

Throwback

Week 4

BIG IDEA

Love always needs action.

BIBLE

The Rich Man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19–31; 1 John 4:7–21

LARGE GROUP TIME

What it is, my friends? Welcome back to Throwback! This is our final week of going back in time and seeing that the things Jesus taught are always trending because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! This week, we'll make one more groovy trip way, way, back to the 70's — the decade of peace and love! It's gonna be far out!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | We Will Rock You!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) from "Minions: The Rise of Gru" to show a humorous example of pet rocks in the 70's Then have kids get into two teams and play a "Rock, Paper, Scissors Relay."
- Are you groovy cats ready to rock? Speaking of which, did you know that in the 70's, people started having pet rocks? I guess they thought they would make the perfect pets because you wouldn't have to feed them, bathe them, walk them, or anything. Then that would also mean that you wouldn't get any of the other stuff that's wonderful about having a pet, like teaching them tricks, cuddling with them, and showing and receiving love!
- Let's see how much fun we can have when we actually interact with others through some funky rock, paper, scissors action!

POLL | How I Feel Loved

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids hold up a "peace sign" (or "V") if they agree that they would feel loved if they were recipients of the action you read out.
- **How do you know that someone loves you? Which of these actions will make you feel loved?**
 - They give you food.
 - They write you a card with hearts on it.
 - They help you when you need it.
 - They buy you chocolate or candy.
 - They take care of you when you're sick.
 - They share their things with you.
 - They listen to you.
 - They give you a flower.
 - They clean up for you.
 - They stick up for you.
 - They spend time with you.
 - They make you laugh.
 - They give you hugs.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Luke 16:19–31 (The Rich Man and Lazarus)

- **Let's see what it says in Luke 16:19–31.**
- It's hard not to feel sorry for the rich man who now had to spend eternity in a terrible place, but he was sorry too late. He had plenty of opportunities while he was still living to love others, but he blew it by only caring about himself and looking down on people like Lazarus.
- Jesus taught everyone to love but not just with words — with solid actions, while we still can! He showed us with how he lived his own life, and it's a good trend for us to follow, too!

BIG IDEA | Love always needs action.

Love always needs action.

STORY | Random Acts of Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a personal story of when someone showed you they loved you through actions. You may choose to read a few [stories](#) of people who were shown kindness.
- It's easy to say the words, "I love you." I love you. See? But when you truly love, it's always followed up by actions. Not because someone is forcing you, but because you want to show someone you love them.
- **Have you seen people in your life showing acts of love to others?**
- For example, when people are down, they need to know that someone cares. Sometimes, people show care with kind, encouraging words. But we can show God's love in even bigger ways when we follow it up with actions. **Love always needs action!**

ACTIVITY | Guess Who?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split kids into two teams and have the two teams stand facing each other. Select one person from each team to come to the front. Have them each secretly pick a person from the other team and tell you their names. Then the two kids take turns asking each other yes or no questions to guess who on their team you picked. Anyone who doesn't fit the answer

must sit down. For example, if they ask, "Are they wearing red?" and the answer is "no," everyone wearing red has to sit down. The two players can guess who the person is anytime it's their turn. If they are incorrect, the person they guessed has to sit down, too. The first person to correctly guess who the other team picked wins their team a point. Play a few more rounds with different players in the front.

- You had to really pay attention to each person to correctly guess who the player on the other team picked.
- The rich man from the Bible story saw Lazarus sitting at his gate every day but never noticed him or cared enough about him. It was easy for him to think someone else could help Lazarus while he focused on himself.
- It's easy to get caught up in our own lives and think that putting love into action is someone else's problem. For followers of Jesus, that's not a good look or attitude to have. When people don't know us, before they identify us as "the person wearing red" or "the one wearing glasses," they should be able to identify us as someone demonstrating love. Because **love always needs action!**

SCRIPTURE | 1 John 4:7–21

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage aloud. Then go through [pictures](#) of 70's fashion trends (or procure a few clothing and [accessories](#) if you can).
- It's been cool doing a little bit of time-traveling to the 70's! None of you were actually around in the 70's, but you know about them based on the things you've seen.
- In the same way, nobody has seen God but they can in a way when they see God's love living in us. This passage tells us that love comes directly from God because God is love. We know how to love because God showed us how to love first.
- We can choose to show love to others through our actions. When others see us being kind, compassionate, patient, forgiving, and helping, they are able to see a glimpse of what God is like! On the flip side, when we don't love and act in very unloving ways, we are acting as though we don't know God at all. We're not letting others get to know God through us.
- **Love always needs action!**

VIDEO | Throwback Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Press Play](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Always Trending

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a funny video of pets (like [this one](#)).
- I know we focused on a lot of things from the 1970's. You might have recognized some of the things and found them to be puzzling.
- But certain things will never go out of style, and one of them is how much we love our pets. For those of you who have a dog, cat, turtle, goldfish, or other kinds of pets, can you imagine if you told your pets you loved them every day but . . . you didn't feed them? Or play with them?
- Like our love for pets, Jesus' teachings are always trending. Jesus taught us that love is more than talk. **Love always needs action**, and merely thinking about loving others isn't the same as loving them through action!
- **When are times we might find it difficult to love or show love?**
- **What might be out-of-the-ordinary ways to express our love with action?**

RESPONSE | Plan to Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a copy of the [printable](#) printed on cardstock and have them fold it in half. Share some 70's slang (below) that kids could incorporate into their cards to say thank you to someone they love. Then provide a small treat (like smiley face stickers, temporary tattoos, or [70's candies](#)) to give to that person along with the card. Don't forget to pass some out as treats to your kids, too.
- Giving someone a thank you card or a small token of appreciation is one way to show you love them through actions. Be sure to include some cool words – well, it used to be cool – from the 70's in your card. You could use words like: far out, groovy, nifty, radical, stellar, bomb, off the hook, or slammin'!
- **Love always needs action.**

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

- **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."**

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank you for always being the same. You love us so much and you showed us this by coming to earth and dying on the cross. Help us to show our love for you and for the people in our lives – not just with words, but with actions. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **How differently did the rich man and Lazarus live?** The rich man lived in luxury and wealth, and Lazarus lived at the rich man's gate begging for scraps.
 - **Where did Lazarus go after he died? What about the rich man?** Lazarus went to be by Abraham's side – a kind of paradise – and the rich man went to Hades – a place of torment.
 - **What did the rich man ask Abraham?** He asked for a drop of water and to send someone to warn his family.
 - **Read 1 John 4:11–12. How can people see God through us?** When we love as God loves, people will see God through us.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **What is one thing we do to show we love God?** We can love others through actions.
 - **When might it be hard to show love to someone?**
 - **What are some neat things you can do to show someone you love them?**