

OVERARCHING THEMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE WEEK

A typical holiday club might run like this. Suggestions for a daily timetable, 2.5 hours:

Arrivals

Arrival activities in small groups – daily activity as detailed in that day’s session instructions

Upfront session 1 (45 minutes)

Active warm up (music and exercise routine)
Song
Check the photo of the day
Story

Small groups (1 hour)

Refreshments – recipe of the day
Crafts
Reflection
Prayer activity
Games

Upfront session 2 (25 minutes)

Song
Out of the photo
What have we learned?
Closing song and group prayer activity
Goodbye wind-down and gather up ready for collection from small group

About each session

Personnel – attic explorer: dressed in old clothes, maybe a bit dusty. Maybe even carrying a duster (a feather duster, even) or dustpan and brush. They could have a toy spider hidden in a pocket and find it at some point, exaggeratedly throwing it into the assembled group of children.

Play up the theme of curiosity – the explorer is taking the children into an old attic to see what they can find there. On the first day they might explore a couple of things – find some curiosities in the attic or things that might make the children laugh, maybe their childhood teddy bear or unusual things they wore in times gone by – before finding the photograph album.

Team identity

Designate one area of the hall for each team of attic explorers and get the teams to come up with their own team name. The team might decorate the walls of their area with pictures – perhaps some cobwebs and spiders of their own, maybe decorate some big cardboard boxes etc.

As one of the activities they can make a photo album for their team out of pieces of thin card and put in print-outs of photos of their team, creating a tableau, or photocopies of photos their team might bring in (remember to check for permissions) or drawings made to look like photos.

Decorate your venue

The scene is set in an abandoned attic. You may want to decorate it with cardboard boxes, old suitcases, bits and pieces. Even a few cobwebs! And a pile of old photograph albums, the top one containing the five photographs you are using as the stimuli for each day.

These may be photos you have taken yourself in advance, or you may prefer to use the ones which we have pre-done for you. These are provided in black and white or in colour and you will need to cut them out, preferably on glossy paper if possible, and put them into an album as well as having them on a computer screen so that children can all see the detail of the photographs.

Ongoing activities

Hotseat

(Optional) Arrange a time for someone from the church congregation to come and visit the holiday club and talk about their own relationship with God through the hard times and the good times in their lives and how that relationship developed, answering questions from the children.

A challenge for the end of the session

Can you find any photos at home that you can bring in which show memories of special relationships or times when you were brave, surprised, included, adventurous or felt that you really belonged? If you can't bring and share your own photos, maybe you can find pictures of people in magazines or newspapers.

Continuing craft

Each team can put together their own photograph album to illustrate each of the 'Love is...' themes, using photos from magazines, printed photos taken during the session, photocopied photographs from home (check for permissions to include these from anyone pictured in the photographs), or drawings made to look like a photo. You might even set up a photobooth and take photos of the children with various photobooth props. These can be purchased relatively cheaply.

Songs

One song is a theme song entitled 'So Love', which would be perfect for the start of your session and possibly also at the end.

The second song 'Always and Everywhere', is cumulative. It has a general verse and chorus and then specific verses for each day. You may choose just to sing the relevant verse for the day's theme or you may choose to build this song up. Find the sheet music overleaf.

Sing along with Leo videos available on <https://bit.ly/SnapshotVideo> or from children.youth@urc.org.uk on request.



Always and Everywhere

♩ = 95 Unhurried

Leo Roberts & Cathryn Craig

Chorus

C G F G C Am

Love is all_ a-round us, love will al - ways be, love for one an-oth - er,___

4 F G F G C

love for you and me. There in the be-gin - ning and there un - til the end,

7 Am F G

___ God has shown true love for us_ be-cause___ God is our friend.

Verse

10 C *Fine* C G F G

1. First-ly there was noth-ing, just dark-ness, no light,

14 C Am F G

till God's love cre-at - ed the day and_ the night. The

16 F G C Am F

land and the sea and the birds___ in the air, ani - mals and fish-es God has

19 G C G

put in - to___ our care. God start - ed___ with noth - ing,___ now

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21 F G C Am

look what's a-round: a sky is up a-bove us, our

23 F G F G C Am

feet are on the ground. Cre-at-ed from noth-ing, ex-cept God's de-sire, we

26 F G *D.C. al Fine*

love God's cre-a-tion, so let's raise our voi-ces high - er.

Chorus

Love is all around us, love will always be,
 love for one another, love for you and me.
 There in the beginning, and there until the end,
 God has shown true love for us, because God is our friend.

Verse 1 – Love is creative

Firstly, there was nothing, just darkness, no light,
 till God's love created the day and the night.
 The land and the sea and the birds in the air,
 animals and fishes God has put into our care.
 God started with nothing, now look what's around:
 a sky is up above us, our feet are on the ground.
 Created from nothing, except God's desire,
 we love God's creation, so let's raise our voices higher.

Verse 3 – Love is adventurous

They had a good job fixing nets on the shore,
 when Jesus said, "Follow me, I'll show you more."
 And picking up others they met on the way,
 they gave up their jobs and they walked in the Way.
 They had no idea of what lay ahead,
 but they all loved Jesus and did what he said.
 Love leads to adventures, excitement, you see.
 Will you answer when Jesus says, "Follow me.?"

Verse 2 – Love is brave

To walk upon the water, what a strange thing to do.
 I don't think I would try it, what about you?
 But Jesus loved Peter and told him to try,
 and Peter loved Jesus: he didn't ask why.
 Stepped out of the boat and stepped onto a wave,
 no fear for his safety, his love made him brave.
 And while, in our story, it ended in tears,
 when you love somebody, you can overcome your fears.

Verse 4 – Love is belonging

Abraham, Sarah were both getting old,
 too late for a family till they were told
 by God that some children were theirs to be had
 and God knew that they'd be a great mum and dad.
 Those children had children, and so it went on,
 a whole family to which they could belong.
 And Jesus was part of that great family
 'cause love is belonging: guess what? So are we!

Verse 5 – Love is surprising

An angel appeared to young Mary one night.
 Mary was scared – what a terrible fright!
 She blocked up her ears and screwed up her eyes.
 "Fear not," said the angel, "I have a surprise!
 You're having a baby, the father is God."
 "I am the Lord's servant", she said with a nod.
 That baby was Jesus, a friend we all love,
 the biggest surprise from our God up above.

So Love

Leo Roberts

♩ = 98 **Steady 4**

Chorus C F

Love is kind, love is good, love's ex-act-ly what we should be show-ing.

5 C

God loves me, God loves you and, when

7 F

we share God's love too, it keeps grow-ing... Love is

10 G F C

ne-ver wast-ed, ne-ver lost, and Je-sus showed, de-spite the cost, that

Last time to Coda

12 F G C G C

lov-ing is the best that we can be, so love.

Words and Music: ©2023 Leo Roberts | Musical Transcription: Roo Stewart for URC Children and Youth

Verse

15 F C F C

1. Love is in your heart and love is in your head.
 2. Love is ma - ny co - lours, and love is tall and short,
 3. Love is ne - ver boast - ful, love is ne - ver rude.
 4. Love is al - ways pat - ient, love, it al - ways hopes.

17 F C Dm G

Love is there when you wake up and when you go to bed.
 Love is some-thing that you learn but love can - not be taught.
 Love's a hap - py feel - ing, it's a love - ly kind of mood.
 Love will keep you stea - dy when you feel you're on the ropes.

19 F C F C

Love is ne - ver end - ing, real love ne - ver dies. We
 Love is some-times chee - ky, love of - ten ob - eys and
 Love does not cost mon - ey, love's free to re - ceive.
 Love is al - ways trust - ing, love shows that you care.

D.C. al Coda

21 F C Dm G

know when some-one loves us: we can see it in their eyes.
 love will keep you nice and warm on the cold - est days.
 God loves ev - 'ry one of us, that's what we all be - lieve.
 Love can - not be locked a - way, it's some-thing we must share.

Coda (Ending)

23 C G C G C

love, so love so love.