APPLICATION ACTIVITY
Lesson 1 - God Is Love, So I Know That God Loves Me!

PURPOSE:
This activity will teach the children that God’s love makes it possible for us to get out of the trap of sin.

DESCRIPTION:
In the activity, the children will attempt to escape a maze that is unsolvable. Then, the teacher will provide a red sheet of cellophane that will make the red walls of the maze disappear and allow the children to escape. Just like the red cellophane freed the children from being lost in the maze, Jesus frees us from being lost in sin.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
For this activity, you will need this Help Sheet and an 8 1/2” X 11” piece of red cellophane. For each child you will need a pen or pencil and the “Red Maze Lesson 1” from the Lesson Materials CD-ROM.

Note: Test your printout BEFORE the weekend! Test the red cellophane with the printout from your color printer. When you place the cellophane over the maze, the walls should disappear. It may be necessary to adjust your print settings to get the red walls to print the correct color to match the cellophane you buy.

TO INTRODUCE THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. Being lost is no fun. I have two friends who are lost and I would like us to try to help.
2. My friends are lost in this maze.

For detailed instructions on how to lead the activity, see the Small Group Leader DVD.

TO LEAD THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. I want each of you to get a maze and try to help my friends escape.
2. Keep working on the maze until you find a way out.
3. If you can’t find a way out, you can work with your neighbor.
4. What is wrong? Why can’t you find a way out of the maze? (There is not a way out. It’s impossible.)
5. You are right. This maze is impossible to solve. No matter which way you go, there is a wall blocking your way.
6. That is like our sin problem. No matter how hard we worked or how long we tried, we could never get away from our sin. It blocks our way to a relationship with God.
7. But, now I have something to show you. Watch what happens to the walls when I put this piece of red cellophane over the maze. What happens? (The walls disappear.)

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8. That is right. The walls disappear. Pass the cellophane around so that everyone can see how the walls disappear on the maze.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY SAY:
1. My friends were lost in the maze and could not get out without the red cellophane. The red cellophane made the walls disappear and they were able to escape.
2. Just like my friends were lost in the maze, we are lost in sin.
3. We can't escape our sin. We can't get away from it. We are lost in sin.
4. But because of Jesus, we don't have to stay lost. Because God loves us so much, He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.
5. Just like the red cellophane made the walls of the maze disappear, Jesus’ death on the cross makes our sins disappear.

CLOSING STATEMENT:
Sin traps us like this maze trapped the kids. There was no way out of the maze without the cellophane, and there is no way out of sin without Jesus. We know that God loves us because of what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus died for us so that we could be free from sin and have a relationship with God!