

SESSION 1

BIBLE VERSE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34

MINISTRY

Regina and Sudheer
Ammireddigudem, India

HERO CODE

God's Heroes Have Heart

HERO VERSE

"Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" Psalm 34:14B

OPENING ACTIVITY

LOVE POX

Materials: Round, red stickers.

Activity: Hand everyone a sheet of round red dot stickers. Explain how contagious an illness like chicken pox is. Love works the same way. When one person makes the decision to spread love, it catches on. Instruct them that they have 30 seconds to stick as many "Love Pox" as they can on each other. Say "GO!" and let them spread the love.



Discussion:

1. Discuss why it's important for us to love each other. What are the good things that come from it? What are the struggles that come when we don't?
2. Ask how your life would be different if there was more love being shown at home? At school? Everywhere you go?
3. Share specific ideas of how you can show love to each other. Ask if anyone has a personal example to share. Sharing a personal story may be helpful.



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LESSON

Today we are going to learn about a married couple named Regina and Sudheer, and how they are showing God's love to the community where they live in India. God has called them to come alongside people who have been told for a very long time that they are not important.

For thousands of years around the world, people have divided everyone up into groups and acted like some people are better than other people. They think that some people are more valuable (important) because of the way they look, the color of their skin, what job they do or how much money they have.

A long time ago, in India, something called the "caste system" was created. According to the caste system, there are different groups of people: the people at the very top were born to be priests and teachers. Next are the rulers. People in the middle are born to be the businesspeople, and below them are the workers. People at the very bottom are like servants or slaves -- they have to do the dirty work that nobody else wants to do, like clean the streets. People didn't even want to touch these people. They had to live by themselves. People called them "Untouchables."

Today this group is not called Untouchables anymore, but they are still not treated the same as other people. In villages, many children from lower castes do not get to go to schools that are as nice as the ones children from the higher castes go to. Their parents often spend long hours working in the fields and do not earn very much money. Many cannot afford breakfast in the morning. Sometimes the children have to miss school in order to work in the fields to earn money for their families.

Even though their lives are different, these children are just like you! They love to laugh and play games with their friends. They especially enjoy a sport called cricket, which is kind of like baseball. They are smart and eager to learn. The difference is that they do not have as many opportunities.

Regina and Sudheer grew up in India. Sudheer's family is from the lowest caste. Now Regina and Sudheer are working in villages to help low caste families and give children more opportunities. They run a school in a village called Ammireddigudem (pronounced: Ah-MARY-de-Goo-dim). The teachers at this school care about their students and want to help them study so that they can have a better future. Regina



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and Sudheer encourage people in the community to follow God and help those in need.

PLAY SLIDE SHOW

The reason Regina and Sudheer help others is because they have huge hearts for God and their neighbors. Regina and Sudheer believe that God loves everyone, and especially cares for people who are poor and treated badly. They believe that God wants them to put love into action by working so that everyone, no matter who they are, can live a life of dignity (know they are important).

The Bible tells us we are called to love God and our neighbors. That doesn't just mean our next-door neighbors. Even people across the world are our neighbors. Children in India are your neighbors, too!

MOVE ON TO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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QUESTIONS & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Can you think of someone who is left out or treated badly?
2. How can you show love to people who are looked down on/treated badly?
3. Why do we love our neighbors?
 - We love others because God loved us. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34b)
 - God tells us to serve other people, not ourselves. "No one should seek their own good, but the good of others." (1 Cor. 10:24)

MOVE ON TO MISSIONS COLLECTION AND CRAFT

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MISSIONS COLLECTION

This week we are partnering with Regina and Sudheer to support the school in India through your donations. The school faces many challenges. They do not have much money. One big problem has to do with monkeys!

What do you think/know about monkeys? In India, the monkeys are very loud and sometimes very mean. At the school there are lots and lots of monkeys at the school that jump on the roofs! This is a serious problem. After many years, all of this jumping has made the roofs weak. It is also hard for the teachers to teach while the monkeys are causing all that trouble. Regina and Sudheer are collecting money to replace the school roofs so that they do not leak. After that, they also hope to buy tables and chairs for the classrooms.

Each day as you enter the worship center for large group time, there will be plastic buckets labeled with your grade to the right where you can put your donation. Someone from the class that collects the most money will get to smash a pie in the face of Pastor Mark!

BOOKMARK/PRAYER CARD

Materials: Crayons/Markers,
Bookmark in plastic sleeve, "confetti"

Instructions:

1. Give each child a bookmark in a plastic sleeve.
2. Have them remove the insert from the plastic sleeve and set the sleeve aside.
3. Have the kids color the insert with markers or crayons.
4. When they are done coloring. They can put the insert back in the plastic sleeve.
5. Kids can further decorate their bookmark by inserting confetti into the sleeve.
6. When they are done, seal the sleeve by peeling off the tab and sealing it shut.

