

BIG IDEA

God is love, and his love is powerful.

CHARACTERS | WEEK 1 OF 4**MIDWEEK NOTES**

God

1 | Hangout

SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Pens
- Timer

LEADER TIP

- If your group has varied comfort levels with reading and writing, encourage the kids to complete this challenge in partners.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Give each person a piece of paper and a pen.
- Challenge the kids to write a list of as many words that describe God as possible in one minute.
- Set the timer and count down, "Three, two, one, GO!"
- When the minute is up, invite everyone to share their list of words with the rest of the group.
- Introduce this week's Big Idea: **God is love, and his love is powerful.**
- Discuss: God's love is powerful! What do you think that means for us? What can God's love do that shows his power?
- Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

2 | Hear

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

- Let the kids know that today's God Story is from Romans, which is in the New Testament. Explain that Romans is a two-thousand-year-old letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in the church of Rome.
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Guide the kids to find the book of Romans in the table of contents, then to look up Romans 8:38–39.
- Read the verses out loud.
- Review and discuss:
 - According to Paul, what can separate us from God's love? (Nothing)
 - Paul mentions nine things that cannot separate us from God's love. What are they? (From the NLT: death; life; angels; demons; fears for today; worries for tomorrow; powers of hell; powers in the sky; powers in the earth)
 - Can you think of anything else that can't separate us from God's love? (e.g., making mistakes, a bad day, sickness)
 - In verse 39, it says that God's love is revealed or shown through someone. Who is it? (Jesus)
 - How does Jesus show us God's love?
 - What are some ways God reminds you that he is near? (e.g., through the love of family members and friends; through nature; through music; with the voice of the Holy Spirit; through the Bible; seeing answered prayers)

**BIG IDEA**

God is love, and his love is powerful.

3 | Huddle

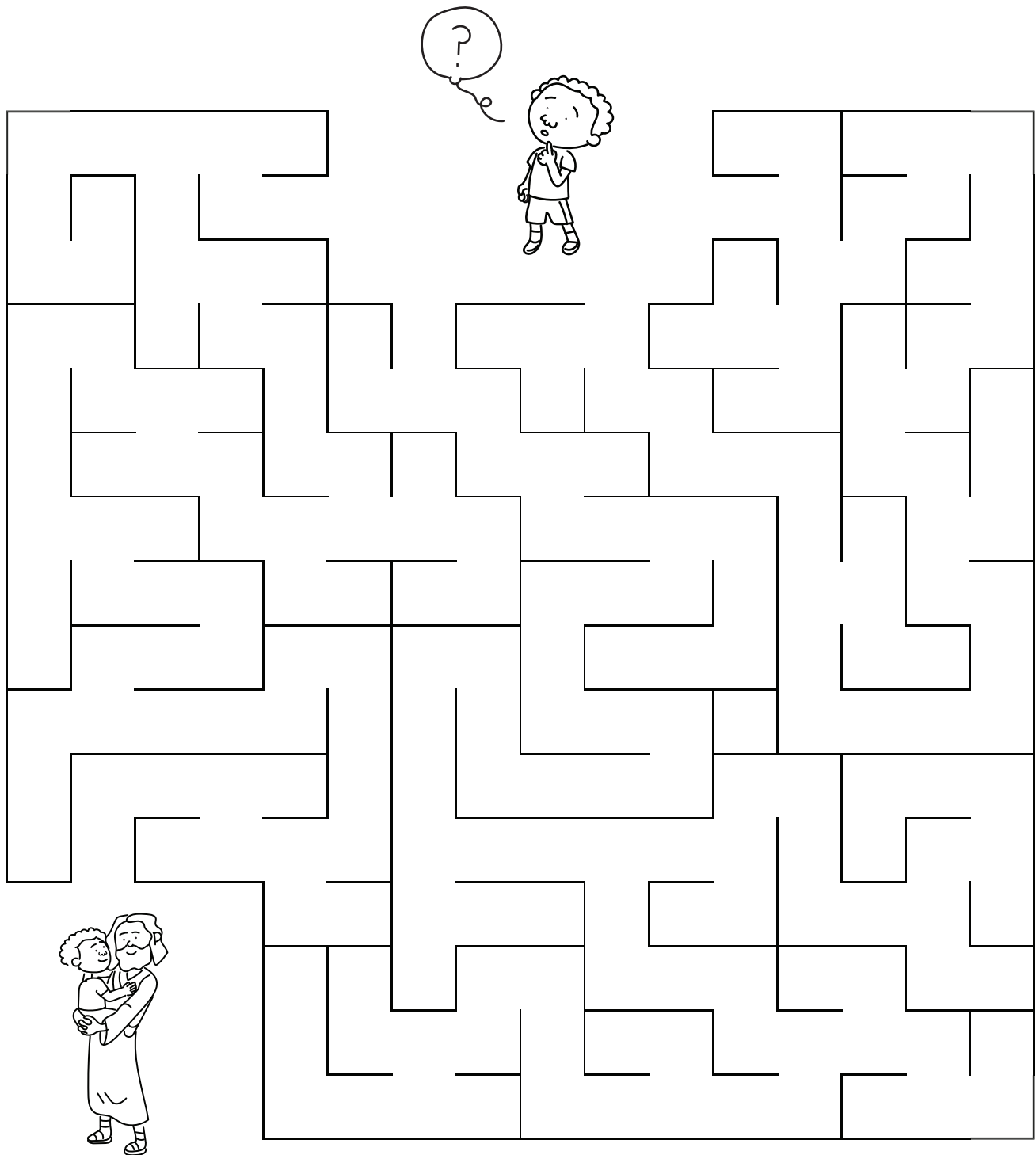
SUPPLIES

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

- Emphasize that the hard things and pain we experience in life can make us feel distant from God, but nothing can separate us from his love!
- Remind the kids that **God is love, and his love is powerful.**
- Ask: Is there a circumstance in which you really need to know that God is with you, but you find it hard to remember at that time or place?
- If possible, share an age-appropriate example of a time or place that you find challenging.
- Discuss: What can we do if God feels distant when life gets tough? (e.g., we can tell a trusted adult or friend and ask them to pray for us; we can tell God how we feel; we can journal; we can ask for a hug)
- Read aloud the Key Verse for this series: I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Romans 8:38 (NIRV)
- Lead the group to say the verse together.
- Invite the kids to pray with you. Pray, "Dear God, it is so good to know that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from your love. Thank you that you are always with [name each of the kids and their situations if they shared]. Thank you for loving us so much! Please help us to become more aware of your presence with us. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Help the boy find his way through the maze to Jesus.



"I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us." Romans 8:38