

E17. Love

Mark 12:28-31; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:10; Matthew 7:12

Learning Objectives

1. The children will be able to explain what it means to love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength.
2. The children will recognize that we must love others unconditionally, in the same way Jesus loves us, because this is pleasing to God.
3. The children will identify "LOVE" as one of the fruits of the spirit.

Memory Verse:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." --Mark 12:30 (NKJV)

Getting Started

Choose One

All Ages

Getting to Know Your Neighbor

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Teacher Guide → Page 7 → The Great Commandment PDF → Page 5 "Getting to Know Your Neighbor"

Give your class some time to get to know each other. Go around the class and have each child give their name and one reason why they love Jesus. Spend about five minutes doing this activity. To test them have each of them close their eyes and recite as many names of fellow students that they can remember.

Whom do you love?

You will need red card stock and scissors for this craft activity. Cut out one (fairly large) heart for each child prior to class.

Give each child a heart and tell the children to close their eyes and think of someone they love very much. Ask them to write the name of that person on the heart. Then have them share why they love that person. Prompt the children to imagine that person asking them to do a task and ask them to share how they would feel about doing the task. After they respond, emphasize they are often more motivated to do the task for someone they love deeply. Then tell them in the lesson today, they will talk about our great love for God and how that affect the way we choose to live our lives, in a manner that pleases Him.

Grades K-2

Coloring Page

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → preschool → coloring pages → "colorful Love"

Teachers will need to print out one page for each child. (See the website above.) They will also need blue, orange, red, yellow and green crayons for this activity. The children will need to follow the "Coloring code" and color in their picture. While they color, the following discussion questions may be talked about:

1. What do you normally think of when you see a heart? (Valentine's day, love, etc.)
2. What do you normally think of when you see a cross? (Easter, Jesus, etc.)

Coloring Page - Continued

3. Why do the heart and cross go together in our picture? (Jesus died on the cross because He loved us so much. The heart and the cross both represent love.)

Tell the children that we need to color all of the spaces on our pictures. We should love Jesus in the same way, not with just a part of our lives but with all of our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength.

Grades 3-5Showing Love

Use your white board or easel to draw two columns. Then ask the class to think of ways that people show love. List their suggestions on the white board or easel in the first column. Then ask the children to list the ways God shows us His love. List these suggestions on the white board in the second column. Make the distinction that biblical "love" is more than a feeling—it is an intentional, sacrificial commitment.

We receive the greatest example of love from God because He perfectly loves us even though we are sinners. In today's lesson, we will learn about how God commands us to love others, and that why we should follow that command. Continue with the lesson.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Love one another.

Mark 12:28-31 - The Most Important Commandment

One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus and heard Him arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He noticed that Jesus had given the Sadducees good answers to their questions. So he asked Jesus, "Which of the commandments is the most important?"

Jesus answered, "Here is the most important one. Moses said, 'Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is one. ***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind and with all your strength.***' And here is the second one. '***Love your neighbor as you love yourself.***' There is no commandment more important than these."

1 Corinthians 13: 1-7

Suppose I speak in the languages of human beings or of angels. If I don't have love, I am only a loud gong or a noisy cymbal. ²Suppose I have the gift of prophecy. Suppose I can understand all the secret things of God and know everything about him. And suppose I have enough faith to move mountains. If I don't have love, I am nothing at all. ³Suppose I give everything I have to poor people. And suppose I give myself over to a difficult life so I can brag. If I don't have love, I get nothing at all.

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs. ⁶Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. ⁷It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

John 13:34-35

“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. ³⁵If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.”

Galatians 6:10 (NLT)

Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Matthew 7:12

In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets.

Additional Teacher Notes:

The “golden rule” is understood as a reference to the words of the Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

That which Jesus taught His disciples also applies to the congregation. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you [...] By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). This instruction to His disciples rises above all other laws of the Bible and mankind.

The commandment to love one’s neighbor, to support one’s fellow human being and to help in situations of need should be especially evident in the congregation. In Galatians 6:10, the text states, “Let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” All who belong to the congregation have a duty to treat one another, as well as all mankind, with sincere compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

If we have “love for one another”, it enables us to accept our brother and sister as they are (cf. Romans 15: 7), and protects against irreconcilability, prejudices, and contempt. It is a power that strengthens the unity amongst the members in the congregation, awakens compassion and understanding for one another, and promotes a willingness to help one another.

From the “high song of love” we can read: “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Discussion Questions:

1. What four ways are we to love our Lord, according to Mark 12? (*Heart, soul, mind, strength.*)
2. What does it mean to love God with all your heart? (*Discuss together.*)
3. What was the second most important commandment that Jesus gave us? (*To love your neighbor as yourself.*)
4. How should we treat other people? (*With love and respect, as we would want them to treat us.*) Why do you think Jesus included this as the second greatest commandment? (*Discuss...answers will vary.*)
5. Do you love God with ALL your heart? Why? (*Discuss together.*)
6. How can you tell if someone loves God with ALL their heart? (*Discuss...by their actions.*)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – *Continued*

Discussion Questions - *Continued*:

7. In Corinthians, Paul teaches us about what love is. What are some of the things that “love is” according to that passage (look up together and read it as a class before listing you answers on your white board). (*Love is patient, kind, doesn’t brag, etc.*)
8. Why does God command us to love others? (*See John 13:34-35.*)
9. Should we follow what God commands us to do? Why? (*Yes! Discuss together.*)
10. What are some ways that we can show love to others? In other words, how can we love our neighbor as ourselves? (*Discuss*).

Further Discussion:

The **gift of intercession** is the divine enablement to have an awareness of the needs of others and put the gift into action by praying on their behalf. Individuals with the gift of intercession contribute prayer.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that the children of the Father love their enemies and pray for those who want to hurt them. Years later, Stephen, a disciple of Christ, put this teaching into practice and displayed the gift of intercession when he faced opposition from members of the Synagogue who wanted to hurt him and take his life. As they were throwing stones at him, he cared for them and prayed to the Lord, that He did not hold that sin against them!

When put into action, the gift of intercession can be one of the ultimate displays of love for all people (including those who want to do us harm) as when we pray, we do it in the presence of God, who knows our hearts. When we pray for them, we do it out of genuine love.

Application to Real Life

What is Love?

You will need to print out the “Love Cards” for this activity and cut them apart before class. Please see the attached sheet at the end of this lesson.

Write on your chart paper or easel: “*When I love someone I...*” Read the phrase to the children. Then ask the children to complete the phrase with an action or behavior they show towards someone they love. After they respond, emphasize that we should not only love the people in our family but also the people in our congregation. When we truly love our sister and brother in our congregation the love between the members strengthens the congregation. We also have a duty to treat all people with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience.

Give the children the “love card” set. Ask them to separate the cards into two piles. One pile should contain cards that describe how we show our love towards each other. The second pile should contain the cards that are the opposite to what Jesus taught the disciples. After they have placed the cards into the two piles, read each card and ask the children which pile they placed it in. If the card reflects an incorrect characteristic of love, ask them how the statement should be reworded. Remind the children that we should remember these characteristics of love when we interact with others. If they live their life accordingly, they will live a life that follows Jesus’ teaching. Emphasize that it is not always easy to live our lives in this manner. Remind the children that God knows our efforts and when we fail, we can be assured that His grace helps us.

Review the memory verse and message statement.



Memory Work Fun

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Pick a fruit of the spirit – ask the children to explain what it means and give an example.
4. Play a game to review a Commandment (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Choose One

All Ages

A Heart Full of Love Craft Activity

You will need copies of the heart template (see the page near the end of this lesson), red and pink colored craft or tissue paper, colored pencils, scissors and glue for this activity.

Before the Activity:

- Print one template for each child.
- Use the red and pink colored construction or tissue paper to cut out 20–30 different sized small hearts for each child. Place the hearts in a container and put it in the middle of the teaching area.
- Make a sample craft.

In class, give each child a template. Ask one child to read the Bible verse printed on it and briefly discuss with the class how the verse connects to the lesson. Afterwards, tell the children to decorate and glue the hearts in the circle area around the heart in the template. When the template is completely covered in hearts, cut along the dotted line. Create a hole where indicated at the top of the template. Loop a piece of ribbon through the hole and tie the two ends. Review the memory verse and message statement.

Memory Verse “Heart” Review

Before class, cut out a set of hearts for every three children in your class. Pair older children with younger children for this activity. Write one or two words of the memory verse on each heart. The children will work together in their group to put the memory verse hearts in order. You may also want to have the verse written out on the white board or easel so that they can use it as a resource for help or to check their work. When everyone has finished, say the memory verse together. Continue with the lesson.

Song: “All for Jesus”

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → preschool → songs → “All for Jesus” for a sample of the tune and a copy of the words. (“I Surrender All” is the tune for this song.)

For added fun you can add the following actions.

When singing Love with all my heart: **Point to heart**

When singing Love with all my soul: **Stretch out arms**

When singing Love with all my mind: **Point to head**

When singing Love with all my strength: **Flex both biceps**

Note: Any song about our Love for Jesus will work, so if you have another selection, go for it! Remember to make it fun, use hand motions and movement wherever possible too!

Grades K-2**Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength Mobile**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Preschool → Crafts → “Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength Mobile”

You will need to print out the template from the above website ahead of time. Notice that some of the templates are already colored in to save time, or there are black and white ones to allow the children to color their own. This activity will take time to complete and you may require extra volunteers to get the mobiles completed during the class time.

Give each child one of each cutout pages. Have them color and/or cutout the pieces. The pieces for soul and strength come in both a girl and boy version, and the children choose one or the other. The finished craft has four hanging pieces: one heart, one girl or boy soul, one mind, and one girl or boy strength. Please see the above website for templates and more detailed instructions.

Remember to keep the conversation going as you work on your projects. Explain to the children how we should love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and how each symbol represents one of these areas in our lives. Ask the children to give examples of how our love for Jesus can show in our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength.

Grades 3-5**Love Like Jesus Craft**

See: www.kidssundayschool.com → Grade School → Crafts → “Love Like Jesus”

You will need the activity handout, paper plates, tissue paper (pink, red and white), scissors, glue sticks, a hole punch and yarn for this craft activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

This craft activity will allow the children to explore what Biblical love looks like. It will also remind the children that love is not selfish, but rather sacrificial and involves others first. When we love God and His Son with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we choose to love others just as we love ourselves. Review the memory verse and message statement.

Love – Uncover the Message Activity

You will need copies of the activity handout (please see the handout located near the end of this lesson) and pencils for this activity. Have the children work in teams to uncover the message and then write it out on a piece of chart paper or on the white board. First team to have it written correctly (and neatly) wins.

Journal*Optional***Grades K-2**

Do you love ALL of your “neighbors”? Why or why not? Write about it.

Grades 3-5

What does it mean to sacrificially love others? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson "**King Saul**" (1 Samuel 9-10:1) and practice looking up the Bible text reference in your Bible.
- Learn the memory verse: *"Your word is a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."*
--Psalm 119:105 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing commandment #_____.
- Color the "**King Saul**" coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- If you were the king, what would you do for the Lord and His work? Think about it and be ready to share in class.

Other Resources

www.daniellesplace.com → Resource Room → Search "love" → "Fruit of the Spirit – Love"

www.kidssundayschool.com → Scroll down to "Spiritual Life" → See Lessons under "True Love"

Real-Life Application: Love Cards

Love is patient.	Love wants what belongs to others.	Love does not brag.
Love is proud.	Love is not rude.	Love thinks of its own interests.
Love does not easily become angry.	Love is happy with evil things.	Love does not keep track of the wrong others do.
Love is joyful when the truth is spoken.	Love does not trust.	Love gives hope.
Love gives up.	Love does not protect.	Love promotes a willingness to help one another.

 **Craft: A Heart Full of Love**



Exercise: Uncover the Message

Colour the boxes with Z and X to uncover the Bible verse.

Z	X	A	N	D	Z	X	Z	Y	O	U	X	Z	X	Z
X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X
S	H	A	L	L	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	L	O	V	E
Z	T	H	E	X	Z	L	O	R	D	Z	Y	O	U	R
X	Z	G	O	D	Z	X	W	I	T	H	X	A	L	L
Z	X	Z	Y	O	U	R	X	Z	H	E	A	R	T	Z
X	W	I	T	H	Z	X	A	L	L	X	Y	O	U	R
S	O	U	L	Z	X	Z	X	Z	W	I	T	H	X	Z
X	Z	X	Z	X	A	L	L	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X
Y	O	U	R	Z	X	Z	X	M	I	N	D	Z	X	Z
Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X
X	Z	A	N	D	Z	Z	X	Z	X	Z	W	I	T	H
Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	X	Z	X	Z	X
A	L	L	Z	X	Z	Y	O	U	R	Z	X	Z	X	Z
X	Z	X	Z	X	Z	X	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H

Name: _____

King Saul



"Your word is a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."
-Psalm 119:105 (NIRV)



Take Home Page: E17. Love

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should learn to **love one another**! The children explored what it means to love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength. They also identified “love” as a fruit of the Spirit and talked about how loving others unconditionally is pleasing to God.

Help me learn my memory verse...

“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.”

--John 13:34 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. What does it mean to love God with all your heart?
2. Do you love God with all your heart?
3. What do you think it means to love our neighbor as ourselves? How can we do this?

Live Your Faith...

Look up 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and read it together. Then work together to make a family poster that can be hung somewhere to remind you what love is, and how to love others each day. Use the attributes from Corinthians. Children can each make their own as well to hang in their rooms, if you choose. Encourage each other to choose love and choose to be loving toward each other (and toward your “neighbors”) each day.
