

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

No Matter What / Week 1

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Easter reminds us we're loved no matter what.

SCRIPTURE

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins (1 John 4:9-10 NLT).

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help student to see how Easter demonstrates God's unconditional love for us and to encourage them to accept that love for themselves.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Be prepared for and open to potential doubts, questions, and uncertainties that your students may

express throughout this series. Remember that the things we talk about at Easter can feel abstract or distant to your few, and that can make those things hard to believe. Your job isn't to answer all their questions, prove all the points, or shut down any doubts. Your role is simply to create a safe space for them to share and process. Let them sit in the tension of not being sure what they believe at times. Learning to ask questions and think for themselves is part of growing and maturing not just in their faith, but as people. If they express doubts or questions, see them as a chance to start great (and potentially life-changing) conversations with your few.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

DURING GROUP

ICE BREAKER

What's one thing you used to love when you were younger?

DISCUSS THIS

1. Tell us about a time when you felt loved . . .
 - By your family.
 - At school.
 - With your friends.
 - By something someone said or did for you.
2. What do you think it means to be loved no matter what?
3. What's one reason someone might struggle to believe that Jesus loves them no matter what?
4. How might knowing that Jesus loves you no matter what change the way you . . .
 - Feel about yourself?
 - Think about Jesus?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE)

Depending on your group, give your few either the provided phone lock screen image or take-home card. As a group, read the Scripture from the lock screen/take-home card aloud, inserting one of your student's names when prompted. Continue going around the group until each person's name has been inserted into the Scripture and read aloud.

GOD SHOWED HOW MUCH
HE LOVED _____ (YOUR NAME HERE)
BY SENDING HIS ONE AND
ONLY SON INTO THE WORLD
SO THAT _____ (YOUR NAME HERE)
MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL
LIFE THROUGH HIM. THIS IS
REAL LOVE—NOT THAT
_____ (YOUR NAME HERE) LOVED
GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED
_____ (YOUR NAME HERE) AND
SENT HIS SON AS A
SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY
_____ (YOUR NAME HERE) SINS.

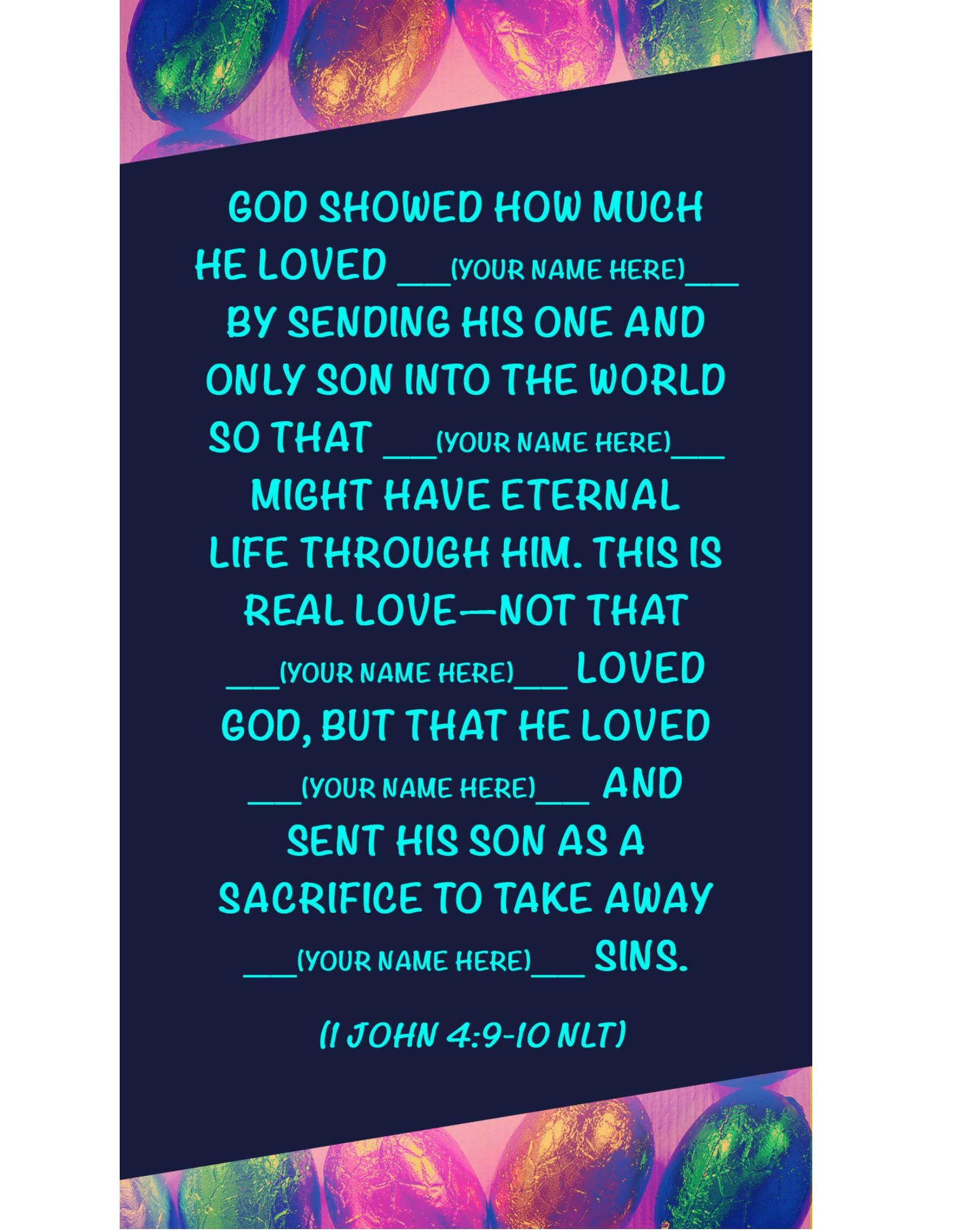
(1 JOHN 4:9-10 NLT)

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