

Share God's Love

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 9: 38-50

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 17

Lesson Focus
**Everyone can share God's
love.**



Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids use play dough to explore the emotions of anger and peace, make thumbprint heart pictures to share, and draw prayer reminders on cut-out hand tracings.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Play dough, craft sticks, paper, red ink pads, markers, moist towelettes, scissors, crayons or markers

Circle Time

Kids welcome each other with a name game and discuss questions related to Share God's Love.

None

None

Prayer Time

Kids hold hands and echo the leader's words in prayer.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Share God's Love Storytelling

Kids hear and interact with the story, Share God's Love.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Stop or Share?

Kids complete the leaflet picture with drawings and stickers as a means of retelling the Bible story.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
How Do People Share God's Love? Kids discuss photos and use stickers to identify ways to share God's love.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Colored pencils or crayons
Who Can Share? Kids play a sharing game and use collage materials to show different people who share.	Leaflets	Paper scraps, yarn scraps, kid-friendly scissors, glue sticks, markers, sequins or other embellishments
Passing the Peace Kids practice sharing the peace.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids do a quick review of the lesson.	Leaflets	None
Prayer Time Kids hold hands and repeat the leader's words in prayer to close.	Family Pages 	None

 Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Prior to kids' arrival, set out play dough and craft sticks. As kids arrive, welcome them into your space. Invite them to explore the emotions of anger and peace while using the play dough. Some kids may pound or roll the play dough; some may use it to make angry faces or peaceful flowers. Both of those feelings are part of today's Bible story. In another area, set out paper and red ink pads. Demonstrate how to make a thumbprint heart by using the side of your thumbs to stamp two thumbprints that overlap at the bottom to make a point. Encourage kids to make thumbprint hearts on the paper as a way to share God's love with others. Have moist towelettes on hand for easy cleanup.

During Pentecost we learn how to care for each other as a church family. One way to care for others is to pray for them. Let's make prayer reminders to keep or share with someone else. Demonstrate how to make a hand tracing on folded paper so that the fingers are along the fold. Invite kids to fold the paper in half, trace their hand, with their fingers along the fold (or have a friend help), and cut out. After cutting out their praying hands, they can draw something to pray for inside of the hands. Provide copies of the downloadable Coloring Page for this lesson for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When the kids have all had time to play, ask them to clean up their materials. As they do so, use the following rhyme to help them transition to Circle Time. Repeat the rhyme as many times as needed, inviting kids to join in as they are able.

**We've tried something new,
We haven't done before.
Please come join us now.
Let's learn something more.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Play dough

Craft sticks

Paper

Red ink pads

Markers

Moist towelettes

Scissors

Crayons or markers

Circle Time

When all the kids in your group are seated in your circle for Circle Time, you can begin. **Welcome everyone. Thank you for coming to Sunday school today. I'm so glad you're here! Let's start by seeing who's here!**

Welcome each kid by using this format: **We're glad you're here today; tell us your name today.**

Each kid responds by saying his or her name. The whole group responds with: **Hi, _____!**

Start with one person in the circle and continue around, making sure everyone gets a turn. Don't forget to include yourself.

During Play Time today, some of you played with play dough or made heart pictures to share. Let's see what you did! Give kids time to share their creations with the group. **Thank you for sharing!**

Your creations make me feel God's love! Allow time for kids to reflect and respond. **In today's Bible story, Share God's Love, we're going to hear what Jesus has to say about sharing God's love.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to hold hands with each other and repeat these words after you.

**Dear God,
Thank you for my friends.
Help us all to listen
And learn together.
Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Share God's Love Storytelling

It's time for the Bible story, Share God's Love. Listen carefully as you follow along, to find out what Jesus said about sharing God's love. Then we'll read the story again—and you can add some actions!

Hand out the Spark Story Bibles and help kids turn to Share God's Love on page 326. Read the story aloud as they follow along, pointing out the picture of the angry disciples on page 326. **Look at these disciples! How do you think they are feeling? (angry) Show me your angry faces.** Allow time for kids to make angry faces. **Great! Keep those faces handy while we read the story again.**

As you read Share God's Love again, have kids perform actions after the following sentences:

- I'm so angry! (*shake fist in air*)
- We tried to stop him! (*push palm out in front*)
- Wait a minute! (*both hands up, fingers spread*)
- Don't stop someone who teaches in my name! (*shake head "no"*)
- . . . whether we know the person or not! (*point to head with finger*)
- All of God's children can help each other have faith. (*spread arms out wide*)
- . . . everyone could know and share God's love. (*pat each other on the back*)

Ask kids the following questions, giving them time to answer in between. **Who was angry in the story?** (*disciples, John.*) **Did Jesus want others to stop sharing God's love?** (*no*) **What do you think the other people were saying about Jesus?** Allow time for kids to share their thoughts.

Let's look at our leaflets to learn even more about sharing God's love!

Stop or Share?

Gather the kids at an open workspace. Hand out leaflets and crayons.

Where have you seen this picture before? (*Spark Story Bible*) **Why are the disciples so angry?** (*Others are teaching about Jesus.*) **Find the open space on your leaflet.** Point to the open space to the left of John. **Draw someone teaching about Jesus.** Allow time for kids to do so. **John and the disciples were angry that other people were teaching about Jesus. They thought that it was only their job to teach about Jesus.**

Hand out the voice bubble sticker. **What did John say to the people teaching others about Jesus?** (*Stop!*) **Put this sticker by John. It says Stop. What did Jesus say about others teaching?** (*Everyone can share.*) **Trace the word "Share" by Jesus.** Point out the word and allow time for kids to trace the word. **In our Bible story today, Jesus said, "Everyone can share God's love."**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
Crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

How Do People Share God's Love?

Look with kids at the back of the leaflet, pointing out the three photos.

Look at the first photo. What's happening? Affirm kids' descriptions. **Is this a way to share God's love?** (yes) **When you call a grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, or friend to say "hi" or "I love you," you are sharing God's love. Let's put a sticker of Jesus saying, "Share," next to the photo, so that we remember.**

Continue in the same manner for each of the photos, inviting kids to place a Jesus sticker next to each photo. When you give a hug to someone, you are sharing God's love. **When you hold open a door, or help carry groceries, or smile at someone you don't know, you are sharing God's love!**

These are just some ways to share God's love. There are many more ways to share. Think of a way you can share God's love, too. Draw a picture of it in the empty space. Remember, everyone can share God's love! Allow time for kids to do so, inviting them to share their drawings with the group, as desired.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Crayons

Who Can Share?

Jesus says that everyone can share God's love. That includes people who are like you and people who are different from you! Let's play a quick game!

Invite the kids to pretend to be Bible times people, roaming around the room telling others about Jesus. Next, pick one person to be John and one to be Jesus. When John touches a person, he or she must stop moving and sharing instantly. When Jesus touches a person, she or he begins to share again, moving about and continuing to tell others about Jesus.

After a few minutes of play, return to leaflets and look at the Who Can Share? activity. **People come in all shapes and sizes, and all of them can share God's love. Decorate the person on your leaflets to remind you of that!** Distribute the materials, encouraging kids to use the variety of supplies in different ways to make unique creations.

When kids have had a chance to create, give them the opportunity to share their creation with the group. **All of our people are different. All different people can share God's love, just like Jesus said in our Bible story today!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Paper scraps
Yarn scraps
Scissors
Glue sticks
Markers
Sequins or other
embellishments (optional)

Passing the Peace

Gather the kids and have them sit together on the floor. Hold up the leaflet for all to see. Direct kids' attention to the seasonal icon on the top of the front page.

Spark Resources
None

Right now, we are in the church season of Pentecost. During Pentecost we learn how to care for others as a church family. In today's story, Share God's Love, Jesus tells the disciples to be at peace with others. What do you think peace means? (*calm, not fighting, working together, etc.*) **Sometimes people in our church family wish each other God's peace when they gather together, especially at worship. Have you done that? Let's practice wishing each other peace!**

Supplies
None

Have kids stand in a circle. Shake the hand of the child to your left while you say, **Peace to you, (name).** Invite her or him to respond back with, **"And also to you!"** Invite that child to turn to his or her left and repeat the process. Continue in this manner all the way around the circle.

When the peace has traveled around the circle, invite everyone to say, **"Amen!"** If time allows, you can do the entire process again.

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather the kids together in a circle on the floor. **We had a lot of fun with today's story, Share God's Love. We learned about something Jesus' disciples had to learn! They didn't want others to teach about Jesus, but Jesus said, "Everyone can share God's love!"**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

As you close the lesson, direct kids' attention to Faith on the Go! on the back page of the leaflet. **Everyone can share God's love. When you take your leaflet home, show your family the fun idea for telling others about God this week in Faith on the Go!**

Supplies
None

Before we leave today, let's think about our time together. Invite kids to echo your words and actions.

It's time to say, "Good-bye." (*wave*)

We've all learned something new. (*point to head*)

We'll keep growing in our faith (*slowly lift hands*)

In everything we do! (*spread arms wide*)

Prayer Time

Have kids hold hands with a partner as you close with a prayer. **Please repeat each line after me.**

**Dear God,
Thank you for my friends.
Help us all to share your love
Everywhere we go
All week long.
Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



Supplies

None