

WEEK 1

GOD IS LOVE

GOD DEFINES LOVE

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

God is love. 1 John 4:16b

KEY IDEAS

1. God defines what love is.
2. God loves us.
3. God helps us love others.

KEY PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 4:7-21

KEY PRINCIPLES

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW ...**

God defines love because God IS love. It is His nature.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL ...**

loved by the God who created them.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ...**

show love to others knowing God values and loves us all.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT ...**

to know more about the God who loves them.

INTRODUCTION

God is love. Love is not just something God does for us, but God's very nature is love. We can only know what love is because God first loved us. God's love is perfect and never fails or changes. He demonstrated His love to us first by creating us to be in relationship with Him. Even when humanity sinned and rebelled against God, He loved us enough to send Jesus to redeem us and restore our place with Him. God loves us even when we do not love Him back! Jesus shows us that love is not just a feeling or emotion, but it is a commitment. He has shown us what love looks like through His Word. The greatest way God showed us His love and commitment to us is by sending Jesus to die in our place so that we could be with Him for all eternity.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by asking the kids to define love in their own words. Then, using the "Helpful Definitions" guide in the teacher's packet, spend time explaining each attribute of love as defined by the passage in 1 Corinthians 13. Give examples or let the kids come up with their own examples of each attribute.

STORY

Read 1 Corinthians 13 and 1 John 4:7-21.

We know what love is because God is love. He defines what it is because it's His very nature! We love because God first loved us. God showed us His love for us first by creating us to be in relationship with Him. Then, even after humanity sinned and rebelled against Him, God showed His love to us even more by sending Jesus to pay for the penalty for our sin for us so that our relationship with Him could be restored! Is it hard to love someone who has hurt you? Can you imagine how much God must love us if the whole world rejected Him and He still wanted to save us?

Because God has shown us this great love, the Bible tells us we ought to love one another in the same way! God desires for all to know Him and know His love and for those who do love Him to share His love with others.

ACTIVITY

Using the template provided in the teacher's packet, cut out the hearts with the attributes on them. Using string and tape or glue, attach the attributes to the large heart that says "love" to create a mobile. Remind the kids of each attribute and what it means.

PRAYER

Thank God for loving us so much that He would send Jesus to save us even while we were still sinners. Ask God to help you learn to love the way that He loves.

SONG

Jesus Loves Me

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

John 15:9, Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 4:16

ACTIVITY

Using the coloring page in your take home packet, discuss 1 Corinthians 13 with your child. Talk about the meaning of each attribute as you go and help them find examples of what it means. Choose one attribute per day with your child and remind them of opportunities throughout the day to practice it.

DISCUSSION

- Give some examples of loving actions based on the passage in 1 Corinthians 13.
- After each day of practicing an attribute, spend time with your child evaluating how you both did. Identify an example of a time during the day when you didn't do well at practicing it and discuss how you can do a better job next time. Spend time imagining how much God loves us by thinking about how difficult it is for us to practice these attributes. God's love never fails and is always perfect. He never has a hard time showing us each of these attributes because it is who He is!
- Who in your life do you need to practice greater love with?

PRAYER

Thank God that He loves perfectly. Thank Him that His love never fails. Ask God to help you love others as He has loved you.

Helpful Definitions for Preschool

- Patient: okay with waiting
- Kind: treating others as you would want to be treated
- Envy/Jealousy: wanting what others have for yourself
- Boast: bragging about your accomplishments
- Proud: thinking of yourself more highly than others
- Rude: mean
- Selfish: puts self before others
- Provoked: easily angered
- Evil: opposite of God's best
- Does Not Rejoice in Sin: does not celebrate sin
- Rejoices in the Truth: celebrates good
- Bears All Things: keeps going when it's hard
- Believes All Things: believes in what is good and right
- Hopes All Things: eager for something to happen
- Endures All Things: doesn't quit
- Never Fails

LOVE

IS
PATIENT

IS
KIND

REJOICES IN
THE TRUTH

RESISTS
EVIL

PERSEVERES

IS
SELFLESS

IS
FORGIVING

IS
HUMBLE

TRUSTS

HOPES

PROTECTS

never fails . . .

DOES NOT BOAST

**Does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth**

IS NOT PRAUD

**Does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth**



DOES NOT ENVY

is not rude

is not self seeking