



The apostle John had been one of Jesus' closest friends. Along with Peter and James, John was part of the innermost core of Jesus' disciples. John even referred to himself in his Gospel as "the one whom Jesus loved."

It is not surprising that 50 years after Jesus returned to heaven, John wrote a letter to help believers understand who Jesus is. At the center of John's message was one key theme: love.

John wrote that God is love, and if believers truly love God, then we will love one another. Our love for one another should be so deep that we are willing to lay down our lives for one another just as Jesus did for us. It is this deep, genuine love that will cause the world to understand the reality of the gospel.

Love is misunderstood and distorted in our culture today, and your kids may have been impacted by this in some way. Your kids may see love as just a feeling, as something temporary, or as something that has to be earned. This session is the perfect opportunity to expose the world's myths about love and remind your kids of the truth about God's love.

Remind kids that Jesus' love for them is unconditional and unending. It is not just a feeling. Jesus' love for us is proven by His death on the cross to rescue them from sin. We can love others because God loved us first.

John wrote a letter to teach believers in the church about the importance of showing love. Love is more than feelings or words—it is an action. Jesus showed God's love for us when He died on the cross to rescue people from sin.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- ● **Babies and Toddlers**
 - ○ God helps us obey Him.
 - ○ John wrote a letter to the church.
 - ○ John said Jesus' followers show love to other people.
 - ○ We love others because Jesus loves us.
- ● **Preschool**
 - ○ Why does God want us to obey Him? We obey because God loves us.
 - ○ John wrote that Christians should love one another.
- ● **Kids**
 - ○ Why does God want us to obey Him? Obedience is our response to God's love for us.
 - ○ John wrote that others will know we are Christians because we love one another.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **Galatians 2:20**