

A vibrant graphic featuring a large, stylized dolphin leaping out of a splash of water. The background is a mix of orange and blue with abstract shapes and bubbles. A small starfish is visible in the upper left. The title 'STARFISH & DOLPHINS' is written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline.

STARFISH & DOLPHINS

WEEK 3, September 15th

Today's Bible Story: Jesus said to love one another. Jesus Gives a New Command • *John 4:1-30, 13:34-35; Luke 18:15-16, 19:1-10*

Memory Verse: "You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14, NIV

Key Question: Who can love like Jesus?

Bottom Line: I can love like Jesus.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SOCIAL: Time for fun!

ACTIVITY: Light Bright Toss

What You Need: Bottles of water, glow sticks, heart-shaped paper plates, and scissors

What You Do: Remove the labels from the bottles of water, and pour out a small amount of water from each bottle. Cut a large circle out of the middle of each heart-shaped plate. Set up the bottles of water in a pyramid pattern on the floor. Just before the activity, activate two to three glow sticks per bottle. Then, put them into each bottle, and secure the lids. Encourage children to take turns tossing the hearts onto the water bottles

What You Say: Let's play a fun game of ring toss! Instead of rings, we have these fun heart-shaped plates to use. Hearts make me think of love! Come line up behind me! Wow! Those water bottles are glowing—they are so bright! Let's take turns tossing the hearts to try and get them around those bright bottles of water."

MEMORY VERSE: When We Love Like Jesus...

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do: Ask children to stand in a circle with you. Review the Memory Verse and motions together. Select a child to stand in the center of the circle. Lead the children in a version of "Ring Around the Rosie" with the words of the Memory Verse. Include the child's name who is standing in the center. Continue with each child.

What You Say: (Start walking slowly and sing the following to the tune of "Ring Around the Rosie.")

"When [child's name] loves like Jesus,
When [child's name] loves like Jesus,
she/he is, she/he is,
the light of the world."

LARGE GROUP: Time to Praise & Worship God

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God. ways.

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging

SMALL GROUP: Time to connect with the children! PRAY: Praise God, Thank God!



STARFISH & DOLPHINS

CRAFT: Love Glasses

What You Need: “Love Glasses” Activity Page, washable markers, clear tape, scissors

NOTE: *This craft is a lot of cutting!*

What You Do: Assemble a set of glasses by taping the legs to each side for each child. Encourage children to decorate their glasses and wear them as you review the Bible Story.

What You Say: “Let’s put our glasses on and review the stories we heard about today. (Pause.) Jesus said the most important thing for us to do is LOVE each other the way He loves us! Jesus showed us how to love like Him, and we can read about it in the Bible. In our story today, we heard a few stories of how Jesus loved others. Like when Jesus was teaching one day, some children wanted to see Him, but the disciples told the children to go away. Jesus said: *‘Let the little children come to me’* (Luke 18:16, NIV). Jesus loved the children! Jesus loves everyone! We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!”

“Another story is when Jesus loved Zacchaeus even when Zacchaeus made bad choices. When Zacchaeus didn’t have any friends, Jesus was his friend. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and went to his house for dinner—He wanted to help Zacchaeus love others. Jesus loves everyone, even when they make bad choices. We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!”

“The story of the woman at the well is another story of how Jesus loves everyone. Jesus asked a woman at the well for a drink of water. The woman was surprised when Jesus spoke to her because she was from a different town than Him. The people from her town did not get along with the people from Jesus’ town. But Jesus loved the woman! Jesus loves everyone—no matter where they live. Jesus loves everyone. We can love like Jesus and love everyone too!”

ACTIVITY: Loving Like Jesus

What You Need: “Loving Like Jesus” Activity Page, painter’s tape, and heart stickers

What You Do: Tape each picture to different areas of the room at child’s height. Give each child three heart stickers. Encourage them to love like Jesus by going to the different parts of the story and placing a heart sticker on each of the images.

What You Say: “First, we heard how Jesus LOVES children. Jesus told the disciples to let the children to come to Him. Let’s go find the picture of Jesus and the children. (Pause.) Yay, you found it! Put one of your stickers on the picture to add some love. (Pause.) Jesus loves children, Jesus loves everyone, and we can too!”

“We also heard about Zacchaeus in our Bible Story. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had made bad choices. Let’s go find the picture of Jesus and Zacchaeus and put some love on that picture. (Pause.) Jesus loves people even when they make bad choices, and we can too!”

“Then we heard about the woman at the well. She lived in a different town than Jesus and the people in her town didn’t get along with the people from Jesus’ town. But Jesus loved her no matter where she lived. Put some love on the picture of Jesus and the woman at the well. (Pause.) Jesus loved the woman! Jesus loves everyone—no matter where they live, and we can too!”