

BIG PICTURE:

GOD LOVES YOU

BIG IDEA:

GOD SO LOVED

BIG POINT:

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOU AND FOR ME

BIG WORD:

AND MAY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO UNDERSTAND, AS ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD, HOW WIDE, HOW LONG, HOW HIGH, AND HOW DEEP HIS LOVE IS. EPHESIANS 3:18 (NLT)



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DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This document is the Leader's Guide for BIG Picture GOD LOVES YOU TTW1.4. It contains a summary of the BIG Message 'LIVE'.

The BIG 'Tell The World' User Guide document contains all the service element information, including the large group segment of your service.

Make sure you read through and prayerfully study this material prior to your service to be fully prepared to minister to your children.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this lesson children will:

- Know that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins.
- Understand the Grace of God; that we did not do anything to deserve this free gift of salvation but that it came out of His great love and grace towards us.

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BIG MESSAGE 'LIVE' OUTLINE

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

Use this outline to construct a message that works for you and your children's ministry.

INTRO

Supplies Needed: Red hearts cut out, markers, red material or sheet.

To introduce today's **BIG IDEA:** 'GOD SO LOVED':

- Give each child a red heart (approx A4/US letter size), or hand out a number to leaders sitting with the children.
- Ask the leaders or children to write on their heart a list of the things that they love more than anything else in the world, e.g. names of their family and friends, etc.
- Explain that each heart represents all the love they have for the people on their lists. Get each person to hold the small red heart close to their own heart tightly.
- Throw over the entire group a huge piece of red material (e.g. a sheet or blanket, or anything else that is large and red). Explain that as big as our love is for our family, Jesus' love (like that large sheet) is far longer and wider and deeper than our love is for each other.

STORYTELLING

Tell the story of Jesus going to the cross, taking the children on a journey as you tell it. Make the various settings in the story around your room or even throughout areas of your church using props and even actors dressed up.

The Last Supper (Matthew 26:27 – 35)

It was the night before Jesus' death and He and the disciples shared together a special meal. While they were eating the meal, Jesus picked up the bread gave thanks and then broke it into pieces and gave it out to the disciples. He said "Take and eat, this is my body". Then He picked up the cup, gave thanks and offered it to the disciples saying "Drink from this cup; this is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Although the disciples didn't fully

Scripture References:

Joshua 24:14

Psalms 29:1-2

Matthew 26-28

Luke 23-24

John 3:16

John 14:2

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:13

Romans 10:9

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 3:18

1 John 1:9

1 John 3:1

1 John 4:9

1 Peter 4:8

2 Peter 1:2

understand what Jesus was saying, in time they would understand He was using them to represent His death for their sins.

Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-55)

Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He told them all to sit while He went off to pray. He returned to the other disciples and he found them all asleep! He woke them up and told them to stay awake and keep praying. This happened three times. Jesus woke them up after the third time and while they were talking, Judas, who was about to betray Jesus, appeared with soldiers and officials and they arrested Jesus.

Jesus before Pilate (Matthew 27:11-26)

Jesus was taken as a prisoner to Pilate along with the chief priests who accused Him of doing wrong, but He gave no answer to their accusations. As was the custom, Pilate said to the crowd that had gathered, "Who do you want to release? Jesus or this other prisoner Barabbas?" (Barabbas was a well known criminal.) They all shouted, "We want to release Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What should we do with Jesus then?" and they answered, "Crucify him!"

Jesus Crucified (Matthew 27:32-44)

The soldiers mocked Jesus; beating Him, twisting a crown of thorns and pushing it onto His head. Then they led Him away to be crucified. He was to conquer death and pay the penalty for all so that every single person could be reunited with God.

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-20)

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb. The guards rolled a huge stone over the opening. Early in the morning Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalene went to the cave where Jesus' body was buried. When they got there the stone was rolled away and Jesus' body was gone! An angel appeared to them and said, "Do not be afraid, He is not here, He has risen." They were so full of joy that they ran to tell Peter and the disciples.

OBJECT LESSON

Love – No matter what.

Show the children a photo of a parent and a child. (You could use a photo from your family if that applies.) Tell the children about how much the parent loves their child and would do anything for them. They would stay up all night with them when they are sick, love spending time with them and no matter how naughty they can be sometimes, they still love them, no matter what.

God loves us more than we can imagine. He loves everybody no matter who they are or what sorts of things they have done in their lives. We know that He loves us because of what He has done for us. Knowing that none of us were able to keep His high standard (Romans 3:23), God sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for us (Romans 5:8; John 3:16).

Through accepting Jesus and what He has done for us, we can have our sins washed away and be made clean before God (Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9). Through God's love we also have the ability to grow in God (2 Peter 1:2) and share eternal life with Him in Heaven (Romans 6:23; John 14:2).

POINTS*1. God loves the world.*

God's love is not just for me, it's for everyone. It is hard to imagine the kind of love God has for us. 1 John 3:1 (NLT) "See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!" Nothing we have ever done could make God love us less and nothing we can ever do can make God love us more (Ephesians 3:18). He loves everybody equally and unconditionally.

2. God sent Jesus for my salvation.

His sacrifice gives me life. When God gave up His only Son, He sacrificed the most important thing to Him so that we could have a friendship with God. 1 John 4:9 says God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. It doesn't matter how many wrong things someone may have done, when Jesus died, He took ALL sin upon Himself. (1 Peter 4:8). God loves all of us so much that He made a way for every single one of us to receive salvation.

3. Believing in Jesus means living for Him.

Jesus offers us friendship. When we become Jesus' friend, we follow Him. We pray, listen, read the Bible and worship Him in everything that we do. When we spend time with Jesus we start thinking the way He thinks and we become more like Him. Galatians 2:20 (NLT) says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Live a life that honours Him. (Joshua 24:14, Psalm 29:1-2).