

Lesson 1: God is Love!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss love and determine that God not only loves us but actually IS love
- 2) Scripture fill in the blanks activity
- 3) Create a God is love banner. A new banner will be made each time a new characteristic of God is discussed.
- 4) Discuss verses in the Bible that pertain to God being love

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure these supplies are already in your room.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bibles to share
- Markers
- Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance (preferably find ones with love, hearts, smiley faces, etc)
- Scripture Search Activity Page –one per child
- Large Paper (11 x 17 Computer copy paper or large construction paper in light color so kids can color over) for banner - one per child
- Red Felt Cloth – one paper sized piece per child
- Blue, Purple, or other colored Felt Cloth – One Paper sized piece per child
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Heart Shape Template – print one page (there are many hearts on a page so each student gets one)
- Chalkboard or Easel to write down ideas for all to see

Optional Snack: Candy hearts or Heart shaped cookie cutter cheese and bread slices.

- Cheese heart shapes one per child
- Bread heart shapes two per child
- Heart Shaped Candies 5 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

10 minutes

As students enter welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Have children put a sticker beside their name (write students names on attendance sheets as they arrive). Let them put a sticker under week one. Once children are seated introduce yourself and ask the students to go around the table saying their name if there are any new students. If you have an assistant(s) ask them to tell the students their name(s) also. Say, **“I will be your teacher this fall; I am very excited to be here. This fall is all about**

learning about God and what characteristics God has. We will also spend time learning about what special things we have that is similar to God and how we should use these characteristics to please God. 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...)

“Love is unconditional affection with no limits or conditions. Even though we all have heard of love and know what love is to some degree it is hard to define love. The Bible though has a great definition of what love is and what it does in a person’s life. (Hold up your Bible) Did everyone bring their Bibles? (For those that didn’t, hand out a bible to them) Let’s all turn to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; it is near the end of the Bible in the New Testament. Now that we found 1 Corinthians, turn to Chapter 13 and we will start in verse 4 and read verse 7.

It says,

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”

Love is patient – Can anyone tell me how being patient is showing love? Raise your hand if you can tell me. (Allow students to answer)

God waits for us to learn about Him and He waits for us to grow in our love for Him. God shows us love by being patient with us.

Love is kind - Can anyone give me an example of someone being kind? Raise your hand if you can tell me. (Allow students to answer).

God is kind to us – He gives us food, clothing, shelter, pets, friends, family, nice weather.

Love always protects – How does God protect us? Raise your hand if you can tell me. I will choose someone who is sitting quietly and has their hand raised. (Allow students to answer).

God takes care of us. We can pray to Him for help.

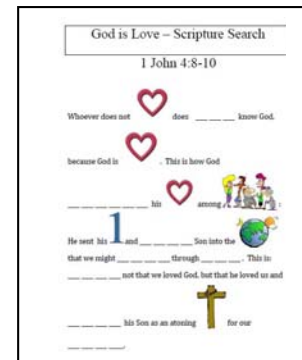
Love always trusts – We can trust God that He knows what is best and is doing the best for us. We can trust God because God is love and He loves us!

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. Any Questions?

2) God is Love Scripture Verse

10-15 minutes

We are going to do an activity sheet. I am going to hand out a sheet of paper and some crayons. Hand out the page and crayons and remind them to put their name somewhere on the page or help them if necessary. Hand out Bibles and have students turn to 1 John 4:8. **Let's all read this verse together and then we will go through the activity sheet.** Read verse then explain to the kids that as a group you will read through the same verse on the sheet in front of them. As they get to a picture or blanks they need to fill it in with the word that is missing. Example if you see a picture of a horse – write or say horse for that word. Go through answers below for missing words and pictures



love not love

Love is a part of the very nature of God; His loves us if we show love to others. So when we are kind and helpful that makes God happy because God is love.

So we have just learned that not only is God loving he actually IS LOVE! What are ways that God shows us love. Let's make a list -write them down at the bottom of your sheet, or you can draw a picture to show God's love instead.

Have kids make a list of ways that God shows us love – sent His Son, made the world for us, gives us talents, blesses us, provides family and friends, church people, minds to make good decisions, when we get older and get baptized we get the Holy Spirit, etc. If kids have trouble start listing some of these things to give them the idea, also at the end if they don't say one of these examples you can share them too.

Now looking at that there are a lot of ways that God shows us His love. His love is unconditional – He will always love us even though some people choose not to love God back. God wants everyone to love Him and He blesses those who do, but we all have the choice. But God always chooses to love you. Let's remember that God loves us so we should love others.

Any questions? Answer questions. If too big or difficult; tell the students you will think about it and get back to them. Then ask the coordinator for help with the answer and get back to them next week. After kids are finished help them to clean up.

3) God is Love Banner Craft

15-20 minutes

Hand out one piece of construction paper or large copy paper to each child for their banner. Then hand out markers and put the heart shaped template paper on the table along with scissors and glue sticks. Tell the children, **“Each week that we study a characteristic about God we will make a banner. This will help us remember that God is many things and all of them amazing! Using the felt cloth, everyone will get one red piece and one of another color.** (If you want you can let children choose if there are different colors or just hand them a color each). **With the red piece I want you to cut out a “heart”**

shape to represent LOVE. You can even write the word love in the middle of the heart with a marker. Next I want you to write on the felt pieces “God is” I will write this on the board so we can all see how it is spelled.

Write “God is” “ **When you have done that cut out the words and heart shape and glue them somewhere on the banner paper. Then draw pictures using the rest of your felt or markers all the different ways we learned that God has shown us love and how God is love.** For a list of ways God shows love we can also look back to 1 Corinthians 13:4 and 7.

Explain to the students again the different areas of love they can draw a picture of:

For example:

Love is patient – God waits for us to learn about Him and He waits for us to grow in our love for Him. God shows us love by being patient.

Love is kind – God is kind to us – He gives us food, clothing, shelter, pets, friends, family, nice weather.

Love always protects – God takes care of us. We can pray to Him for help.

Love always trusts – We can trust God that He knows what is best and is doing the best for us.

Go ahead and start and if you need help or have any questions feel free to ask!

Go around room helping with cutting, gluing, verse look ups, or other things. Ensure kids clean up before leaving. If banners are dry kids can take them home or you can collect them and then hand them out to each child at the end with all banners the child will make stapled together to make one huge rolled up banner at the end of the quarter!

*If you have room, you can also choose to hang the banners around the room each time you make a new one.

4) 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!

5) 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!

6) Optional: Songs

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

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!