

God's Big Love

John 3:16

Big Idea: God loved the world so much that he gave the world his very best - his one and only Son.

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Instructions

The introduction and conclusion of this story need to be memorised.

The conversation in this drama is expressed by the constant use of the word 'me' to convey different words, mood and meaning.

Requirements

- Narrator
- Three Actors: good at mime, need at least one male
- Drummer
- Props:
 - Extra large Easter egg
 - Drum
 - Low drama box

Script

Today we're going to look at one sentence.

One sentence in the Bible from the book of John.

The sentence begins...

God so loved.

God loved... and what did God love?

God so loved the world.

The world that we live in.

Actions

Actors stand backs to the audience.
Narrator centre stage.

So what is this world like - this world that God loved?

This is what our world is like.

This is the world God loved.

(Scene 1)

(Scene 2)

God so loved the world.

A world full of jealousy and pain.

Narrator moves to one side.

Drum beat plays, actors turn and walk in time to the drum beat saying 'me, me, me, me,...' until they're in place for Scene 1.

Shortest actor has an extra large Easter egg, hugs it and says, 'me, me, me...'

Second shortest actor sees the extra large Easter egg and walks towards it saying, 'me, me, me...'

A tug-of-war over the egg ensures, both actors saying, 'Me, me, me, me, me, me...'

Biggest actor turns around, sees the egg, takes it off others saying, 'me' .

Others walk to either side feeling sorry for themselves saying, 'me, me, me...'

Drum beat plays, actors turn and walk in time to the drum beat saying 'me, me, me, me,... ' until they're in place for Scene 2.

Female actor mimes looking in the mirror saying 'me' as she applies make-up and does hair.

Male actor does weights and looks at his muscles as he says, 'me.'

Third actor buys lots and lots of stuff, saying 'me' with each purchase, he/she ends up with arms full and drops them all.

All freeze.

Drum beat plays, actors turn and walk in time to the drum beat saying 'me, me, me, me,... ' until they're in place for Scene 3.

Narrator steps into the light.

Anger and hate.
Greed and selfishness.
This is the world God loved.
And how did God love this world?

(Scene 3)

Male actor turns around (if possible steps up onto a low drama box), head down.

One actor holds out one of the male actor's arms, then mimes hammering a nail into his hand, saying, 'me, me, me...' with each hammer blow.

Drum beats on each 'me' as well.

Actor then steps and stands beside male actor and puts his/her head down.

Third actor holds out the other arm of the male actor, then mimes hammering a nail into his hand, saying, 'me, me, me...' with each hammer blow.

Drum beats on each 'me' as well.

Actor then steps and stands beside male actor and puts his/her head down.

Male actor lifts his head and says, 'you', then immediately drops his head as if he died.

Other actors look up surprised and say, 'me' as if asking a question.

Freeze.

(Narrator moves to centre stage and addresses the audience)

God loved you.
He loved you so much that he gave you his Son.
God only had one Son to give and his name is Jesus.
In giving Jesus to us, God knew his Son would die.

It was the only way God could save this world from all the anger and pain, the selfishness and hurt.

And now, whoever believes in Jesus will live with God forever.

Children, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him shall not die but have eternal life.

This is God's big, big love for us.

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8. God's Big Love

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Big Idea: God loved the world so much that he gave the world his very best - his one and only Son.

All-in-Sunday

All-in-Sunday is where children of mixed ages (5-11) work together in both paired and small group activities. The aim is for children of different ages to get to know each other and impact each other as they explore the passage together.

Singing

See page 5 for song suggestions. Sing 2/3 songs about God's love in giving his Son to a world which hated him, so that those who believe in Jesus will live forever with him.

Memory Verse

John 3:16

Purchase the audio track of this verse here <http://bit.ly/jn-3-16>

Small Group Time

Need:

- Find the page titled, John 3:16 (John 1-4 Resource Pack - Ages 8-11). Copy on A4 paper, one per child.
- Clipboard, one per child
- Set of coloured pencils or markers

Icebreaker: (pair older children with younger children)

- Pick one person you know loves you and share with your partner how you know he/she loves you.

Instructions:

- Ask the children to cartoon John 3:16 (i.e. draw one picture for each section of the verse).
- Older children help younger children and talk about what they're drawing as they go.
- Ask for children to share what they've drawn with the rest of the group.

Discuss:

- Who did God love?
(the world, us)
- What was that world like?
(enemies, ignored God, hated him)
- What did God give?
(his one and only Son)
- Why did God give his one and only Son?
(so that anyone who believed in him will live forever with him)

Conclusion:

- God loved the world so much that he gave the world his very best.
- His one and only Son.
- He only had one Son to give.
- And he gave his Son to a world that hated him.
- And he did it so that you and I could live with him - forever.
- How great is God's love for us!

Application:

- Tell your partner what you love most about this verse, John 3:16.
- Pray together in pairs about what was shared.

Children rotate through the activities that follow with their partner.

Poetry or Rap Group

Need:

- Blank paper
- Pencils

Activity:

- Select either to write a rap or a poem.
- Children can write a rap or a poem (see different styles of poems below) on John 3:16.

Acrostic Poems

How to write an acrostic poem:

- Decide what to write about (e.g. love, heaven...)
- Write your word down vertically.
- Brainstorm words or phrases that describe your idea.
- Place your brainstormed words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters.
- Fill in the rest of the lines to create a poem.

Haiku Poems

Haiku poems have the following structure:

Line 1: 5 syllables
Line 2: 7 syllables
Line 3: 5 syllables

Example:

My homework is late.
My dog ate it this morning.
I sure like my dog.

Alternative Structure

Line 1: subject
Line 2: two words to describe the subject
Line 3: three words to describe the subject
Line 4: four words about subject
Line 5: one word comment on the subject

Example:

Heaven
With God

Face to face
Pain, sadness gone forever
Peace

Spoken Word Group

Need:

- Computer (connected to the internet)
- Data projector
- Paper
- Pencils
- Digital camera
- Green screen and sound recording equipment (if you want a professional look)

Activity:

- As a group look at the following YouTube clip.

<https://www.allaboutgod.com/john-3-16-video.htm>

- Brainstorm your own script based on John 3:16.
- Allocate parts and record.
- You won't have time to edit it professionally to show this week, but you could perform it live to other groups and show video recording in future weeks.

Calligraphy Group

Need:

- Quality white or cream paper
- Cardboard frames for the paper
- Calligraphy books for children to look at
- Fine black markers
- Pencils
- Erasers

Activity:

- Allow children to practise writing from one of the simpler styles in the calligraphy book.
- The aim is to write John 3:16 decoratively on the page and frame it.

- **Note:** children could write the verse decoratively in the shape of the word LOVE.
- See example below:

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/618119117578613456/>

Dance Group

Need:

- Clear open space
- Computer
- Sound system
- Data projector

Activity:

- Watch the Rizers video version of John 3:16.
- See link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgBVa7JZ1GY>

- As a group work out a dance routine to this version and perform to the other groups.
- Encourage children to find dance moves that help others see what the words of this verse mean.

Lego Group

Need:

- Lego sets
- Lego boards

Activity:

- Brainstorm as a group how you can create the verse John 3:16 out of lego.
- Bring in pictures from the internet to stimulate ideas: heart made from lego, world made from lego, cross made from lego, the word 'heaven' or 'forever' made from lego...
- Form teams to make one of these, display altogether for other groups and parents to enjoy.

Cooking Group

Warning: *check for allergies before doing this activity.*

Need:

- Heart shaped cookies
- Lollies to decorate
- Piping equipment and coloured icing
- Disposable plates

Instructions:

- Provide heart shaped cookies for the group to decorate and share with others.
- As you decorate, talk about God's great love for us.