

# Paul Describes Genuine Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

First- and second-graders are still learning that love is not about getting attention or having a personal need fulfilled. They are growing more independent from their parents, and they are building strong relationships with friends that need love to grow. While you don't want to ignore the personal needs of children, it's important to encourage the relationship aspects of love when you see your children offering love to others. Be sure that your first- and second-graders know that these offerings strengthen God's love in others and in themselves.



### ► Bible Point

God teaches us how to love.

### Key Verse

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn to share God's love—real love—with others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Don't Break My Heart!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play an active game that teaches the relationship aspects of love.	Bible, large adhesive-backed paper, scissors, markers	Cut one heart per child from the adhesive-backed paper. Use jagged lines to cut each heart in half so each heart is unique.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>What Love Isn't</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Draw pictures and participate in a dramatic reading of 1 Corinthians 13.	Bible, markers, red and white paper, tape, masking tape	Write each of the following words on the top of separate sheets of paper: envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, angry, grudging, and evil. Create one sheet per child; make duplicates, if needed. On separate sheets of red paper, write the following: patient, kind, rejoices in truth, protecting, trustworthy, hopeful, persevering, and perfect. Tape the red papers and the white papers back to back.
	<b>What Love Is</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Draw pictures and participate in a dramatic reading to find out what the Bible says love is.	Bible, markers or crayons, two-sided papers and masking tape from previous activity	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Patient and Kind</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create “filled hearts” that express what love is and commit to sharing God’s love this week.	My Bible Fun, CD player, colored tissue paper, scissors, tape or glue sticks, pens, crayons, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Fun	Tear out the letter to parents from the back of each My Bible Fun.

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



# Paul Describes Genuine Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## What Is True Love?

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The “love” we see in movies, on TV, and in our culture is not the kind of love described in this passage. What we most often see is a selfish “love,” which is more like lust. That kind of love seeks its own pleasure and gratification, sometimes at the expense of others. The love Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 is precisely the opposite. It’s directed at seeking the pleasure and good of others. It means turning aside from seeking what’s pleasurable for ourselves and seeking instead what’s best for others—as Jesus did. As we become more loving, we’re becoming more like Jesus.

## Paul Describes Mature Love

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Paul then turns to an analogy of childhood versus adulthood. The things we did and thought as children were pretty important to us then, and we thought we were doing pretty well. But when we become adults, we see how insignificant some of the things that had been important to us were and how poorly we sometimes did them, and we don’t think of things or do things in the same way anymore.

In understanding Paul’s mirror metaphor, it’s important to note that the mirrors of Paul’s day didn’t reflect perfect images. Most likely the mirror he spoke of was of polished metal and would have reflected at best an unclear image. The connection, then, was that now we see the things of God but not very clearly and accurately. When we meet God face to face, our vision will be perfectly clear!

## Faith, Hope, and Love Endure

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In 1 Corinthians 13:8, Paul departs from talking about the importance of love and emphasizes its permanence. Other things such as prophecies, tongues, and knowledge will one day be gone. To wrap up this passage, Paul returns to the prominence

of love. He points out that faith and hope are important and will endure. But he echoes the principle of love being over all.

## The Jesus Connection

It’s so hard for people who have been corrupted by sin to be loving. Gratefully, we can learn from Jesus’ example of how he lived on this earth.

Read 1 Corinthians 13 again, and make a list of the ways Paul described pristine love. Circle the words you think describe your quality of love. Place a star next to any attributes that you want Jesus’ help to develop in your life. Pray and ask Jesus to improve the quality of your love. You can write your prayer here.

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BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS





### Don't Break My Heart! Supplies

Bible  
large adhesive-backed  
paper  
scissors  
markers

### Don't Break My Heart! Easy Prep

Cut one heart per child from the adhesive-backed paper. Use jagged lines to cut each heart in half so each heart is unique.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Don't Break My Heart!

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

This activity is best played in a large area such as a gym, cafeteria, or playground. Hand each child one of the heart segments you prepared before class. Tell kids to find the partner who has the other half of the heart, and have partners hook arms and stick their sticker halves on their shirts.

**Say: Today we're going to play a different kind of Tag called Don't Break My Heart! I'm going to be "It" first, and you and your partner have to hook arms and skip around together while I try to tag one of you. If I tag one of you, you and your partner will stop and say "Don't break my heart!" and then the person I tagged will become "It" next. That person will take off his or her heart half, and I'll stick it on me and hook arms with my new partner. Ready? Let's play.**

Play the game until several children have had a chance to be "It." After several rounds, stop the game and help kids write their partners' names or initials on their hearts. Then ask partners to find another pair to join to form groups of four. The person who was "It" last can join one pair to form a trio. Ask groups to discuss the following questions. After each question, invite groups to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Ask:

- Was it hard to keep from being tagged? Why or why not?
- If you weren't tagged, why do you think you and your partner were successful?

**Say: In this game, your partner was there to help and encourage you.**

Ask:

- How was having a partner in this game like having someone who loves you?
- Who can tell me what love is?

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, and show kids the verses. Help children find the verses in their own Bibles. Then slowly read the Key Verse aloud, having children repeat the phrases after you: **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).**





Say: **When we love other people, we're following God's Word. The Bible tells us what real love—God's love—is like. God's love is perfect, and we can always rely on God to love us. In the Bible, ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE. Let's take a close look at what the Bible teaches about love so we can understand clearly how to give it to others.**

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## **2** BIBLE EXPLORATION

### What Love Isn't

#### What You'll Do

Hand each child one of the double-sided papers you prepared before class, and help children pronounce the words on their papers.

Ask kids to turn to the white side of the papers, and ask them to each draw a face on the papers that expresses the word you wrote that's the opposite of love. Discuss the definitions of the words with the class.

Say: **The Apostle Paul gave us some pretty clear words about what real love is, so let's have some fun reading those words! First we're going to talk about what love isn't. When you've finished drawing, I want you to take your picture and step inside the heart I will make on the floor. Before we begin, I want you to hold your paper up high if you don't know what the word on your paper means.**

Help kids, as needed, to understand the words. While kids are working, use masking tape to make a large heart on the floor. Make it big enough so that everyone in your class will be able to stand inside the heart.

Say: **Now I'd like everyone to hold your paper and squat down. I'm going to read to you parts of chapter 13 from 1 Corinthians. The parts of this chapter that I'm going to read talk about what love isn't. When you hear the word that's on the white side of your paper, jump up and hold the white side up over your head; then squat back down. When you hear the word *love*, I want everyone to jump up and hold your paper over your head and shout out the word *love*. Then squat back down.**

Read aloud 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, pausing whenever you say "love" so that kids can stand up and shout "love." Then read the following segments adapted from verses 4-8. Be sure to pause after the word *love* and after each sentence to allow children who have that word or phrase on their papers to stand.

Say: **Love is not envious. Love is not boastful. Love is not proud. Love is not rude. Love is not self-seeking. Love is not easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs and is not grudging. Love does not delight in evil.**



#### What Love Isn't Supplies

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- Bible
- markers
- red and white paper
- tape
- masking tape

#### What Love Isn't Easy Prep

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Write each of the following words on the top of separate sheets of paper: envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, angry, grudging, and evil. Create one sheet per child; make duplicates, if needed. On separate sheets of red paper, write the following: patient, kind, rejoices in truth, protecting, trustworthy, hopeful, persevering, and perfect. Tape the red papers and the white papers back to back.





When you've finished reading, ask kids to sit inside the masking-tape heart. Lead them in a round of applause for their participation.

Say: **Thanks for shouting about love! Love is certainly worth shouting about! You know, the best way to understand how ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE is to compare love to what it isn't! Now find a partner, and let's talk about the words you learned in the Scripture. Take turns telling your partner about your word and what it means; then tell your partner about what you drew.**

Give partners time to discuss their words and pictures. Ask a few volunteers to share their insights with the rest of the class. Then have partners answer the following questions. After pairs have discussed each question, let partners share their responses with the class.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Have you ever acted like what your word describes? Tell your partner about that time.**
- **What do you do when someone else acts that way?**
- **How does God want us to act?**

Say: **When people are mean to us, we don't have to be mean back. And we can use this lesson in the Bible to help us remember to not be mean to others, but to show love to others. ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE. God shows real love to us, and he wants us to show real love to others. We've talked a lot about what love isn't. Now let's talk more about what real love is!**

## What Love Is

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Ask children to turn over their double-sided papers, and help them pronounce the words on the red side of their papers. Ask kids to each draw a face on the red side of the papers that expresses how they felt when they loved someone or someone loved them. When everyone has finished, have kids squat down inside the masking-tape heart.

Say: **Now let's have some real fun learning about real love! Before we begin, hold your paper up high if you don't know what the word on your paper means.**

Discuss the definitions of those words with the class.

Say: **Now I'm going to read more parts of chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians. The parts of this chapter I'm going to read talk about what real love is. When you hear the word that's on the red side of your paper, jump up and hold the red side up over your head; then squat back down. Oh, wait—before you sit down, you can choose to either do your own little dance or make a joyful sound! When you hear the word**

### What Love Is Supplies

Bible  
markers or crayons  
two-sided papers and  
masking tape from  
previous activity



**love, I want everyone to jump up and hold your paper over your head and shout out “love!” Don’t forget to do a dance or make a joyful sound! Then squat back down. When I say “love” for the last time (and I’ll let you know when that’s coming), keep standing and holding up your paper.**

Read the following segments adapted from verses 4-10. Be sure to pause after the word *love* and after each sentence to allow children who have that word or phrase on their papers to stand.

Say: **Love is patient. Love is kind. Love rejoices in truth. Love always protects. Love is always trustworthy. Love is always hopeful. Love is always persevering. Love never fails. Love is perfect when other things become imperfect.**

Read verses 11-13. Remind kids before the very last sentence that you will say “love” for the last time. When you’ve finished, ask kids to remain in the heart. Have kids each turn to a partner and explain their words and drawings. Ask a few volunteers to share their insights with the rest of the class.

Say: **Now we know that nothing—*nothing*—is as great in this life as love! ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE. Let’s make sure we work hard to share that love with others as much as we can.**



**3 WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE**

## Patient and Kind

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to the “Love Is...” activity on this week’s My Bible Fun page. Set out scissors, tape or glue sticks, pens, crayons, and colored tissue paper. Show children how to cut squares of colored tissue paper. Then help children write on each square one word or draw one picture of what love is. They might draw a picture of their parents or write “Jesus” or “happy” or a word from the Key Verse. Refer kids to the Key Verse printed on the other side of their My Bible Fun pages for ideas.

Show children how to then glue or tape the tissue squares to the inside of the heart on their student pages. In the outer rim of the heart, have kids write the names of people they will show real love to this week. Be prepared to help kids with spelling, if necessary. Kids can also draw pictures of those people if they would rather.

When everyone has finished, have kids sit together inside the tape heart. Lead kids in singing the Key Verse song together, “Love Is” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) (track 24 on the CD).

### Patient and Kind Supplies

- My Bible Fun
- CD player
- colored tissue paper
- scissors
- tape or glue sticks
- pens
- crayons
- 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)

### Teacher Pack

- CD: “Love Is”
- (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)
- (track 24)


### Patient and Kind Easy Prep

- Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Sing:

 Love is patient,  
 Love is kind,  
 It does not envy,  
 It does not boast,  
 It is not proud.  
 It is not rude,  
 It's not self-seeking,  
 Not easily angered,  
 It keeps no record of wrongs. (No!)  
 Love keeps no record of wrongs.  
 Love is, love is...  
 Love is, love is...  
 (Repeat.)

Love is, love is...  
 Love is, love is...

"Love Is" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) by Carol Smith. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **God ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE.** This week, share that love with the people whose names you wrote on your hearts.

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## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE** this week. As this week's Daily Challenge, try to follow through on helping someone in need like you drew on your fourth jar on your my Bible Fun page.

Tell the kids how you'll care for someone in need. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

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My Bible Fun







Say: **Let's remember this week that ► GOD CARES FOR NEEDY PEOPLE as we follow through on our Daily Challenge.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how to love others. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Finally, close with a prayer, asking God to help all the children show real love to the people they identified in the coming week.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**Love Is (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)**

Love is patient,  
Love is kind,  
It does not envy,  
It does not boast,  
It is not proud.  
It is not rude,  
It's not self-seeking,  
Not easily angered,  
It keeps no record of wrongs. (No!)  
Love keeps no record of wrongs.  
Love is, love is...  
Love is, love is...  
*(Repeat.)*

Love is, love is...  
Love is, love is...

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**!** **OK**  
**■ TO COPY**

