

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS

FOUNDATION: GOD IS LOVE - GOD GIVES HIMSELF

BIG TRUTH: GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS

John 13:34-35; John 15:12-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:7-11

BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:16b

"God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

BIG IDEAS

- God loves others when they are unlovable.
- God's love for us produces a love within us.
- We love others sacrificially because God first loved us.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37

We know what love is because God first loves us. We know how to love sacrificially because God loves us sacrificially. It is because of Jesus' willingness to pay our sin debt by dying on the cross that we know how to love others. Jesus shares a story of a Samaritan who loved like God. The Samaritan did not consider the cost of helping the man who was robbed and beaten. The Samaritan didn't think he was too busy to help. He showed love to the man in the same way that God shows us love---sacrificially and unconditionally.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS LOVE - GOD GIVES HIMSELF

God is love. Love is not just something that God does, it is who He is. God's love is perfect and unchanging. It is not simply an emotion or feeling, but it is an unbreakable commitment. His love is displayed to humanity and all of creation by giving us the greatest gift in all the universe....Himself! Even when humanity rebelled against God, He still displayed his love and commitment to us by sending Jesus to redeem us. God's character of love is displayed throughout human history in that He loves us even when we do not love Him back. The way that God demonstrates His love for us is by sending Jesus to die in our place.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God is love
- Love is not just something God does, it is who God is
- Love is not just an emotion or a feeling



Every child should feel awe:

- Thankful for the love of God
- Love for God who loves us even in our sin



Every child should:

- Choose to love others because God first loved them



Every child should want to:

- Grow in love for God

FAMILY DEVOTION: TO KNOW GOD IS TO SHOW LOVE

When we encounter God's great love for us, we can't help but show love to others. When we know God's love, we show the same kind of love to other people. We won't just love the people we like, but we will love everyone. To know God is to show love because God is love.

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS**BIBLE VERSE: 1 JOHN 4:16b**

"God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

When we know God, we know what love is.

- God is love. Love originates with God.
- We know what love is by knowing who God is.
- God's life reveals true love to us.
- By seeing God and knowing Him, we understand love.
- We cannot know love apart from God because God is love.
- Only through knowing God can we know what love is.

If we know love, we know God.

- When we show love it is because we know God.
- Knowing God means loving people.
- If we don't love people, we don't know God.
- Because God is love, we will show love when we know Him.
- There's no way to know God and not show love.
- We can't really love apart from God because He is love.
- We wouldn't know how to love if He hadn't first loved us.
- Loving others shows the world that we know who God is.
- It's not a natural trait for us to love all people, so when we are loving to all people, the world sees God.

BIBLE STORY: LUKE 10:25-37*The Good Samaritan*

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 5:36; Luke 6:35

Teacher Introduction:

When Jesus was asked about love by the Pharisees, His answer was a shocking one. It is not within our human nature to love all people. We are sinful and don't naturally show love to people we find unlovable. Jesus shared a story about a man who was robbed, beaten and then left to die. Several people passed by him, not stopping to help him. Then he received help from the most unlikely person, a Samaritan. The Samaritans were not liked by the Jews. The Jews disliked them so much that they would travel around Samaria instead of through it. Yet, it was the Samaritan who stopped and showed God's love to the hurt man. The Samaritan didn't consider the boundaries between himself and the man, nor did he consider what it would cost him to care for the man. He showed God's love, which revealed that he knew God. To know God is to love people.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Good Samaritan*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Luke 10:25-37 and teach the narrative: *The Good Samaritan*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *The Good Samaritan*.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in a blanket and some bottles of water. Let the children take turns pretending to be the hurt man on the side of the road and the Good Samaritan. Tell them to use the blanket and water to help the young man.

- The Good Samaritan didn't have to stop to help the man, but he didn't pass him by.
- The Samaritan showed God's love to the young man when all the other people didn't.
- When we know God, we will love all people.

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS**BIG IDEA: GOD LOVES OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE UNLOVABLE.****All people are unlovable because of their sinful hearts.¹**

- None of us are lovable because we are all sinners.
- There is no person who is deserving of God's love.
- No one does good works or is good enough to deserve God's love.
- God loves us, even though we are unlovable.
- The Samaritan didn't choose to help the young man because he was lovable.
- The Samaritan helped because he was showing God's love to the young man.



Help the children think of ways they can show love to others. Give each child an opportunity to tell one way he or she can show love to someone else. Remind them that when we know God's love, we will show love to others.

God loves us even though we are sinners.²

- God doesn't wait for us to become sinless or for us to be good enough before He begins loving us.
- God loves us in spite of our sinfulness.
- When we experience God's love, we know how to show love to others.
- God sets the example for us of how to love others.

It is not our nature to love all people.

- We don't naturally love like God loves.
- We are naturally like the priest and the Levite who passed by the young man without helping him.
- We are drawn to love people who are lovable and we turn away from people who are unlovable.
- God's love is different and when we know God, we change the way we love.

How are we unlovable before God? (We are sinful and our sin makes us unlovable.)

What is God's response to unlovable people? (God loves unlovable people.)

1. Matthew 5:36: It is a greater testimony of knowing God when we love those who are unlovable. It's easy to love lovable people, but requires the work of God to love the unlovable.

2. Romans 5:8: God didn't wait for us to stop being sinners before He loved us. He loved us while we were still sinners.

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS**BIG IDEA: GOD'S LOVE FOR US PRODUCES A LOVE WITHIN US.****Knowing God's love causes us to love others.³**

- Without God we do not know how to love others.
- With God we can understand how to show love to others.
- The Samaritan showed God's love to the young man.
- We can show love when we know God.
- God wants us to show love to others because He wants us to be a reflection of Him to the world.

When we feel God's love, we love others.

- God's love for us sets off a chain reaction within us.
- He loves us and then we love others.
- We can love others because God loves us and it compels us to love other people.
- God's love sets us free to love all people, even those we find unlovable.
- God loves all people, so when we know God, we will love all people.



Ask the children to show you their best “happy” face and then their best “sad” face. Read a list of actions that show love to others and then some that aren’t loving. Ask the children to identify the actions as loving or not by showing you a “happy” face or a “sad” face after you read them. Remind them that God’s love causes us to show love to all people.

How can we love like God loves? (When we love all people, we are loving like God loves.)

How did the Samaritan love like God? (He showed love to the young man even when he didn’t know the man.)

3. Luke 6:35: God's love causes us to love even our enemies.

GOD SENDS HIS BELOVED PEOPLE
TO SHOW HIS LOVE TO OTHERS**BIG IDEA: WE LOVE OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US.****God's sacrifice teaches us to sacrifice.**

- God's gift of Jesus to us teaches us how to sacrifice.
- When we understand how much God loves us, it produces love inside of us.
- The Samaritan was willing to sacrifice much to make sure the young man was taken care of.
- He did not consider his sacrifice too great.
- We learn about sacrifice from God, who first sacrificed for us.



Sing 1 John 4:16 to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down" with the children. Remind them that God's love causes us to love.

Because God loves us, we will love others.⁴

- It's impossible to know God and not love people.
- God is love, so to know Him is to love people.
- When we encounter God's great love, we will love others.
- We will love sacrificially because of God's sacrifice for us.
- It's impossible to know God and to understand the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus and not sacrifice for others.
- God's love is so transforming that when we understand the depths of it, we will love others the same way.

How did God first love us sacrificially? (He gave us His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

How should we love other people if we know God's love? (We should love sacrificially.)

4. Mark 12:31: God's love causes us to love others. God commands us to love our neighbors as we love ourself.

HOOKS

**God's Love Sent To The World**

Bring in a map of the world and a packet of small heart-shaped stickers. Allow the children to place the stickers on all the places that God wants us to show love. Lead them in a discussion about how God wants us to love the whole world.



- God is love. He shows us love and when He does, we know what love is.
- God wants us to show love to all the world.
- We shouldn't just love the people who are easy to love, but we should love all people.
- God loves us and we should love others like He loves us.

**Show Love To All People**

Bring in a small bucket or container and several ping pong balls. Divide the children into two teams. Each team gets a chance to toss a ping pong ball into the container. When they hit the container, they get to name a way to show love to people. Keep playing until every child has had a chance to share a way to show love to all people.



- God wants us to show His love to the world.
- Because God loves us, we will want to show His love to the world.

God's Love Causes Us To Love

Bring in a plastic bowl with pictures of different moods on cards inside of the bowl. Play a modified game of charades with the children by asking them to do the action they see on the card. If they see a happy face, they should act happy. Lead them in a discussion about how we can show God's love to the world when we are kind and happy.