

# “ROCK SOLID” - LESSON 1

## “Every Soul Matters To God”

### Main Focus:

God loves everyone in the world just the same!



### Power Verse:

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16



### Whatchagaddaknow:

“Every Soul Matters To God!”

## 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 To God”



### “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Cali teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



### Character Skit

“Buster Rocks”



### Offering Time



### Game Time!

“Lights, Camera, Action!”



### Bible Story

“Peter and Cornelius”



### Power Verse Video

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

– John 3:16



### Call To Action

“Every Soul Matters To God”



### Rewind!

Review Game



### Small Group Experience

**Main Focus:**

God loves everyone in the world just the same!



**Power Verse:**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16



**Whatchagaddaknow:**

“Every Soul Matters To God!”

**Lesson 1 Materials Needed:**

**“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

**“Whatchagaddaknow” Video**

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

**Character Skit**

- “Buster Rocks” Theme Graphic/Music

**Offering Time**

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

**Game Time!**

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Lights, Camera, Action!” Graphic
- 2 Hats
- 2 Pairs Of Glasses
- 2 Large Shirts
- 2 Capes
- 2 Director’s Clapboards

**Bible Story**

- “Peter and Cornelius” Graphics

**Power Verse Video**

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

**Call To Action**

- “Every Soul Matters To God” Graphics
- A Box Filled With A Variety Of Items Kids Like And Dislike
- 5 Large Name Tags
- A Large Marker

**Rewind!**

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

**Small Group Experience**

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Nametags Print Piece
- Tape
- Person Print Piece
- Loved Nametag Print Piece
- Scissors
- Crayons, Markers, or Pencils
- Blindfold
- God Loves Everyone Nametag Print Piece
- Bibles

**“The Spark” Intro Video**

“Every Soul Matters To God”

**“Whatchagaddaknow” Video**

Cali teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

**Character Skit**

“Buster Rocks”

**Offering Time**

**Game Time!**

“Lights, Camera, Action!”

**Bible Story**

“Peter and Cornelius”

**Power Verse Video**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

– John 3:16

**Call To Action**

“Every Soul Matters To God”

**Rewind!**

Review Game

**Small Group Experience**



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

**Leader:** Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a series! It is called “ROCK SOLID.” In this series, we will be learning some very important truths from the Bible that will help us form a rock solid foundation to build our lives on!

Today’s truth is, “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!

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

**Leader:** 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 Cali from the Valley as she teaches you “Whatchagaddaknow.”

***(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)***



## **CHARACTER SKIT**

**Character: “Buster Rocks”** *(He is a gruff guy who works in a rock quarry, busting rocks all day. He should look as gruff as he sounds, wearing a hard hat, boots, and overalls.)*

**B:** *(Comes in with a big sledgehammer on his shoulder)* Well howdy everyone! I am here to get to work! I got my big slammer hammer and I am ready to do some crushing! Now, where is this rock I have heard about?

**Leader:** Oh my goodness! Hello, sir. Are you in the right place?

**B:** I got word that some things here were rock solid, so I loaded up my best hammer and am here to do some destruction! I don't think it's a good idea for these kids to have to do that hard work, so here I am! Now, where is that solid rock? I will turn it into pebbles in no time!

**Leader:** Well, um, ok then. Can I ask who you are?

**B:** Sure, go ahead.

**Leader:** *(Awkward silence)* Oh. Who are you?

**B:** My name is Buster, Buster Rocks! My sledgehammer here has a name as well. I call her Persuasion.

**Leader:** I can see why! It's nice to meet you, Buster Rocks, but I have some bad news for you.

**B:** Well spit 'er out! Can't be anything me and Persuasion here can't handle.

**Leader:** We don't have any solid rocks for you to turn into pebbles here.

**B:** No rock?

**Leader:** No rock. Not even a pebble.

**B:** Are you about to build a new building and you need me to bust up an old rock-solid foundation? I can do that, too!

**Leader:** Nope! Nothing like that going on.

**B:** Well, that does present a problem. Let me think... *(Tapping his hammer on his hard hat)*

**Leader:** Oh, I get it now! We are starting a new series today called ROCK SOLID! Maybe you heard that and thought...

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## CHARACTER SKIT

*(Continued)*

**B:** I thought there would be some rocks to smash! Well, I guess I won't need Persuasion after all. It's ok. I spend all day in the quarry busting rocks, so taking a little break will be nice.

**Leader:** You spend all day with your hammer- I mean, Persuasion, breaking big rocks into smaller rocks?

**B:** That's right. Nothing glamorous about what I do. I am considered the lowest of the low in my line of work. Nothing special about me.

**Leader:** Now hold on there, Buster. You are special!

**B:** No one has ever told me that before. How can I be special?

**Leader:** You are more than special. You're loved by God!

**B:** I'm special AND I'm loved? WOW! *(Looking at his hammer and getting emotional)* Did you hear that girl? We're special AND we're loved! This is overwhelming. We came in here to bust up some rocks and I ended up getting my heart all busted up! *(Hugs his hammer)*

**Leader:** It is overwhelming how much God loves us! It doesn't matter who we are, where we come from, what we do for a living, or even what crazy things we have done, EVERY soul matters to God!

**B:** That's the greatest news I've ever heard!

**Leader:** It's the greatest news ever!

**B:** I need to get back to the quarry now, but I sure am glad I came in today! Persuasion and I have some work to do. My name is Buster Rocks, and that's what you need to hear. When my hammer hits the rock, it's outta here!

*(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)*



## **GAME TIME**

### **“Lights, Camera, Action!”**

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

2 hats; 2 pairs of glasses; 2 large shirts; 2 capes; 2 director’s clapboards

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#### **Preparation:**

Choose 4 boys and 4 girls to play this game. Have all the costume pieces in one large bucket at one end of the room, and have all players stand at the other end.

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

Have each team choose one player to be the “actor”/”actress”. This player will serve as a model that needs a costume for an “upcoming role.” The other players will take turns, relay race style, running from one side of the room to the bucket of costume pieces and grab one piece. Once they have a piece of the costume, they will run back to their team’s model, put the piece on them, and tag the next player in line. The first team to dress their actor/actress for their role is the winner!



# Bible Story

## “Peter and Cornelius”

### Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; 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 Matters To God”

#### Materials Needed:

The “Every Soul Matters To God” 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 Matters To God”



#### 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!



## **REWIND!**

### **Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “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:** “God Loves Everyone In This World!”

**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:** John 3:16