



Children's Lesson – May 6, 2020

GOD IS LOVE!

BACKGROUND FOR CAREGIVERS

Bible Passages – Acts 11:19–30 (The Church in Antioch)

In the early days following Jesus' ascension, many people were coming to faith. Some believers went to the city of Antioch and preached the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles.

When the Jerusalem church heard of the growing number of believers in Antioch, they sent Barnabas—a godly and faith-filled man—to visit. During his first stay, Barnabas witnessed the blessing of God upon these believers; many turned and put their faith in the Lord. Barnabas left Antioch and returned with Paul. They stayed in the city for a year teaching the Word of God.

It's from this time of God's Spirit moving in Antioch that we see the beginning of the Gentile movement: the first Gentile church, the first missionaries, and the first act of generous financial giving for another local church community. It's here in Antioch that believers were first named Christians (*Christianoi*), or "partisans of Christ." What citizens of the city may have coined in jest, the followers of the Way embraced as a fitting title to describe their new identity.

Antioch enjoyed a prosperous economy due to its strategic location at the crossroads for trade routes south to Palestine and Egypt, east to Persia, and west to the Asia Minor peninsula. It was a blend of many cultures, beliefs, and practices – and was also known for its extravagant, wasteful, and reckless behavior.

Have you ever watched a makeover show of any kind on television? Or have you ever heard a story of great life change in a sermon at church? When you do, what's your gut reaction? Is the Holy Spirit calling you to action? What's your response?

This week, when you find yourself in a situation where you're having your "heartstrings" tugged or you experience that fiery feeling in your core after hearing or seeing something in particular, stop and pause for a moment. Is God saying something to you specifically? What is His love calling you to do? How will you answer? **God is LOVE!**

KEY VERSE

The Lord (point both hands to heaven)
is ready to help all those (extend two helping hands)
who call out to him. (cup your hands around mouth)

Psalm 145:18

BIBLE STORY

In the Bible, it says that Jesus told his friends to do something very important. He told them to go all over the world and tell everyone about God's love (show picture of heart).

Give me a thumbs up (thumbs up) if you think his friends listened to him and did what he said... They sure did!

After Jesus went up to heaven, his friends were very busy telling people all about God and His love. **GOD IS LOVE!** Many people listened to what they said and chose to follow Jesus (show picture of group of people).

One of Jesus' friends, named Barnabus, went to a big city called Antioch. In that city, many people were learning about Jesus and the fact that **GOD IS LOVE!** The church in Antioch was growing and growing!

People were taking care of one another. If the people saw someone who was sick, they helped care for him. If they found someone that needed supplies, they gave food, water, blankets and clothes to him.

Barnabus saw how the people looked after one another. He saw how much the people loved God. And he could see God's love in them.

He was so excited that he wanted to tell even MORE people that **GOD IS LOVE!**

More, and more, and *more* people were choosing to love Jesus. The church grew and grew and *grew!* Soon, they began learning about God's Word – the BIBLE (show picture of Bible).

It's so wonderful that Jesus' friends chose to listen to him and obey him. They told others that **GOD IS LOVE** – and we can do that too!

I'm excited to show God's love to others and help people when they need it. Aren't you?

Who are you going to show God's love or help out today?

PRAYER

Let's pray and thank God for His big love for us:

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us so much!

We want to listen to you and obey you.

Please help us to be kind and show your love to others.

AMEN

WORSHIP SONGS

- Love One Another
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9diFwUly4M>
- Love Each Other
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhuQpOWiRZM>
- Stop and Go
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3q5OQVj0VI>
- It's About L-O-V-E
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLEjAj7DGU8>

CRAFT

HUGGING CARD

Supplies Needed:

- Download and print template with head, hands, and Bible verse
- White card stock paper – or plain white paper
- Yarn/string (for hair)
- Google eyes
- Glue sticks/Scissors
- Crayons/Markers

Caregivers:

- Prepare the white card stock paper
(Cut to 3 inch x 11 inch size – then fold paper in thirds)
- The two end sections of the card stock will have hands glued to the ends of them – making it look like the person is giving a hug.
- Cut out the head/body section and the 2 hands from the template.
- Say to your child:

When we think of hugs, we think about love.

GOD IS LOVE!

God loves you very much. His love for you will never change.
God's love will always be with you.

Children:

- Glue eyes and hair onto the face.

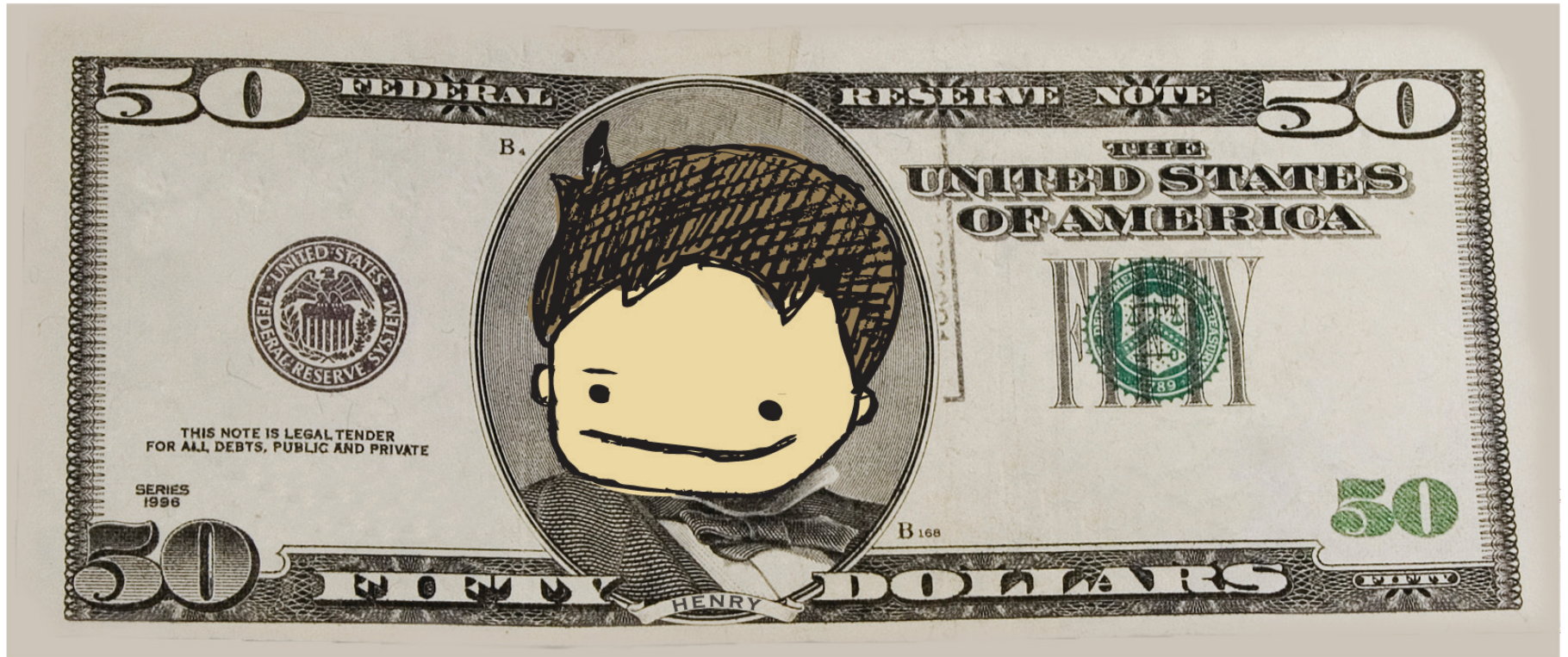
Trace mouth with red crayon/marker.

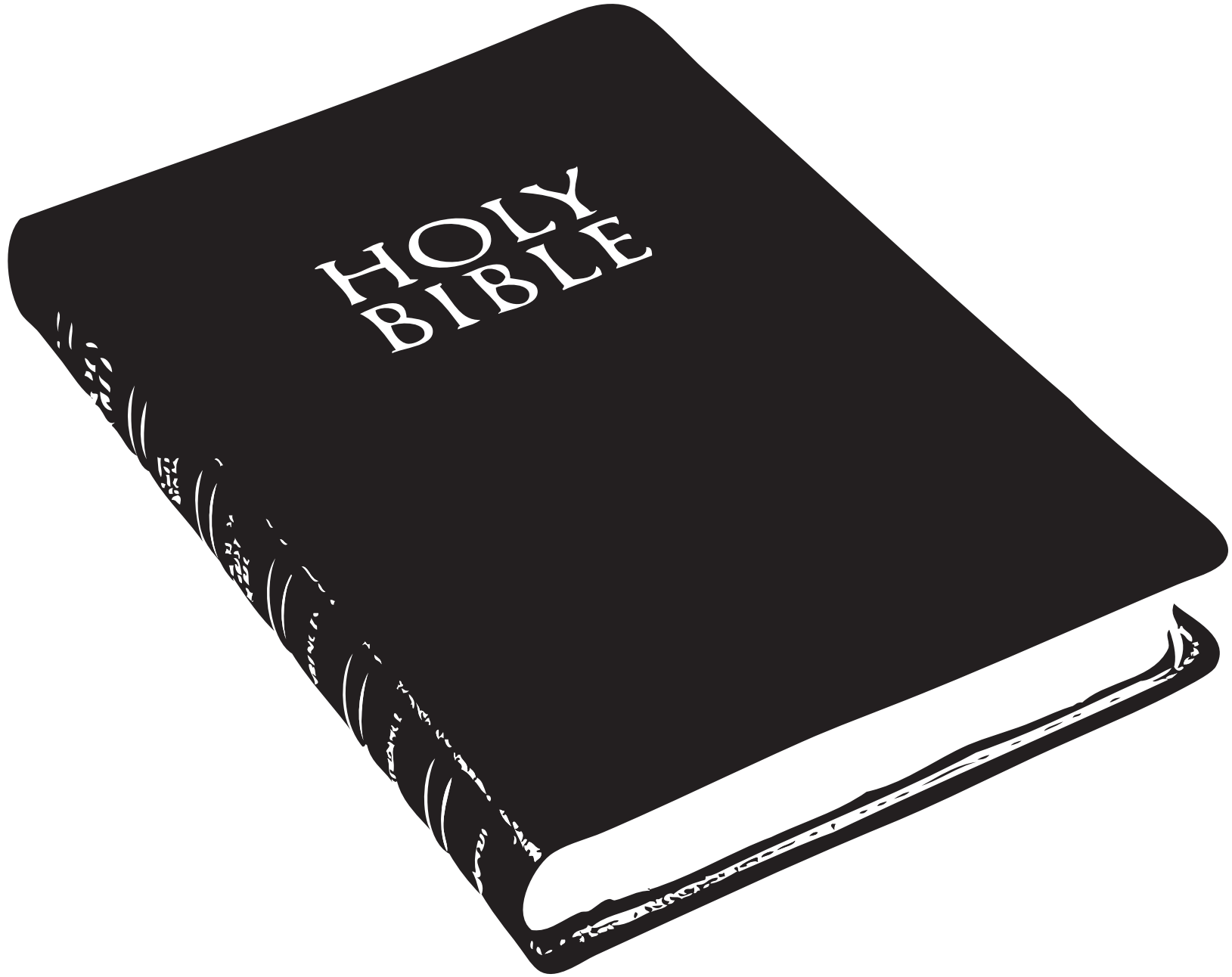
- Glue the face/verse section onto the middle section of the paper. (where the words are – is the shirt)
- Glue the hands to the end of the foldout.

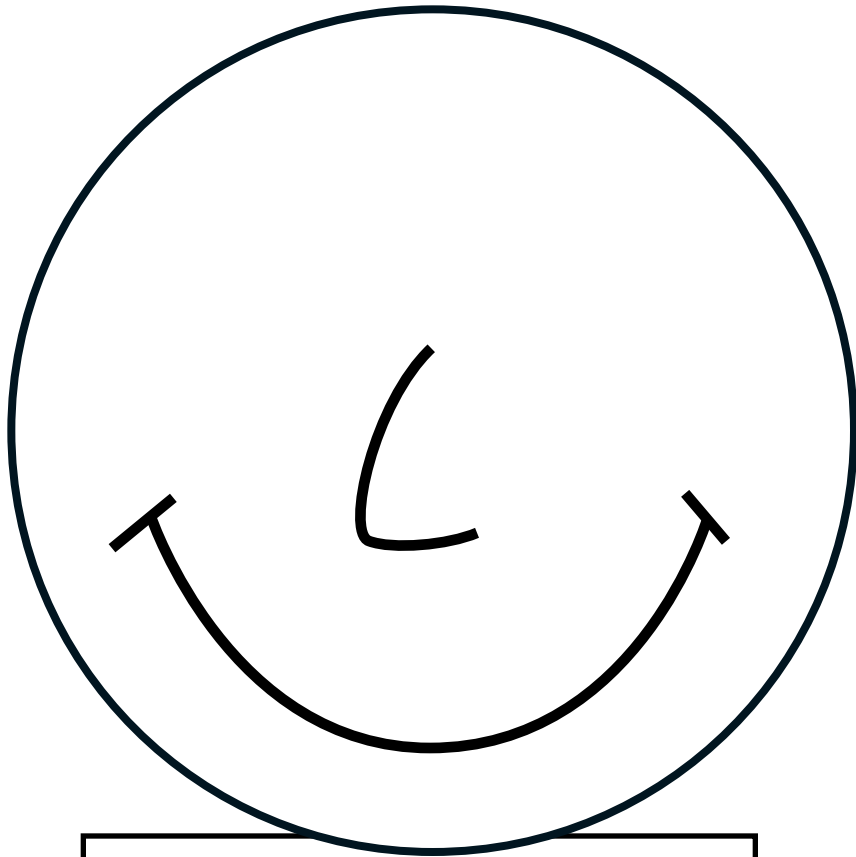
When you show your craft to others, say, “**GOD IS LOVE**”!











God is Love
The Lord is ready to
help all those who
call out to Him.

Psalm 145:18a

