

# **“EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD” - LESSON 1**

## **“Every Soul!”**

### **Main Focus:**

God loves everyone in the world just the same!



### **Power Verse:**

“The Lord...does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” - 2 Peter 3:9



### **Whatchagaddaknow:**

“Red and Yellow, Black and White, They Are Precious In His Sight!”

## **LEADER’S INFO**

Prejudice is a major issue in America and all around the world. Many people treat others wrongly just because they’re different. It’s a sad part of this sin-filled world.

As Christians, we cannot live like everyone else. We must completely get rid of any prejudices in our lives and become more like God.

In this lesson, the children will learn that EVERY soul matters to God - not just people who are like them or people they like, but EVERYONE!

The children will learn through the story of the Apostle Peter that choosing to love only certain people or only sharing Jesus with SOME people is completely unacceptable. Christians must treat everyone the same. If every soul matters to God, every soul should matter to us!



### **“The Spark” Intro Video**

“EVERY SOUL MATTERS!”



### **“Whatchagaddaknow” Video**

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



### **Character Skit**

“Ron D. Race”



### **Offering Time**



### **Game Time!**

“Do You Remember Me?”



### **Bible Story**

“Peter and Cornelius”



### **Power Verse Video**

“The Lord...does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”

- 2 Peter 3:9



### **Call To Action**

“Every Soul!”



### **Rewind!**

Review Game



### **Small Group Experience**

## Main Focus:

God loves everyone in the world just the same!



## Power Verse:

“The Lord...does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” - 2 Peter 3:9



## Whatchagaddaknow:

“Red and Yellow, Black and White, They Are Precious In His Sight!”

## “The Spark” Intro Video

“EVERY SOUL MATTERS!”

## “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

## Character Skit

“Ron D. Race”

## Offering Time

## Game Time!

“Do You Remember Me?”

## Bible Story

“Peter and Cornelius”

## Power Verse Video

“The Lord...does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.”  
- 2 Peter 3:9

## Call To Action

“Every Soul!”

## Rewind!

Review Game

## Small Group Experience

## Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

### “The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

### “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video  
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

### Character Skit

- “Ron D. Race” Theme Graphic/Music  
- Running clothes

### Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

### Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video  
- “Do You Remember Me?” Graphics

### Bible Story

- “Peter and Cornelius” Graphics

### Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

### Call To Action

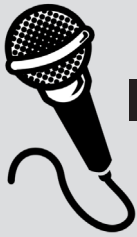
- “Every Soul!” Graphics  
- A box filled with a variety of items—most that kids will like, but a few that you know they will hate  
- Five large name tags (or sticky labels)  
- A large marker

### Rewind!

- “Rewind” Bumper Video  
- “Rewind” Lesson 1 Graphics

### Small Group Experience

- Narrator Nametags Print Piece  
- Bible Story Print Piece  
- Tape  
- Person Print Piece  
- Loved Nametag Print Piece  
- Scissors  
- Crayons, markers, or pencils  
- Blindfold  
- Every Soul Matters To God Nametag Print Piece  
- Bibles



## **Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video**

**Leader:** Hey, kids! Welcome to our series, “EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD!” When you hear that phrase, you might have some questions! For starters - what exactly does “soul” mean? And what does it mean for something to “matter”? Well, before I tell you, let’s find out what YOU think those words mean!

If you think you know what “soul” means, raise your hand. *(allow a few children to respond)* If you think you know what it means for something to “matter,” raise your hand. *(allow a few children to respond)*

Those are all great answers! Basically, a soul is a person! It’s the part of your life that goes with you after you die. And for something to matter just means that something is important! So to say, “EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD,” means that every person is equally important to God! But before we get too far into our lesson, I want you to check out this video with our friend Damaris!

***(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)***

**Leader:** Wow! There are a LOT of people in this world! And God LOVES every single one of them! You’re going to learn all about how EVERY soul matters to God today. But right now, I want you to listen to our friend Boudreaux as he teaches you “Whatchagaddaknow.”

***(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Video)***



## **CHARACTER SKIT**

**Character: “Ron D. Race”** *(an excited runner who is a bit confused about the difference between “soul” and “sole”)*

**RON:** *(comes out dressed in running clothes, stretching and jogging around the leader; super energetic)* What’s going on? Running is the BOMB! Am I right?!

**Leader:** *(confused)* Errr, sure. Who are you?

**RON:** *(laughs)* My bad! *(holds out hand to shake)* I’m Ron. Ron D. Race. My friends call me Ron, but my mom calls me “Sugar Pie.” You can call me either one. I’ll answer to both!

**Leader:** *(shakes hands)* I’ll go with Ron. What are you doing here, Ron?

**RON:** Oh, I was cutting through your building on my way to the park for my running meet-up. What’s going on in here? Some kind of kid genius meeting to take over the school system?

**Leader:** *(laughs)* Haha, no. This is kid’s church. Today we are learning that “Every Soul Matters To God!”

**RON:** *(gets super jumpy and excited)* Woah! For real! EVERY SOLE?! THAT’S INSANE! *(leans close to leader)* Even the stinky, worn-out ones?

**Leader:** Yes - EVERY soul! God loves everyone the same. *(confused)* Uh, no matter what they smell like.

**RON:** I knew God was caring, but to think He cares about my old, garbage-smelling running shoes from last summer! WOW! *(runs lap around stage)* That is mind-BLOWING!!!

**Leader:** *(confused)* Wait! Why would God care about your shoes? I mean, PEOPLE are what God cares about....not shoes.

**RON:** But you said “Every Sole Matters To God,” and my stinky shoes that I ran over 430 miles in each have laces, a tongue, and A SOLE!

**Leader:** *(laughs)* Haha, OOOOOOHHHHH! I get the problem we are experiencing now. You are talking about an S-O-L-E that is part of a shoe, and I am talking about an S-O-U-L, as in the human soul.

**RON:** *(thoughtful)* Well, that definitely changes the meaning of “Every Soul Matters To God.” I guess it would be okay to get rid of my old, SMELLY running shoes now.

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## **CHARACTER SKIT** *(continued)*

**Leader:** *(grossed out)* Yeah, that would probably be a good idea.

**RON:** *(does some stretching)* So, now that I know “Every Soul - PERSON - Matters To God,” what should I do with that info? I mean it seems IMPORTANT!

**Leader:** It is IMPORTANT! We should run all over, telling EVERYONE that they matter to God.

**RON:** *(High steps quickly in place; excited)* OH YEAAAAH! I GOT THIS!

**Leader:** *(smiles)* That’s the attitude we should all have, Ron!

**RON:** Aw, thanks. I try. Watch! *(runs around the room, telling people, “Every Soul Matters To God, and that means YOU, not your shoes”)*

**Leader:** Oh, Ron? Ron D. Race? Excuse me...

**RON:** *(still running around)* Well, gotta go to my running meet-up in the park, but I’ll spread the word about God and souls...and not shoes! *(runs out)*

**Leader:** *(intrigued)* Alright. Uh, bye! Have a good run!

**RON:** *(runs back in)* Thanks! I WILL! Later, gator. *(gives two thumbs up and exits as his theme music plays)*

**Leader:** Cool! Oh, I know this one... After awhile, crocodile! *(smiles and waves goodbye to Ron)*



## **GAME TIME**

### **“Do You Remember Me?”**

#### **Items Needed For Game:**

“Do You Remember Me?” Graphics

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#### **Preparation:**

Begin with the slide titled, “Do You Remember Me?”  
Choose two boys and two girls to participate in this game.

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#### **How To Play:**

This is a quiz game. Explain that you will be giving clues about famous people in history and the teams must try and guess who you are talking about. Choose which team will go first. Alternate back and forth between each question. Each team will answer five questions. The crowd can help by yelling out which answer they think is correct (like they do in many game shows). The contestants have to decide what their “final answer” is. Give each team a point for every correct answer.

The team with the most points will be declared the winner.



## **Bible Story**

### **“Peter and Cornelius”**

#### **Materials Needed:**

“Peter and Cornelius” Graphics; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

#### **Preparation:**

Familiarize yourself with the story in Acts 10:1-33; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

#### **The Story:**

Today’s Bible Story is found in Acts chapter 10. One day, God appeared to the Apostle Peter in a dream as he was sleeping. (*show pic*) God showed Peter a vision of a blanket coming down from Heaven that had a bunch of animals on it. God told Peter to kill the animals and eat them. This food was the kind of food that Peter had been taught to NEVER eat.



Peter was SO offended! He couldn’t believe God was asking him to eat that kind of food. He told God, “I have NEVER eaten any food that is impure.” God told Peter, “Do not call anything impure that I have made clean.” This happened three times, and then Peter woke up.



Through these dreams, Peter realized that God was trying to teach him an important lesson. You see, Peter had a big problem. He and the other disciples had bad feelings about anyone who was not a Jew by birth. They told the Jews about Jesus, no problem, but they refused to share the good news of Jesus with the Gentiles. Peter was one of the main disciples who dealt with this “prejudice,” or choosing not to love others because they’re different.



Right after Peter woke up from his dream, there was a knock at his front door. The men at the door were servants of a man named Cornelius. One of them said, (*show pic*) “My master, Cornelius, would like to see you.” So they took Peter to Cornelius’ house. Cornelius was not a Jew, but God told him to bring Peter to his house so Peter could tell him about Jesus. Peter realized that God was trying to teach him through those dreams that God loves EVERYONE the same. (*show pic*) Peter told Cornelius’ family, “I now realize that God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation.” He basically said, “I’ve come to realize that EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD!”

It was a powerful moment. (*show pic*) Peter prayed with Cornelius’ entire family to accept Jesus that day. It was a miracle! It only happened because Peter chose to treat others just as God does. He showed love to Cornelius and his family even though they were different. That’s what each one of us must do as well.

Today, in your lesson, you’re going to learn the importance of loving others and treating them like they matter to you! If EVERY soul matters to God, EVERY soul should matter to us!



## **Call To Action**

### **“Every Soul!”**

#### **Materials Needed:**

“Every Soul!” Graphics; A box filled with a variety of items—most that kids will like, but a few that you know they will hate; Five large name tags (or sticky labels); A large marker

#### **Preparation:**

Begin with the slide titled “Every Soul!”



#### **The Message:** *(title slide)*

Today, we are going to start things off with a little activity. I am going to pull an item out of this box and show it to you. I want you to tell me whether or not it is something you like. *(pull several things out of the box that you know the kids will get excited about, such as candy, a video game console, money, etc.; every few items, pull out something that the kids will not like, such as vegetables, a chore list, etc.)*

I noticed that there were a lot of things that you guys really liked in that box. There were other things that it seemed like you didn't like at all. You know, life is like that. We have freedom of choice. We can like some things and not like others, right? Of course!

Sadly, many people think this same choice applies to accepting other people. They think they can love and accept some people but then choose to dislike and mistreat other people. Sadly, some people make the choice to dislike whole groups of people simply because of the color of their skin, the way they dress, or the country they come from. That's called “prejudice.” Isn't that sad? It's not only sad - it's the opposite of how God wants us to be.

Even the Apostle Peter struggled with this, even though Jesus told the disciples it was their job to “go and make disciples of ALL nations, ALL people, ALL types.” That was their instruction. It was very clear. You'd think the disciples would have understood this meant they were to take the Gospel to EVERYONE. Well, through the dream Peter had, he realized God was trying to teach him some lessons that we need to learn as well. First...



#### **God Loves Everyone The Same** *(slide)*

*John 3:16* says, “For God so loved THE WORLD....” It doesn't say He only loves certain people, does it? God sees everyone the same. He doesn't love one group more than another. He loves Americans just as much as He loves Africans or Asians or Latinos. He loves tall people just as much as He loves short people. Everyone is equal in God's eyes.

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## **Call To Action** *(Continued)*

We don't always act like that is the case, though, do we? Sometimes we act like we think we are better than others. We treat people who are different than us like they are not as good as we are. We think, “I can't be friends with THOSE people.” It's like we put a label on them that says “LOSER” or “TRASH.” That is NOT what God wants us to do! In fact, ...

### **I Must Never Label Others** *(slide)*

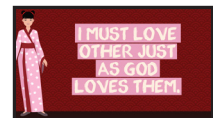


We do that sometimes as well. We label others and put them in groups. We think that some people are more important than others. *(ask for five kids to come up to the stage)* Take these people, for example. We look at others and put labels on them, deciding what they are “worth.”

- *(write the word “nerd” on a label and place it on the first kid)* We decide, “That person is a nerd. They aren't good for anything but reading books and taking tests.”
- *(write the word “athlete” on a label and place it on the next kid)* We decide, “Well, that person is a strong athlete, so they are probably not that smart.”
- *(write the word “poor” on a label and place it on the next kid)* We decide, “That person doesn't have much money, and they don't dress very nicely. I can't be their friend or I won't be as popular.”
- *(write the word “liar” on a label and place it on the next kid)* “This person told a lie once, so they are not to be trusted - ever. I hope nobody is ever their friend.”
- *(write the word “popular” on a label and place it on the last child)* “That person is the most popular kid in school, so they must be so cool and amazing.”

We put these labels on others. We decide how much they are “worth” based on the labels that we give them or that others give them. The problem is that when we label others, many times it keeps us from showing them God's love. That's what was happening with Peter. So what should we do?

### **I Must Love Others Just As God Loves Them** *(slide)*



We need to learn the same lesson Peter learned. We should NEVER label others as “not worthy” or “not as good as us.” We have to get rid of the labels and begin to look at others through God's eyes. God sees EVERYONE as important. He sees EVERYONE as worthy of His love. He sees EVERYONE as worthy of sending His Son to die for them.

### **ALTAR RESPONSE:** *(play soft music)*

Pray with any kids who have been guilty of labeling others. Pray with them as they ask God for forgiveness and for help seeing others through the eyes of God. Pray that each kid would begin to fully understand that EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD!



**Materials Needed:**

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Rewind” Bumper Video

**Preparation:**

Play the “Rewind” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

**1. Whatchagaddaknow today?**

**Answer:** “Red and Yellow, Black and White, They Are Precious In His Sight!”

**2. In our Bible Story, what did God show Peter in his dream?**

**Answer:** Food He Wasn’t Supposed To Eat

**3. What lesson was God teaching Peter through his dreams?**

**Answer:** Every Soul Matters to God

**4. What was the name of the man who Peter went to visit?**

**Answer:** Cornelius

**5. True or False: Peter struggled with prejudice.**

**Answer:** True

**6. True or False: Only Some Souls Matter to God.**

**Answer:** False

**7. According to our lesson today, “God Loves Everyone \_\_\_\_\_. ”**

**Answer:** The Same

**8. According to our lesson today, “I Must Never \_\_\_\_\_ Others.”**

**Answer:** Label

**9. According to our lesson today, “I Must \_\_\_\_\_ Others Just As God \_\_\_\_\_ Them.”**

**Answer:** Love; Loves

**10. Where was our Power Verse found?**

**Answer:** 2 Peter 3:9