

Share with students, **“Today we are going to learn that God is love.**

WHAT IS LOVE?

Can anyone tell me what love is? Raise your hand if you know. (Encourage children to raise hands and tell you what they think is love. Examples may be – being kind, being nice to others, giving of your time...)

The Bible though has a great definition of what love is and what it does in a person’s life. (Hold up your Bible)

I am going to read from the Bible in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; everyone sit quietly and listen. Every time I say the word “Love” I want you to give yourself a big hug. Can you all show me? Say Love – make sure all the children give themselves a hug.

Great job. Now listen and give yourself a hug every time you hear the word “Love” while I read from the Bible.

It says,

“Love (remind them to give themselves a hug) is patient, love (hug) is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love (hug) does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Great job everyone, let’s do it again. I will read the verse and you give yourself a hug every time you hear the word “Love”. Ok? Repeat verse.

HOW DO YOU SHOW LOVE?

Does God love you?

Does your mommy love you?

Who gave you a mommy?

Does your daddy love you?

Who gave you a daddy?

Does your family love you?

Who gave you a family?

How do we show love? What is this verse saying? Raise your hand if you can list some of the things a person should do if they are showing love to someone else. (Have students go through and mention if you love you should be patient, kind, not jealous of the other person, not bragging to others about what you have and they don’t, you should be forgiving, truthful, not easily upset, putting the other first, protecting of the other person, trusting, hopeful and persistent in your relationship. Some of these words are big words for them. Try to use simple terms and examples as you go through.)

These characteristics of love also show us the characteristics of God. Because God is love! If love is patient, kind, forgiving, truthful and trusting, so is God because God is love as we will read in the next activity. God takes care of us, helps us, is a friend to us, He is honest and tells the truth, He waits for us, He guides us, He does what is best for us – that is Love! Any Questions?

First let's sing a song about how God loves us:

God Loves

God loves _____, Yes He does!
God loves _____, Yes He does!
God loves _____, just this way
And He loves (him/her) everyday!

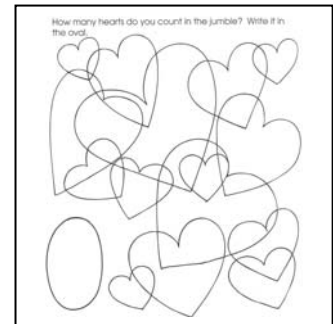
*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

2) God is Love Bible Verse and Count the Hearts Activity 10 minutes

Read **1 John 4:7-8** (if you have puppet, you can use that as you read to the class or do the same activity as before – ask the students to hug themselves every time they hear the word “Love”)

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

God is very special. It says here that God is Love – He doesn't just feel love but He actually IS love. And when we love each other, we show others the love of God. Our ability to love comes from God. God is love!



Hand out one “count the hearts sheet” to each child with crayons. Read the directions aloud and help the children find the hearts. They can color them in or circle them as they go. Count them as a class when done to see how many there are before moving on to the next activity.

3) Optional: God is Love Hot Potato Memory Phrase Game (5 minutes)

Have your children stand in a circle and pass a beanbag, soft ball or small teddy bear while you sing a song – maybe God Loves..... fill in child's name song as you sung above is a good song to use ☺ When you stop the song, the child holding the ball or teddy bear must say the phrase we have been learning today – **God is Love!**

You can keep playing this way or have the child that said the verse stand in the middle of the circle. Keep playing until most of the children are in the middle of the circle.

You can also play this game at snack time. The child holding the beanbag when the music stops gets to sit down and have a snack. Keep playing until all the children are sitting.

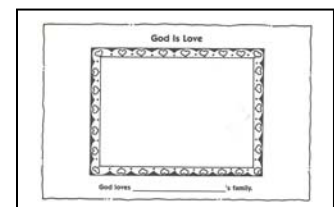
4) God is Love Draw our Families Sheet 10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child. Hand out crayons as well.

Say:

Last week we talked about the fact that God made families. God loves our families very much. Let's draw a picture of our family to show that God is love for giving us loving, caring people in our family to help take care of us.

Help them write their names on the page when finished and get them to



help clean up the crayons before moving on to the next activity.

5) God is Love “Feel for it” Box Activity 10 minutes

Before class fill up a box or basket with things that show that God is love. Have students take turns reaching their hand in the box and finding something to take out without looking. Once they have an item, let them look at it and figure out how it relates to today’s lesson.

(*Basket with things that show God is love: examples dolls to show God loves people, teddy bears or animals to show that God loves animals, things from nature to show that God created and loves nature, heart shaped items, Noah and the Ark – God loved and helped Noah and his family, Adam and Eve picture – God loved Adam and Eve and their family, etc.)

When finished, go through each item and explain why it shows that God is love.

6) Optional: God and Families 5-10 minutes

Pass around dolls, books about families and other things that will help children remember that they learned about the fact that God is love and He loves us by giving us families.

Say, **“The Bible tells us that God made families because He loves us and wants people in our lives who will take good care of us. As we play with these books and dolls let’s remember that God made our families and that includes our church family too! God is love and He shows it by giving us loving and caring people in our lives. We are very special because we have been blessed with grandpas, fathers, sisters, aunts, moms, babies, and uncles. We have also been blessed with the people at church who love us – our Sunday school teachers, friends, evangelist, etc. We need to remember to thank God for all the good things He has made for us, because God is love! And He loves us! Let students play with the dolls and books and then clean up.**

7) Optional: God is Love Heart Sheet 5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child – take the sheet and cut it in half – as there are two sets on a page. Hand out crayons and read the words on the page – let each child draw a picture of a way God shows His love – maybe they will draw themselves since God loves them, maybe they will draw the ark since God helped Noah and loved Noah – let them draw two pictures, one in each big heart shape. When done ask them what their pictures show, clean up crayons and move on to the next activity.

8) Optional: God Loves My Family Color Page 10 minutes

Hand out one page to each child, discuss what they see in the picture – a picture of a mom and dad and two children. Say, **God loves us and our families very much. It makes God very happy that your family is at church today! God loves us and loves our families. God is love. Let’s think about all the ways God is loving towards us and is good to us while we color the page.** Hand out crayons and let children color the page while you discuss different ways God shows His love for us. If you want re-read the two verses you read earlier while they color to help remind them of all the ways God is loving and shows His love for us.

9) Optional: Draw Ways that God is Love Side Walk Chalk Activity 10 minutes

Have your children line up and hold each other’s hand and prepare to go outside where there is a safe sidewalk they can draw on with sidewalk chalk. Only do this activity if you have helpers to keep children safe and if you have a nice sunny and dry day to go outside.

Once children are safely outside. Hand out sidewalk chalk and explain that **we are only going to stay in the following areas** (tell the students the safe areas they can stay in) **If anyone**

goes outside of these areas, we will go back to class and this activity will end because it is very important that we all listen and stay safe. Today we learned that God is love. Let's draw hearts and other things that remind us of all the ways that God is love and that God loves us!

Let the children draw different things that show that God is love on the sidewalk with different colored chalk. Help the children think of things to draw and what that might look like.

When finished, let the children see all the amazing drawings they all did and then gather the chalk, hold hands, line up and go back to the classroom.

10) Optional: Play Dough – God is Love

10 minutes

Hand out play dough to each child, if possible letting them choose the color they want, reminding them to not mix colors so they stay the color they are now.

Remind them that **God loves us and gives us many things and blessings to show His love. Let's create some things that show all the ways God loves us – maybe we make a home, food, clothes, families, friends, all the things God blesses us with because He loves us because God is love!**

As the children make creations ask each student what they are making and why that shows that God is love.

When finished, have kids clean up and put play dough creations away, or if allowed, let them take one creation home each.

11) Sing

Choose songs from the Songs section of the binder and/or sing:

Sing God is Love from Church Song Books. Lyrics are written below as well.

God is Love

Come, let us all unite to sing:

God is love!

Let Heav'n and earth their praises bring;

God is love!

Let every soul from sin awake;

Let every heart sweet music make,

And sing with us for Jesus' sake:

God is love!

Refrain

God is love! God is love!

Come let us all unite to sing that God is love.

O tell to earth's remotest bound,

God is love!

In Christ we have redemption found,

God is love!

His blood has washed our sins away,

His Spirit turned our night to day,

And now we can rejoice to say:

God is love!

Refrain

How happy is our portion here;

God is love!

His promises our spirits cheer;

God is love!

He is our sun and shield by day;

Our help, our hope, our strength and stay;

He will be with us all the way;

God is love!

Refrain

In Canaan we will sing again:

God is love!

And this shall be our loudest strain:

God is love!

Whilst endless ages roll along;

We'll triumph with the heavenly throng

And this shall be our sweetest song:

God is love!

Refrain

12) Optional Snack : Candy Hearts or Heart shaped Cheese Sandwiches 5 minutes

Hand out candies in the shape of hearts to remind the kids that God is love. If you can't find that, you can use a cookie cutter and cut out cheese and two slices of bread in heart shapes and hand out to the children to build a "Love Sandwich"! Also hand out a glass of water or juice to drink to each child along with a napkin for children to clean their hands. Remind children to clean up after themselves with the napkin making sure their cups and garbage are put in the garbage and that they clean up any crumbs from the table before going on to the next activity. While they are eating review what they learned and how God is love and shows it to us every day!

13) Close in prayer

Thank God that He not only shows His love but IS love so that we can learn how to act and behave by following His and Jesus' example of perfect love. Pray that we can always remember that God loves us and is loving, so that we are never afraid to approach God in prayer and can thank God for all He does for us because of His perfect love for us. Thank you God for Your love!