



Love – Lesson 2

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is Love

Heart Response: Love him

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19

“We LOVE because God first loved us.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. God loves us.
2. We should love God as he loves us.
3. We should love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind
4. We need to show God’s love to others.
5. When our neighbors need help, we should help them.

Personal Preparation:

Love is a funny thing. We love ice cream, movies, sports teams, and music groups. All of us love using the word love. But what does it really mean to love? Does saying you love someone truly mean that you do?

As you prepare to share with your class that God is love and that he loves us, take some time to reflect on what this means in your own life with God and with others. Think about the people you love in your life. How often do we tell others how much we love them? How often do we show our love to them? Both are important. God says, “I love you,” and showed us his love by sending his Son so we might live and love through him.

Open your mind and heart—your entire being—to receive his love in full measure. It can be overwhelming how vast his love is for us. So many people are starved for love because they haven’t learned the art of receiving. This is essentially an act of faith—believing that he loves us with boundless, everlasting love. The art of receiving is also a discipline—training your mind to trust him and moving closer to him with confidence. **Nothing** can separate us from his love. He never abandons any of his children, not even temporarily.

He will never leave us or forsake us. His presence watches over us continually.

You have an incredible opportunity now to participate in God’s amazing love story and share with his children the greatness of his love. *He loves us so much.* As you prepare to teach these lessons, seek God and ask him how he wants to use your own changed life. Ask God to show you areas of your life that still need to be transformed so you can better trust, love, and bring glory to him. Pray for the strength that only God can give as you pass on what you have received from him to each child in your class.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Supplies:

Sign language for “Jesus,” “Love,” and “Me” can be found at www.signingsavvy.com

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Teach children three sign language signs. First teach them “Jesus” (point index finger into opposite hand open palm, then do the same with the index finger and other palm). Have them practice that sign a few times. Then, teach them “love” (cross arms across chest). Practice the “love” sign for a while. Lastly, teach them the sign for “me” (point to self). Again, have them practice this sign for a while. Have the children put all three signs together to form the sign language sentence, “Jesus loves me!” Have them repeat this signed phrase many times until it looks like they have caught on.

Was it easy learning the signs at first? (Allow for responses.) It wasn't until I showed and practiced those signs with you for a while that you were able to remember them really well, right? Do you all think that you could teach those signs to your parents, sisters, brothers, or friends? (Allow for responses. Hopefully they say “yes!”) Good! Just like you were not able to show others these new signs before I showed you first, you are only able to LOVE because GOD loved us first and showed us how to love. “We LOVE because GOD first loved us.” 1 John 4:19. Can you repeat that verse? Good job, boys and girls!

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies

Bible (Luke 10:25-32)

Can you say our memory verse again? “We LOVE because God first loved us.” 1 John 4:19. (Repeat with them a couple of times.)

Last week, we learned about a smart man who tried to trick Jesus to see if Jesus was a good teacher or not. Was that nice of the smart man? (No!) Was the smart man loving Jesus? (No!) You're right! We remember, though, that Jesus could not be tricked because he is the Son of God. He is all-knowing.

We also learned that we should love the Lord with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and should love our neighbors as ourselves.

The Bible tells us that the smart man still wants to try and trick Jesus, so he asks Jesus, “But who is my neighbor?” Jesus answers the smart man by telling this story:

One day, a man who was traveling from a faraway city suddenly met up with a group of thieves. The thieves took all of his money and everything else he had, and then they beat him up and left him lying by the side of the road.

Can you all think of a time when you have been hurt? (Allow responses.) Did someone help you when you got hurt? (Allow responses.) It's not fun to be hurt. Sometimes you cry and you need help from someone. Let's see if someone will help this man.

As he lay there in pain and misery, he heard footsteps. Can you make footstep sounds with your feet? (Allow the children to see you stomping on the ground to make the sound of someone walking nearby. Have them mimic this behavior for a few seconds.) “Ah! Someone is coming,” he thought. “I hope he will help me! I hope it isn't one of the same men who beat me up, coming back to find out if I am dead.” He waited and listened for a long time.

It happened to be a pastor who came by, but when the pastor saw the man lying beside the road, he decided to take a different road because he was in a hurry and didn't want to be bothered. The injured man was certainly glad that it wasn't one of the robbers, but he surely wished somebody would come along to help him.

Did the pastor show love to the injured man?

(No!) You're right. The pastor did not show love to the injured man and help him. Let's see if someone else will help the hurt man.

After a little while, he heard footsteps again (stomp on the ground again). He wanted to call out and get the attention of the person walking by, but he was in so much pain that all he could do was cry. "Maybe this person will see me and help me," he thought. This time, the man who passed by was a Levite. Can you all say "Levite?" (Allow responses.) **A Levite was a well-known teacher in a temple. The injured man thought surely the Levite would want to help him. But, when the Levite saw the man lying on the side of the road, he looked down, then turned his head, then walked right by, completely ignoring the poor, hurting man.**

Let's all pretend to be the injured man. Everyone lie on the ground and pretend to cry out in pain. (Have all the children lie on the ground with enough space so you can walk in between them.) **I will be the pastor and the Levite. Continue to pretend to cry.** (Encourage the children to pretend – if they want to cry louder, it's okay – as long as they are participating, they are learning.) **So, both the pastor and the Levite see the injured man.** (Begin walking through the children noticing that they are crying. You can even say things like "Oh no! These poor children are crying. Should I help them? No, I'm too busy and I don't want to be bothered" and leave the area where the children are lying. Have the children sit back in their seats.)

What just happened? (Allow the children to try and verbalize what they just acted out – encourage them along the way with pieces of the story.) **Were you happy or sad when I didn't help you?** (Sad!) **Yes! You were probably sad when I didn't help you. Would you stop and help the man who was hurting?** (Yes!) **Why would you stop?** (Because he is our neighbor and God loved us so that we could love others.) **You're right! God loved us so that we could love our neighbors! Next week, we're going to hear the rest of the story of the injured man and find out if someone loved him as a neighbor. Let's pray and ask God to help us love others well.**

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

God, thank you for loving us first so that we can love our neighbors. Please help us to remember that our neighbors are the people all around us—everyone—and to treat them with the same love that you give to us. In Jesus' name, amen.

God Loves Us. So We Can Love

Supplies:
On the Lookout!

Supplies:
Paper towel or toilet paper tube (one per child)
Spool of yarn (one per bin)
Stickers (three per child)
Crayons
Glue
Hole punch

You all said that you would have wanted to help that man who was on the side of the road. We're going to make something that can help you be "on the lookout" for neighbors who might need help, too.

Hand each child a paper towel or toilet paper tube and encourage them to decorate it using the stickers and crayons. Punch a hole in one end and string a piece of yarn (approximately 18" long) through so that the children can walk around with their "telescope" around their necks. Show the children how to look through their telescopes and allow them time to explore the telescopes on their own.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn't matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children's hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

1. **What did the thieves take from the hurt man?** (Money, everything!)
2. **How many people passed by the hurt man?** (Two.)
3. **What two men passed by?** (A pastor and a Levite!)
4. **Did these men love their neighbor by passing by without helping?** (No.)
5. **Who does Jesus say our neighbor is?** (Everyone.)

What Is a Neighbor?

Supplies

Large piece of butcher paper to trace a child (one per session)

Crayons

You have all done such a great job at learning our memory verse. Let's try to say it one more time. "We LOVE because God first loved us" 1 John 4:19. Good job, boys and girls.

Ask for one volunteer. Have that volunteer lie down on top of the piece of paper and encourage kids to trace the outline of that child's body (demonstrate and have them mimic you). Once the child's shape is drawn, write the words "A Good Neighbor" above the shape. Ask the children to give you their suggestions on what makes a good neighbor. As each suggestion is called out, encourage the children to draw pictures showing or write how to be a good neighbor. If you want to allow this activity to extend further, have the children continue to color the "good neighbor."

How Can I Help You?

Supplies

Telescope craft completed (one per child)

Today, you each made a telescope so you can be on the lookout for anyone who needs your help. We are going to practice helping others and explore ways to help our neighbor. We will each take turns being on the lookout while the other children pretend to be in need of help.

Ask for volunteers to pretend to be in need. Give each volunteer a need to act out (hunger, sadness, sick, injured, etc). Discuss the ways that they can help these children and love them as themselves as Jesus taught us in the Bible.



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