



# Second Grade

We look for opportunities to love others as God does.

Lesson 4



## Each student will—

- Know he needs to look for the opportunities God gives him to love others
- Feel challenged to discover these opportunities
- Act out examples of taking opportunities to love



## Outline

1. God looks for opportunities to love people
2. We can enjoy looking for opportunities to love people as God does
3. Discovering opportunities to love



## Realized Impact

This lesson helps students focus outward in intentional ways throughout the day. They will understand that loving others can be like going on a seeking adventure with God. This new perspective helps students form a lifelong habit of seeking more than just what they want for themselves. It also shows them that loving others is not just a duty, but an opportunity to join God in what He is doing as He seeks to love people. Having a purpose for life reinforces the value of our own lives, as well as the value of the lives of others.



## Materials

A small object to hide somewhere in the classroom

**Loving Situations** handout, copied and cut apart ahead of time



## Making an Entrance

Play the Hot and Cold game with your class. Say—**We're going to play a game called "Hot and Cold." I need one volunteer to go out of the room and wait for us to call you back in.**

Choose a volunteer and send her out of the room. While she is outside, show the rest of the class a small object and where you plan to hide it. Tell them that as the student searches the classroom, they're allowed to give her clues, but only by saying "warmer," if she is moving closer to the place where it's hidden, or "cooler," if she is moving farther away. When she gets very near to it, they should let her know by saying "hotter"; when she gets very far away from the object, they can say "colder." The class should keep giving their classmate clues until she finds the hidden object.

Call the volunteer back into the room and briefly explain the game to her before you begin playing. Then once she's found the object, ask the student how she felt as she searched for the lost item. Ask her how she felt when she finally found it.



## Informing

Say something like—**God knows what it feels like to be looking for something. He is always looking for opportunities to love people. He wants to show how much He loves each person He's created—and He watches for opportunities to do just that.**

**Jesus told a story about searching in Luke 15:1-6 (NIV).**

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'"

Say—**Some important leaders were unhappy with Jesus because they didn't like the sort of people Jesus decided to love. Jesus was always looking for ways to love people and it didn't matter to Him what they looked like or if other people thought they were good or bad. Jesus told a story about sheep to let these leaders—and us—know how important it was to Him to love people.**





## Valuing

Now ask—**In Jesus' story, how did the shepherd feel when he finally found his lost sheep?** Let a few students share their answers with the class. **How do you think God feels when He seeks and then finds an opportunity to show people how much He loves them? He probably feels like our classmate felt when she finally found the hidden object—excited, happy, joyful, proud. Every day, every moment, God is looking for ways to show His love to people. He invites us to join Him in His search. He asks us to work with Him in showing love to the people around us. Let's practice!**



## Changing

Before the lesson, copy the **Loving Situations** handout and cut apart the six cards to be distributed. If you have more than 18 students in your class, you may alter the situations to suit larger groups, or come up with a few additional situations on your own. The **Loving Situations** cards say:

**Situation 1**—Your mom comes home from work and she is very tired. You can see it when you look at her face. When she walks in the kitchen, she sees that the dog got into the trash and dug it all over the kitchen floor. How can you show your mom God's love?

**Situation 2**—There is a new girl in your class. She looks scared. The teacher introduces her and tells the class she just moved to town from another state. It is recess time and you see her standing by herself. What could you do to show the new student God's love?

**Situation 3**—You have a brother who plays on a baseball team. He just made an error in the game and his team lost. He looks very upset. How can you help your brother know that God still loves him?

**Situation 4**—Your next-door neighbor is very old and a little bit grouchy. He likes to sit on his front porch and complain. How can you show love to your neighbor?

**Situation 5**—You are running in P.E. The teacher decides the whole class will race to see who is the fastest. You hope you'll win, but then one of your friends beats you. What would be a good way to show God's love to your friend?

**Situation 6**—The lady who works in your school cafeteria is very busy today. She seems unhappy as she puts the lunch on your tray, and she doesn't even look at you. What's a quick way to help this woman feel better and let her know she's loved?





Now say something like this to the class—**We are going to work in groups of two or three. I'm going to give each group a card that describes a situation. Your job will be to act out that situation, but you must include one way you could show God's love to someone else.**

Give one card to each group. Ask them to read through the situation and work together to think of ways a person could show God's love. Give them a few minutes to put their dramas together, and then ask each group to act out their solution for the class.

Conclude this lesson by saying—**We have opportunities to show God's kind of love to others every day. Sometimes we don't even notice those opportunities. Look for special moments when you could show God's love to someone else today.**



**Builds into:**  
Sanctity of Life, Social Justice



# Loving Situations

## Situation 1

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