

I WANNA BE LIKE JESUS

LESSON 3: LOVING OTHERS

This lesson will help the children know how much God loves them and how they can show love to others through the example given by Jesus.

TOPICS

Caring, Love, Kindness, Knowing Jesus, Giving

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Symbols of Love (Coloring Page)

WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ” Ephesians 5:2a NLT

We can live a life filled with love by following the example of Jesus. Discuss with the children how Jesus shows love to others, and how we can do the same as they begin to memorize this verse.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about God's love and our love right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

What do you think of when you hear the word love? Do you think of getting hugs and kisses from your mom, or being comforted when you get hurt? Do you think of hearts?

Read 1 John 4:7-12 (God's Love and Our Love)

Discussion Questions:

1. Where does love come from? (*God.*)
2. True or false: To be a child of God, we must have love? (*True.*)
3. True or false: To know God, we must have love? (*True.*)
4. How does God show His love for us? (*By sending His Son into the world.*)
5. Because God loves us so much, what should we do? (*Love each other.*)
6. True or false: If we truly love others, God lives in us? (*True.*)
7. How can you show someone that you love them today? (*Allow for answers.*)

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Love Chase (Game)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (15 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me This Much! (Craft)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)

For today's snack, have butter cookies with a jelly center, or any other type of cookie with something in the middle. As you enjoy the snacks, compare the cookies to how love comes from

the center of our hearts. The cookie is good, but the center is even better. This is how it feels when someone loves us from their heart, so we should love others from our heart as well. When we do, we are a little more like Jesus.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

Give the children crayons or markers and blank sheets of paper to use while they wait to be picked up. Have them draw different ways they can show love during the week. Suggest that they can draw a picture of them doing something nice for their parents, or sharing something with a friend. Perhaps they can design a cheery greeting card to give to someone.

STORY TELLING TIPS

Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.



The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in an animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.

Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

Other items you can use for a great story time:

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.