments. God doesn’t stop loving His people when they break a commandment.)

Ask: How did God react every time someone broke His commandments? Explain.  
(God showed grace to His people because He never gives up on them. God shows grace even when they broke the commandments, etc.)
LESSON 3: I AM LOVE

Ask: Have you ever seen God’s commandments as burdensome? Explain. (God’s commandments are not burdensome. He gives them to us out of His love for us, in order to protect us from sin.)

Say: Did you notice how every one of these commandments was broken by someone in the Scripture passages paired with them? This does not give us free reign to sin as much as we want. God calls us to obedience, and when we are disobedient we break His heart. But these passages do remind us that even when we fail, He still loves us. God does not tolerate sin (which is why we need Jesus’ sacrifice), but if we choose to repent we find God still loves us despite our failures.

WRAPPPING UP

Invite a student to read 1 John 4:7-12 out loud.

Ask: How does God show His love toward us today? (God shows His unfailing love toward us today through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. We’re able to see God’s love for us today through God sending His Son, Jesus.)

Ask: How do we show that we are the children of God? (By keeping His commands. If we call ourselves followers of Christ, we should actually follow Christ with our actions. We show our love for God by faithfully keeping His commands.)

Note: this could be a good time to mention Jesus’ fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17), His institution of the New Covenant, and the fact that we are no longer required to uphold all the Old Testament laws.

Ask: How do Exodus 34 and 1 John 4 apply to us today? (Israel was called to be a light to the nations, showing the same love to others that God had showed to them. In the same way, we are to show the love of God by sharing the good news of Jesus with others. We are called to faithfully follow and keep God’s commandments because that’s how we show that we are actually Christians.)
LESSON 3: I AM LOVE

REFLECTION

Ask: What did you learn from today’s Bible study?

Ask: What questions about God do you have after this Bible study?

Ask: Do you struggle to believe any of what we talked about today?

Ask: How can you take what you have learned to help combat these doubts?

Close your Bible study by praying through the following topics:

1. Thank God for the commandments He’s given us.
2. Ask God to help you view His commandments as loving and not burdensome.
3. Ask God to help you and your church to love others around you as God has loved you.

You’re a Life Group Leader pro by now! We hope you had a great Bible Study today. What you’re doing matters!

- Student Life
READ TOGETHER:

“Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Briefly discuss how God shows us the characteristics of love given to us in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. A good way to go through this is to read “I am…” and then the characteristic (ex. “I am patient, I am kind, etc.). Then, on your own, ask yourself if you are an example of those characteristics.

Thank God for the love He shows you.

Ask that He would help you grow in the love you show to yourself and others.

Pray for Compassion International and the children around the world who need the love and hope found in Jesus.

Pray that God will prepare your heart for Worship tonight as we dive into His Word.
LESSON 4: I AM WITH YOU

OVERVIEW
No matter what, God never leaves or abandons His people. Once we are adopted into His family, we can never be “un-adopted.” God gives His people His Holy Spirit to encourage and lead them throughout life, reminding them that He is always with them.

BIG TAKEAWAY
As children of God, we are never truly alone. God’s presence—His Holy Spirit—dwells inside of us, leading, helping, guiding, and comforting us to live a joy-filled life.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS?
Knowing that Christ is with me, I can walk through the challenges of life with confidence, making disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit.

FOCUS VERSE: EXODUS 40:36-38

The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey. If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey.
DEBRIEF
Before beginning today’s Life Group Bible Study, take a couple of minutes and process with your students what has happened in your lives this week. Here are a few questions to get conversation started:

1. What has been your favorite memory of camp so far?
2. How has God been speaking to and teaching you this week?
3. What is one new thing you have learned about God? About yourself?
4. How have you grown spiritually this week?
5. What can you take from this week and apply to your life back home?

ICEBREAKER: TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK
In the left column, you will find a list of main characters from a movie, TV show, or a video game and in the right column, you’ll find their close friend or sidekick who helped the main character finish their mission. Draw a line from the main character (in the left column) to their friend (in the right column) to distinguish who worked with who.

GETTING STARTED
SAY: It’s safe to say you probably remembered most of these characters and their stories. (Don’t worry we won’t tell your parents how much TV you binge-watched instead of doing homework). In reality, even though these main characters seem so great, they encounter great adversity where they don’t feel like they can finish. But their friends are there to support them and walk through life with them. We’ve all been there, right? Whether it was a breakup, a big move to a new city or school, or starting a new job, we’ve all been in a spot where life was not going how we planned or thought it would go and we needed someone to be there for us. At the root of all of this, is the feeling that we’re alone or at least, that we’re the only people going through these things.

TEAMWORK MAKE THE DREAM WORK
Harry Potter  
Frodo Baggins  
Catniss Everdeen  
Mario  
Ray  
Sherlock Holmes  
Woody  
Robin  
Buzz Lightyear  
Finn  
Dr. Watson  
Luigi  
Hermonie Granger & Ron Weasley  
Samwise Gamgee  
Peeet Mallark

GETTING STARTED
Have you ever felt left out, alone, or like things weren’t going your way before? When was it? What caused it?

From where/whom did you seek help from to fix the situation?

Read Exodus 40:16-18

What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
LESSON 4: I AM WITH YOU

Ask: Have you ever felt left out, alone, or like things weren’t going your way? When was it? What caused it? Explain.
(Answers will vary.)

Ask: From where/whom did you seek help from to fix the situation? Explain.
(Answers will vary.)

Say: It’s safe to say that the Israelites probably felt this way, too. On Day 1, we encountered the Israelites feeling left out, alone, and abandoned in their slavery. But God stepped in and saved them by freeing them from their physical bondage in Egypt. After He freed them, He made a covenant with them. After He made a covenant with them, He sent His presence to be with them wherever they went to lead them on their journeys.

Today we’ll be talking about how God never leaves His children alone. He sends His Holy Spirit to dwell inside of us, guiding us into all truth. It is also proof that we have been adopted into the family of God. So remember, much like the song lyrics, God will never leave us alone. He will be there for us, literally in Spirit, leading and guiding us into a joy-filled life.

Invite a student to read Exodus 40:36-38.

What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
(God never leaves His people. God is always with His people. He’s faithful to His promise to always be with Israel, and so forth.)

Why was it important that the Israelites waited for the presence of God before they set out on any journeys?
(Every other time they tried to do something on their own they failed miserably.)

Ask: Have you ever tried to do things on your own like the Israelites sometimes did? What happened?
(Answers will vary. We’re looking for something to the effect of “I ended up exactly like the Israelites” or “Things went well for a while, but then I realized how lost I was without following the Spirit of God,” etc.)

TEAMWORK MAKE THE DREAM WORK
Harry Potter
Frodo Baggins
Catniss Everdeen
Mario
Batman
Rey
Sherlock Holmes
Woody
Robin
Buzz Lightyear
Finn
Dr. Watson
Luigi
Herminie Granger & Ron Weasley
Samwise Gamgee
Peeta Mellark

GETTING STARTED
Have you ever felt left out, alone, or like things weren’t going your way before? When was it? What caused it?

From where/whom did you seek help from to fix the situation?

Read Exodus 40:36-38

What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
How do these verses apply to you in your day-to-day life?
(Answers will vary. We’re looking for something like: These verses remind me
that God will always be there for me in the good and the bad. These verses show
me that I can trust God to lead and guide me through life, helping me to make
decisions that honor him.)

Say: It’s the same way for us as it was with Israel. After God frees us from our slavery
to sin by the power of Christ, He doesn’t just leave us to fend for ourselves. He makes
a covenant with us through Christ and sends His Holy Spirit to lead us throughout the
rest of our days. This is good news! Just like God led the Israelites thousands of years
ago, He leads us, as well. We have this promise straight from the mouth of Jesus in
John 16:13: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

The apostle Paul also wrote about the Holy Spirit, saying, “In him you also were
sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel
of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of
our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory”
(Eph. 1:13-14). Being sealed with the Holy Spirit means that once we are saved, we
can never be “un-saved.” Once we’ve been adopted into the family of God, we are
always in the family of God. The Holy Spirit proves that we are children of God.

Ask: What does John 16:13 tell us about the
way the Holy Spirit leads us? (The Spirit
will walk with us and lead us into truth. We
don’t reach it immediately, but we have God
walking with us guiding us toward truth as
we seek Him.)

Ask: What is significant about being “sealed”
with the Holy Spirit? (It is significant because
it means once we trust in Jesus, we cannot
lose our salvation. Once we are saved, we
cannot be separated from Jesus because we
have been “sealed” or secured by the Holy
Spirit who dwells within believers.)

Ask: Practically, how does God lead and
guide us today? What does it look like?
(He primarily speaks to us through His
inspired word, the Bible. His Spirit also lives in
us and guides us as we pray and seek God’s
will according to Scripture.)
LESSON 4: I AM WITH YOU

Ask: Have you ever felt the presence of the Holy Spirit leading you in different life situations? Explain.
(Answers will vary.)

WRAPPING UP: ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DIRECTIONS
Challenge your Life Group to take the next few minutes and individually look up each Scripture passage, identifying each attribute of the Holy Spirit and filling in the blank in their magazines. Once the group has finished, go through the list and discuss what the students wrote down, giving them the answer if they don’t already have it.

OBJECTIVE
Students will see attributes of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.

(next page)
LESSON 4: I AM WITH YOU

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE
Genesis 1:1-2
John 6:62-63
John 3:5-8
Acts 1:8
1 Corinthians 6:11
2 Peter 1:21
Ephesians 1:13-14
Galatians 5:16-26
1 John 4:13
Ephesians 4:1-6

ATTRIBUTE
The Holy Spirit is the eternal God.
The Holy Spirit gives life.
The Holy Spirit causes us to be born again.
The Holy Spirit empowers us for service.
The Holy Spirit sanctifies us.
The Holy Spirit inspired the Bible.
The Holy Spirit guarantees our eternal inheritance.
The Holy Spirit leads and guides us.
The Holy Spirit reminds us we are saved.
The Holy Spirit unites His people.

Say: I bet there were a few things about the Holy Spirit that you didn’t know in there!
Ask: What did you learn about the Holy Spirit that you previously did not know?

REFLECTION
Ask: How does knowing this about the Holy Spirit help us as Christians? Explain.

Ask: What did you learn from today’s Bible study?
Ask: What questions about God do you have after today’s Bible study?
Ask: Do you struggle to believe any of what we talked about today?
Ask: How can you take what you have learned to help combat these doubts?

As you close this time of Bible study, take the next few minutes to pray through these different prayer topics:

1. Spend a few moments thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to lead us.
2. Ask God to help you hear His voice clearly as camp ends and you go home.
3. Pray for the leaders of your student ministry and your church, specifically that they would be led by the Holy Spirit as they lead.
READ TOGETHER:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

Discuss how this verse fits into today’s theme “I Am With You”, and what that means for us as we share the Gospel.

During tonight’s service we will be taking up an offering for the IMB Syrian Refugee School Project. Tell your students to be prepared for this, if they wish to give toward the offering.

Pray that the Lord would use the Refugee Schools to love refugees well as they share the good news of Jesus with them.

Thank God for the gift of salvation and the mission and purpose we have because of Jesus.

Ask God to show you people with whom you can share the Gospel.

Ask that God would give you boldness as you share.

Pray that God will prepare your heart for Worship tonight as we dive into His Word.

You made it! We hope and pray you will continue seeing fruit from your labor in the coming days and weeks. Thank you for investing in students!

- Student Life