

Lesson 4: I Will Love Others

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that Jesus taught us to love one another. Matthew 22:39, John 13:34
- 2) Understand the benefits and importance of showing love to everyone.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- 1 large sheet of paper taped to wall or an easel – one for teacher
- Marker – for teacher

Thumbbody Loves You Cards

- Construction paper (light colors or white) – one sheet per student
- Wet Paper Towels – enough to wipe up any spills and for students to wipe hands
- Washable Ink Pads or Paint – enough for students to share and make thumbprints on paper.
- If using paint – small plastic lid or bowl to put a small amount of washable paint in – 1 per 4 students

Ripple Effect Demonstration

- Small clear bowl to put a small amount of water at the bottom in – one for class to see
- Dropper – if available – one for teacher to demonstrate
- Small amount of water in a sealable container – to pour into clear bowl, to wet paper towel and to use to fill dropper or to dip finger in to do demonstration.

Optional:

- Love Everyone Activity Sheet – one set per student

Snack:

- Heart-shaped Fruit (like strawberries) a few for each student
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup one per student



Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

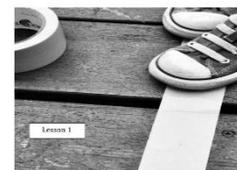
5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.



Lesson 1: We should stay focused on Jesus. We do so by 1) getting rid of things that stop us from focusing 2) we work in all things with Jesus in mind, and 3) we think of Jesus throughout the day.

Lesson 2: We need to put God first by loving Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Lesson 3: We need to seek God and we can do so like Jesus by taking some quiet time every day to pray.

2) Discover the Theme Game

15 minutes

Before Class: Have a large piece of paper taped to the wall (or an easel) and a marker. Write at the top of the paper: **“A new command I give you.”** Then underneath make spaces for the students to fill in the missing letters for the words **“Love one another.”** Keep the marker close by so you can fill in the missing letters.

During Class: Have students focus on the large sheet of paper, making sure all can see it.

Say: **We have learned that we need to focus on Jesus. That we should love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. That we need to seek God to get to know Him better. Jesus came to teach us. We are wise when we follow Jesus and do what He says. Let’s play a quick word game to see what else Jesus taught us.**

Have someone read the top portion of the phrase on the wall out loud. Then, explain: **In this word game, you will take turns guessing a letter. When you choose a letter that is in the puzzle I will write it in the correct space. If a letter is not in the puzzle, I will write it below the spaces to avoid someone from guessing it again. We’ll keep going until you have revealed all of the letters and words.**

When finished ask someone to read the answer out loud. **“Love on another.”**

We will spend time today discussing why this command is so important. First, let’s all get our Bibles and turn to Matthew 22:36-39

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

What was the greatest commandment? Love God with all our heart, soul, mind (and the gospel of Mark adds strength)

What is the second? Love our neighbor as ourselves.

What do you think it means to love your neighbor as yourself? Let students answer.

Now let’s turn to John – the fourth Gospel, John 13:34. Can someone read that?

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

In Matthew, Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourselves. Do you think He was referring to just the people that live beside us? Let students answer.

According to the verse we just read in John, who are we to love? One another, meaning everyone and all people.

So was Jesus talking just about our direct neighbors or everyone we know, meet and come in contact with? Everyone!

3) Ripple Effect Demonstration

2-5 minutes

Before class: get a small bowl that can have some water in the bottom of it. Gather a small dropper or cup with just a few drops of water in it.

During class: Provide a bowl with a small amount of water at the bottom. Ensure the water is still. Ask the students: **Describe what is happening with the water.** It is still, nothing is happening.

Explain: **Love is an action. If we don't do things to show our love, it is like this water. Still. Nothing happening, no evidence of anything going on.**

Now, take the dropper or cup with the few drops of water, drop a drop of water into the still bowl of water and watch the ripple/movement.

Ask: **What just happened?** The drop of water made all the other water move.

Explain: **Love has a ripple effect. When we show love to others, even those who don't love us, it has an effect. It spreads far and reaches all areas. We might not see the effects in people's lives directly, but inside of them, they are affected by your loving acts and kindness. Even if they don't show it.**

When we love others – friends, family, strangers, enemies, school kids, people we meet, we are like the drop of water that spreads and ripples.

Let's all pray this week to make a ripple in everyone we interact with by showing them love. In everything you do this week and every day, think of the word "Love" before responding or acting and see how it can have a ripple effect in your life and others today!



4) Thumbbody Loves You Cards

15 minutes

Before class: Gather washable ink pads (or small amount of washable paint poured into a small plastic lid or bowl.), construction paper, markers, wet paper towel (to wipe hands and clean up messes).

During class say: Today we are going to make a card to send to an elderly person who is in a nursing home or who is struggling with health issues.

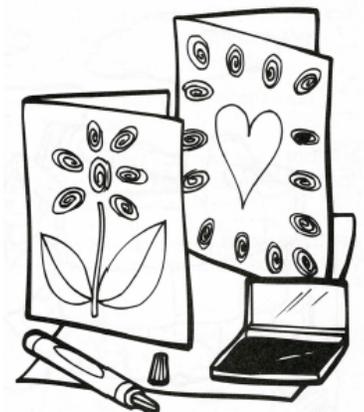
First we are going to take our piece of paper and fold it in half like a greeting card. Demonstrate if needed. We are going to use our thumbs to decorate our card.

On the inside of your card write the message "Thumbbody loves you! I do, and God does too!" You can write this on a black board or large piece of paper so students know how to spell the words.

When you are done, write your name at the bottom.

Next, on the front of your card design a picture using your thumbprints. You will take your thumb, gently press it into the ink or paint and put it on the paper. You can make a heart, flower, circle, etc. (Show picture to the right to give an idea of what they can make. But encourage them to design their own.)

If you need a marker to finish your design, there are some provided.



While students make their cards, discuss with them about elderly people who are lonely because they cannot get out and visit other people. Talk about how nice it is when we can visit with our relatives who

are having health issues, or are elderly. How nice and loving it is to go to a senior residents and spend time with the people there

Say: **Your card will cheer someone up. It will show your love for others and make their day brighter. Even better is if you can spend time with someone who is lonely or shut in and visit with them.**

Help as needed, ensure all students clean up well before moving on – take them to the bathroom to wash hands if needed. When done, help the children get their cards delivered.

5) Bringing the Lesson Home – Be a Friend

5 minutes

Ask students: **Is there anyone they know in school or church who doesn't seem to have any friends? Perhaps this child walks around the playground all alone. Many times, new students feel left out. Also, sometimes kids who look different from other people are often left out. Maybe some of you, at one point have felt that way – wanting to be liked and included, but being left out.**

If everyone loved others like Jesus does, everyone would have lots of friends! When a person is left out and feels lonely, they feel broken inside and sad. But, when kids play together, like each other, and include everyone in the group, each child is a stronger person and everyone is happy! Start watching the people around you. If you see someone without a friend, gather some of your friends and invite the child to play with you or to sit with everyone at lunch. You will be a friend and gain a friend as well! That is what Jesus would do!

What are ways you can be a friend this week? Let students answer.

6) Optional: Love Everyone Activity Sheet

15-25 minutes

Hand out one set of the activity sheet to each student. Wait to hand out pencils until you have gone through the directions.

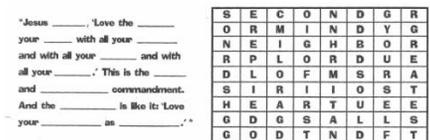
Today we are learning about the importance of loving others, just as God and Jesus love us.

Read the directions out loud and then provide a pencil for each student. Help as needed.

When students are done, ask for a volunteer to read the word search puzzle phrase out loud. Then help any student who made a mistake to fix it.

So what are the two great commandments? Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love others as we love ourselves.

Remember that we are to love everyone. Not just friends, family, or people we like. But taking the time and effort to be kind and loving to all the kids in school, to people we don't know, to those who are sick or need help, etc. God says it is our job to love everyone. Let's make everyone's day brighter by showing love and doing loving acts to everyone we meet this and every week!



▼ GIVE YOUR LOVE AWAY ▲

In the first heart, list two ways you can give love to God this week. In the second heart, list two ways to love others this week. Be prepared to tell how it felt to give away your love and what changes happened in your life as a result.

LOVE GOD

LOVE OTHERS

7) Lesson Review

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

What are ways we can love God?

What are some we can love others?

Who are some people we can show love to this week?

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

8) I Will Follow Songs

5-10 minutes

If time choose songs that relate to this lesson from the "I Will Follow Songs" sheets.

9) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **John 14:6** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "*I am the way*" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point ahead when you say "the way", point to their Bibles when they say "truth", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

10) Optional – Snack: Heart Shaped Fruit

5 minutes

***Before Class:** Prepare fruit pieces in heart shapes. You can cut a strawberry in half from top to bottom to create two heart shape pieces.

Hand out a few pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today. Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?** We are to love others as ourselves. We are to love everyone and show the love of Jesus. **As we eat our snack, let's think of ways we can love others and do kind things for them.** Let students come up with answers.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking. What did they like best about today's Bible reading? What questions do they have about today's lesson?

11) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son who died so we can live for eternity with You in Heaven. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking in the Bible. Thank you that we can spend time with You in prayer, getting to know You better and finding peace and joy in the quiet time we spend with You.

Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, with all our mind, soul, heart and strength. For You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve and love others and You, even now at our young age. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. Help us to stay focused on Jesus and make the right choices this week. In Jesus' name, amen.