

LESSON 76

Loving One Another

1 JOHN 3:11-18



BIBLE TRUTH

THE GOSPEL IS OUR MOTIVE TO LOVE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 John 3:9–24 from the Scriptures or read story 154, “Loving One Another,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Love Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ wide masking tape
- ✓ fifteen-foot length of rope
- ✓ a chair
- ✓ an adult helper

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

All the Things I Love

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ice cream
- ✓ chocolate sauce topping
- ✓ whipped cream
- ✓ sprinkles
- ✓ small candy-coated chocolates
- ✓ mustard in a squeeze bottle
- ✓ a bowl
- ✓ ice cream scoop
- ✓ spoon
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 76—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Can You Love If You Hate?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of candy—one piece for each child

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

True love flows from the gospel—Brotherly love is one of the main themes of John’s first letter. Those who have been brought into the family of God demonstrate their love for God by their love for their brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 3:10). The motivation for that love flows out of what Jesus did for us (1 John 3:16). John uses the story of Cain and Abel as an illustration. As believers, we are to reject the behavior of Cain, who killed his brother. John reminds us that murder begins long before we kill, when we hold hatred in our heart against our brother for something he has done (1 John 3:15). So, while loving our brothers is evidence of God’s grace in our lives, hating our brothers is the opposite of love and an indication that we are still dead in our sins.

True love marks our conversion—When we love and serve one another, it shows that we are true Christians (1 John 3:10, 19). In fact, John puts our acts of love toward one another right up there with believing in Jesus. We don’t love one another to earn our salvation; we love one another because of what Jesus did for us and because he commands us to do so. If we truly love Jesus then we will love others, and if we are sacrificing our time to serve others we should be confident that God’s grace is upon us.

True love demands action—John knows that saying “I love you” is easier than demonstrating love by actions. That is why he challenges us to love with actions, not just words (1 John 3:18). In fact, if we ignore a brother in need it should concern us and cause us to wonder if the love of God is in us (1 John 3:17).

A little later John makes this crystal clear: “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother” (1 John 4:20–21). If we claim to be a Christian but do not love one another, we lie. That strong language is not designed to discourage us but to help us. If we are consistently loving our brothers then we know God is working in us; it is wonderful evidence of God’s salvation in our hearts.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Both John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 tell us that God's plan of salvation was motivated by his love for us. Out of his great love Jesus laid down his life and took on himself the wrath of God that we deserved for our sins.

Understanding the gospel, then, is the foundational reason why we should love one another. We don't love people because they love us, or because they have done nice things for us, or because we want to try to get them to love us back. If we love like that, then when they stop loving us, or stop giving to us, or refuse our love, we will stop trying to love them. But if our motive for love is centered in what Jesus did on the cross, then we can love them in spite of their rejection and even if we receive nothing in return. That is gospel love.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 1 John 3:9–24 from the Scriptures or read story 154, "Loving One Another," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Love Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ wide masking tape
- ✓ fifteen-foot length of rope
- ✓ a chair
- ✓ an adult helper

Use this object lesson to demonstrate the importance of action in gospel-motivated love.

Prior to class, tie your helper onto the chair and place tape over his mouth. (To make the tape less sticky, first place it onto your clothing and then pull it off. The lint that it picks up will make it less tacky and it will be less likely to hurt your volunteer.)

When the class arrives, pretend that you don't have any concerns about the tied up volunteer. Tell the class to greet him. Explain that someone must have tied him up. Express your sympathy to him, saying how it must be uncomfortable, but then continue with the class.

Your volunteer should look surprised and mumble and motion for you to untie him. Instead of loosening the rope, reprimand him for interrupting and then again express your sympathy. Again, continue with the class. Go through this at least twice more, and each time become a little angrier.

After the skit goes on a while ask the following questions:

- **Am I showing love to my helper?**
(They should say no.)

- **If I tell my helper that I love him but keep him tied up, is that love?**
(They should say no. The important thing is to help them make the connection that our actions, when it comes to love, speak louder than our words.)

Finally, ask if anyone in the class would like to untie him.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

All the Things I Love

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ice cream
- ✓ chocolate sauce topping
- ✓ whipped cream

- ✓ sprinkles
- ✓ small candy-coated chocolates
- ✓ mustard in a squeeze bottle
- ✓ a bowl
- ✓ ice cream scoop
- ✓ spoon
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

The object of this lesson is to show just how quickly we can change our minds when love is motivated by our feelings.

You will need a helper for this illustration. The helper should come to your class with all the items in a bag. She should announce that she wanted to bless you by giving you a surprise. She should say that she asked all your friends what you love.

The helper should then pull out your favorite flavor of ice cream. You exclaim, “I love [insert flavor] ice cream.” Then the helper puts on the chocolate sauce, whipped cream, sprinkles, and small candy-coated chocolates. You should say that you love each item. Then close your eyes and imagine digging into the ice cream, sharing your thoughts out loud. While you are in your dreamy state, the helper pulls out the mustard and opens the cap while saying, “And finally the thing everybody told me you love most and put on everything—mustard!” Then he liberally coats the ice cream with the mustard. When you hear the word mustard you turn and yell, “No-o-o-o!”

When the helper then hands you the dessert, you refuse, saying that it is disgusting. She reviews each item and asks if you love it again. You say, “Yes, but I hate that. Please take it out of here.”

The skit ends with the helper leaving the room disappointed, taking everything with her.

Ask the class the following questions :

- **What was my love based on in this skit?**
(Your love was based on what you felt or thought tasted good.)
- **What was motivating my love?**
(Your love was motivated selfishly by what made you feel good.)

- Was I very loving to my friend?

(No, even though she made something that you didn't like you didn't need to treat her harshly.)

Ask the class for their definition of love and write it on the board. Review 1 John 3:9–24 and see if the definition changes at all.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 76—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What do you think the person in the picture is doing?

(giving the other person a coat)

- Why do you think he is doing this?

(The other person is cold and has no coat.)

- How does this demonstrate love?

(Jesus tells us that love is about giving up what we have for others. We learn this from Jesus' example.)

- What did Jesus do that stands as our example?

(If the children do not answer, point to the cross and use that as a hint.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Can You Love If You Hate?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a bag of candy—one piece for each child

Divide the class into two groups. (You will need a helper to direct the second group.) Have one group make up a skit that shows brotherly love by having a person share a bag of candy with their friends. Have the second group make up a skit in which a person not only refuses to share candy with friends, but says he hates them.

Perform the skits in front of the class and then draw out the class to have them tell you which skit shows biblical love and why.

Read through 1 John 3:9–24 verse by verse and have the children raise a hand if they think the verse you read connects to the skits. If a child raises a hand, have them tell you which skit the verse connects to and why. Give them help connecting verses if they miss one that has a strong connection.

LESSON 76 - LOVING ONE ANOTHER

