

Love – Lesson 3

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.

Loving Our Neighbors

Supplies:

Dolls (at least one per bin)

Bag with an assortment of medical supplies

(adhesive bandages, gauze, medical tape, etc)

* the lotion and bandage wrap will be used in the Bible Lesson

Has anybody ever had a boo-boo? (Explain boo-boo in different ways, as this term is not used in all families. Include the words like scratch, scab, hurt, “ouchie,” etc.). **I bet you were sad when you got hurt. Has anyone ever had to use a Band-Aid or something else like that to cover your boo-boos?** (Allow them to explain their Band-Aid experiences. Some children may focus on the cartoon or illustration they had on their Band-Aid.) **Wow! Thank you for sharing those stories with me.**

This doll is hurting just like you’ve been hurt before. She has boo-boos on her arms, legs, and tummy. Can you help her? Can you put Band-Aids or any of this other stuff over her boo-boos to make her feel better? (Have children work together and explore the challenge you have given them. This concept of helping cover someone else’s boo-boos may be new to some of the children. Help them unwrap the medical supplies and encourage them to cover any areas they think have “boo-boos” on them.) **Once finished, say, Wow! You all did such a good job helping and loving your dolls. Now, do you think you could help someone who was hurting?** (Allow for responses).

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

Lotion

Bandage that can be wrapped (gauze or ACE bandage)

(Open your Bible as you say,) **“We love because God first loved us.” 1 John 4:19. Can you say that with me?** (Have the children repeat the Bible verse with you 1-2 times before beginning the story.)

Last week and the week before, we began learning about a time when Jesus taught people who their neighbors are. Jesus started to tell a story because a smart man wanted to trick Jesus and asked who his neighbors were. Jesus began to tell a story about a man who was beaten up and left on the side of the road by thieves. Does anyone remember what happened after that? (Allow children the opportunity to think, even though they will probably struggle with these details.) **A pastor AND a Levite walked by the hurt man on the side of the road and didn’t stop to help.**

Let’s find out what happens to the hurt man on the side of the road. It wasn’t long until the man heard ANOTHER set of footsteps. Can you make footstep sounds with your feet? (Allow the children to imitate you stomping on the ground to sound like someone is walking nearby.) **He wanted to believe that this person would reach down to help him, but he had already been passed by twice.**

The man who was traveling down the road this time was a stranger from Samaria. People didn’t like people from Samaria. The hurt man thought that it was very unlikely that the Samaritan would help him. However, as the Samaritan passed by, he noticed the man who was lying beaten and hurt on the side of the road. He wanted to help. The Samaritan got off of his donkey and bent down next to the man to get a closer look at the injuries. Gently, he put oil over the man’s wounds. (Squeeze lotion on each of the kids’ hands and ask them to rub it in. Make sure to explain that the relief they feel

from the lotion on their hands is how the oil felt on the hurt man's skin.) **Next, the man gently bandaged the hurt man's wounds.** (Wrap gauze around a child's arm or children's arms. Make sure to say that the gauze wrapped around their arm is similar to what the Samaritan used to bandage the hurt man's wounds.) **After the Samaritan put oil on and bandaged the hurt man's wounds, he carefully put the man on his very own donkey and took him to the nearest hotel. Can you make a sound of someone knocking on a door?** (Show them how to knock on the table.) **This is how it sounded when the Samaritan took the hurt man to a hotel and knocked on their door. The Samaritan stayed with the hurt man overnight and took care of him.**

The next morning, the Samaritan had to leave and knew he couldn't take the hurt man with him. When the Samaritan paid the bill, he gave the innkeeper extra money, saying, **"Take care of him, feed him, and make sure he has everything he needs. If he owes you any money after he gets well and leaves, write it down, and I will pay the bill the next time I come by."** Then, **the Samaritan left.** (Stomp again to imitate the Samaritan's footsteps leaving the hotel.)

Jesus, after finishing the story, asks the smart man, **"Which of these three men was a neighbor to the stranger on the street: The pastor, Levite, or Samaritan?"** The smart man, embarrassed that he failed at tricking Jesus, answers, **"The one who stopped and helped him, the Good Samaritan."** Jesus says, **"That's right. Now YOU go and do the same."**

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 so much that we can now love others in the same way. Please help us be like the good Samaritan and love our neighbor even if sometimes we do not want to. We love you so much! In Jesus' name, amen.

Good Samaritan Kit

Supplies:

Sandwich-sized zippered bag (one per child)

Adhesive bandage (one per child)

Piece of candy (one per child)

Holding hands verse card (one per child)

In the opening activity, you helped a doll feel better by putting bandages on him or her. You are able to help your neighbor if he or she is hurting, now that you know what to do. You can be just like the good Samaritan! We can also help our neighbors when they are struggling with things like hunger, fatigue (being very tired), sickness and more. We can help by encouraging them, praying for them, cooking meals, and more. Today we are going to make "Good Samaritan Kits" to remind us to be prepared to help our neighbors with their needs. Give each child a bag. Ask them to think about ways that they can be prepared to love their neighbor. Give each child a piece of candy, a bandage, and a holding hands verse card to put in their bag as reminders of how to love their neighbors. Go over the two verses a couple times with the children. **We want to help our neighbors because we love them. We love our neighbors because God first loved us. Can you say our memory verse with me? "We love because God first loved us" 1 John 4:19**

***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. **How many people stopped to help the hurt man?** (One.)
2. **How did the Samaritan show love to the hurt man?** (He bandaged his wounds and took him to the nearest hotel.)
3. **Who is your neighbor?** (Everyone.)
4. **How can we love our neighbors that we don't get along with?** (We can love others because God first loves us and will give us the strength. We are to love all people, even if we don't always get along.)
5. **What did Jesus say we should do at the end of the lesson?** (GO and DO the same as the Samaritan man.)

Faces of Neighbors

Supplies

Set of loving neighbors stories (one per bin)

Begin by asking the children **"Does anyone remember how we need to love our neighbors? (As ourselves!) You're right! We need to love our neighbors as ourselves. Today, we're going to learn more about who our neighbors are. Does anyone know who our neighbors are? (People around us, friends, everyone, etc. For two- and three-year-olds, you may need to suggest people. Are your friends your neighbors?) People of all different colors, sizes, shapes, ages, and locations are our neighbors.**

Pull out the set of pictures from the bin showing several different people. As you show the children a picture, ask **"Does anyone know this person? Is this your neighbor? What does Jesus say about loving this person?"** Eventually by the end of this activity or last picture, they may answer "No, I don't know this person. Yes, they are my neighbors. Yes, I am to love this person." Show the children the picture and read aloud the brief bio on the picture about how these people are loving their "neighbors" or being loved by their "neighbors." Discuss how we can love and support these neighbors as well as the people God has put in each of our lives to love as he loves us.

Helping Hands

Supplies

Bandana (one per bin)

Tell the children that they are going to help a friend through an obstacle course using their hands. Place chairs, blocks, and other obstacles throughout the room and blindfold a child. Another child will use their hands kindly and gently to touch their friend and lead them through the room safely while avoiding the obstacles. Discuss how we need our neighbors to help us and how God gave us relationships to love one another as he loves us.



GraceChurchSC.org/Kids
2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615
Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222