

**DEAR FRIENDS, SINCE GOD
SO LOVED US, WE ALSO OUGHT
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

1 JOHN 4:11

WEEK

1

OBJECT LESSON

Get a big toy clock, an empty notebook or journal, a soft pillow or plush, and an "angry" toy. Put all of the things on the floor and the children to help you find something in the pile that will match the ways God loves us. Repeat the activity as many times as you want (Reference for this activity is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Parent: The Bible has more to say about God's love! It says *God's love is patient*. God will wait a long time for us. What do we have here that shows us time? **(When child points to clock):** That's right, the clock! Let's say it together, "God's love is patient."

Parent: God's love doesn't keep a record of how many times we did something wrong. What do we have here that looks like no one has written in it? **(When child points to notebook/journal):** Yes, good job! This notebook/journal is blank! We can say, "God's love doesn't record our wrongs."

Parent: God's love is so kind. Can you find something soft enough to hug? **(When child points to pillow):** Wow, you found it! This pillow is so soft, it makes me feel so warm and happy, just like God's love does! We can say, "God's love is kind," when we hug the pillow.

Parent: God's love doesn't get angry really fast. What do we have that shows us an angry face? **(When child points to an angry toy):** Ooh, this toy does look really angry! We can say, "God's love doesn't get angry fast," when we hold this toy.

TODDLER HACK: Some of what's presented in this lesson may be more abstract than toddlers can comprehend. During this time, you could use a handheld mirror to look at each child and tell them God loves them! Have them hold it and find themselves in the mirror, too.

ACTIVITY

Give the children plastic or silicone heart-shaped cutters and Play-Doh. Ask the kids these questions about the Bible story today while they play with the Play-Doh:

- *Who went to visit Jesus?*
- *Who said you have to be born again?*
- *How do you become part of God's family?*
- *What is God's love like?*
- *Who does God love?*

WEEK
2

BIBLE STORY

Summarize the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) in a way it is understandable to young children. A suggested script is as follows:

- Jesus told everyone we should **love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength**. He said this is the most important thing we needed to do. But the second most important thing is to **love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves!** But... **who is our neighbor?**
- To answer that question, Jesus tells a story about a man who was lying down on the side of the road. He got hurt very badly by some robbers and he needed help!
- Who would help the man who was hurt? Well, first a priest came down the road and saw the hurt man (*Hold your hand over your eyebrows as if looking into the distance*). No, he didn't (Pause and make a sad face).
- Next, a Levite came down the road and saw the hurt man (*Hold your hand over your eyebrows as if looking into the distance*). No, he didn't (Pause and make a sad face).
- A third man to come down the road was a Samaritan (*Ask your child/ren to repeat "Samaritan" with you*). He was not from the same town as the hurt man. No one thought the Samaritan was going to help the hurt man, but do you know what he did? The Samaritan helped the hurt man (*Get your child/ren to clap and cheer!*) The Samaritan saw the hurt man, and felt sad for him. The Samaritan put bandages on the hurt man and helped him to travel somewhere safe. The Samaritan let the hurt man ride on his donkey to an inn where the hurt man could stay until he was all better.
- **Who was kind to the hurt man?** The Samaritan! God loves everyone and wants us to show His love by being kind to everyone we meet. Say it with me, I can show God's love by being kind.

ACTIVITY

Give your child/ren toy cars to push along a road-themed rug or a masking tape line you make on the floor or rug.

Our Bible story was about a man who was traveling on the road.

- Who hurt the man?
- Who was not kind to the man?
- Who was kind to the hurt man?

The Samaritan man didn't just keep going on the road. He stopped to help the hurt man.

Can you show me how your toy car stops?

High five! You can stop and be a helper, too. We can be kind helpers. I can show God's love by being kind.

WEEK
3

BIBLE STORY

Summarize **Matthew 5:40-48** in an understandable way. You can say something like this:

- It is easy to show love to someone who is nice to you. It is hard to show love to someone who is mean to you. But we can choose to show love to someone even when it is hard.
- Jesus told us to "love your neighbor." Jesus wants us to love the people around us. Jesus also told us to "love our enemies." That means we are supposed to be kind to and respect people who are mean to us. We can pray for them, too.
- God shows love to people who are nice and to people who are not nice
- We can choose to show love to people who are nice to us — that is easy to do. We can choose to show love to people who are mean to us — that is hard to do. But we can show love even when it is hard.

ACTIVITY / DISCUSSION

Give child/ren heart stickers or cut out stickers and ask these questions as they stick them on paper. They can draw faces on the hearts:

- How do you feel when somebody does something nice to you like giving you a turn to play?
- How do you feel when someone is mean to you or doesn't let you play?
- Does God want us to share good things like a hello? How about snacks? Or toys?

WEEK
4

BIBLE STORY

Make a big heart shape on the floor with masking tape, and ask your child/ren to sit on the heart with you as you tell them the Bible story. Then summarize Mark 12:28-34 so it's easy for the kids to understand.

Here's an example you can use:

- One day, a man asked Jesus a question. He asked Jesus, "What is the most important rule?" Jesus said the most important rule was **to love God**.
- But that's not all. We can't just love God a little bit. Jesus says to love God with **all of our heart** (*draw a heart in the air*), **with all of our soul** (put your hand on your chest), **with all of our mind** (put your hand on your temple), **and with all of our strength** (put your arms up and flex).
- Then, Jesus said the second most important rule is to **love other people**. I know I want to show love to other people. How about you?

ACTIVITY

Give your child/ren a length of crepe paper streamer or ribbon to wave around. Play one of the worship songs from the video so they can dance around and wave their ribbons!

Parent: Look at how strong you are when you dance and move. You can love God with all of your strength.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIONS



DEAR FRIENDS,



SINCE



GOD



SO LOVED



US,



WE ALSO OUGHT TO



LOVE



ONE



ANOTHER.