

WEEK 4

GOD IS LOVE

GOD COMMANDS US TO LOVE OTHERS

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

KEY IDEAS

1. God commands us to love others.
2. We love because He first loved us.
3. We love even when others are unlovable.

KEY PASSAGE

Luke 10:25-37

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God commands us to love others as He has loved us.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

compassion toward others who are unlovable.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

demonstrate love to others.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to show the love of God to others even if they don't show it back.

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 assigning roles to volunteers to act out today's story. Have 1-2 children volunteer to be the robbers, 1 child volunteer to be the injured man, 1 to be the priest, 1 to be the Levite, and 1 to be the Samaritan. Instruct the children to act out the story as you read.

STORY

Read Luke 10:25-37 or use the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Again, as Jesus was teaching in a crowd, someone stood up to test Him. The man asked Jesus about love and he was shocked by the answer Jesus gave. It is not within our human nature to love everyone. We are sinful and we don't usually want to show love to people who seem unlovable to us. Jesus told them a story about a man who was badly beaten and robbed and was left to die. Several people passed him by on the road and no one stopped to help him. Until, finally, a very unlikely person stopped to help. This man was a Samaritan. Samaritans were not liked by Jews. Jews would even avoid going through Samaria just so they didn't have to interact with a Samaritan. But it was the Samaritan man who stopped to help the Jewish man who was hurt. The Samaritan didn't care about the differences between them or what might have caused the Jewish man to be there in the first place. He simply showed God's love by stopping and caring for him. The Samaritan man loved God and because He loved God, he loved the man he helped. To know God is to love people because God cares for all people and we should, too.

ACTIVITY

Using the small bucket and ping pong balls in the teacher's closet, divide the children into two teams. Take turns tossing a ball at the bucket. When they hit the bucket, tell them to name a way to show love to others. Keep playing until every child has had a chance to share.

PRAYER

Thank God that He loves us when we are unlovable. Ask God to help you show love to others when they are unlovable, too.

SONG

Jesus Loves Me

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Galatians 6:9, 1 John 4:19, Matthew 7:12

ACTIVITY

As a family come up with at least one way you can show love to your neighbors who live beside you or someone you see regularly. How can you share Jesus with them as a family?

DISCUSSION

- Why is it important to show others love?
By showing love to others, especially when they don't deserve it, we show them the love of God.
- Create a "Love Chart" using a large blank piece of paper. Draw a line down the center to create two columns. Title one side, "How I Have Shown Love to Others" and title the other side, "How Others Have Shown Love to Me". Discuss with your child examples of each and write them on the paper. Remind your child that God commands us to love others as He has loved us and that we should be grateful when others show love to us, too.

PRAYER

Thank the Lord that He loves us and that He shows us how we can honor Him by loving others, too. Ask God to help you love others even when they are unlovable.

The Good Samaritan Jigsaw Puzzle

Cut the puzzle apart on the dotted lines, mix the pieces up and put the picture back together.

