



"Who is God? God is Love"

July 19, 2026

(VBS Wrap-up Service)

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:42

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

Luke 23:33-34

"And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him... And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

Luke 23:43

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Luke 24:6

"He is not here, but has risen."

Romans 5:8

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

MAIN THEME

Who is God really? Throughout Vacation Bible School, our children learned many wonderful truths about God. Yet all of those truths lead to one central reality: **God is love**. The greatest demonstration of that love is not found in a feeling, but in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Garden of Gethsemane, at the cross, and at the empty tomb, we see the love of God on full display. Jesus willingly suffered, died, and rose again so that sinful people could be forgiven and experience eternal life. The cross proves God's love, and the empty tomb proves his power.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. God's Love Is Seen in Jesus' Willing Sacrifice

Luke 22:39-46

- Why do you think Jesus prayed so intensely in the Garden of Gethsemane?



- What does Jesus' willingness to obey the Father's plan teach us about God's love?
- How does Jesus' example challenge us when we face difficult situations?
- What does it mean to trust God's will even when it is costly?

2. God's Love Extends Even to Sinners

Luke 23:33–43; Romans 5:8

- What stands out to you about Jesus praying, “Father, forgive them” from the cross?
- Why is it significant that Jesus offered salvation to the criminal beside him?
- How does the cross demonstrate God's love for people who do not deserve it?
- Is there anyone in your life whom you need to forgive as Christ has forgiven you?

3. God's Love Conquers Death

Luke 24:1–12

- Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?
- What difference does it make that Jesus is alive today?
- How does the resurrection give us hope in the face of suffering and loss?
- What are some practical ways we can live with resurrection hope each day?

4. God's Love Invites Us into a Relationship with Him

John 3:16; Romans 5:8

- Why is salvation described as a gift rather than something we earn?
- What keeps people from trusting Christ and receiving his love?
- How would you explain the gospel to a friend or family member?
- What does it mean to place your faith in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life?

PRAY

Dear Father, thank you for showing us your love through Jesus Christ. Thank you that he willingly went to the cross to pay for our sins and rose again to give us eternal life. Help us never take your love for granted. Draw us closer to you and teach us to trust your plan, even when life is difficult. May we share the good news of Jesus with others and help the next generation understand how much you love them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:



Ridgewood Church
www.myrwc.org

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- 1 John 4:7-10
- Ephesians 2:4-9
- John 15:13
- Romans 8:38-39

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

1 Samuel 19-20

Jonathan's sacrificial loyalty protects David and models covenant friendship.

