

Paul Describes Genuine Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Most children have experienced love from parents, as well as from grandparents, teachers, siblings, and friends. Young children know the meaning of the word “love” and enjoy the benefits of being loved. Some of the children in your group, however, may not come from loving homes. Be mindful of that possibility, and try to ensure that all of the children in your class experience the feeling of giving and receiving love.



► Bible Point

God’s love is kind.

Key Verse

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will show God’s love and be kind.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i> | Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i> | Believe in the Lord Jesus Bounce a ball, and encourage each other to believe in Jesus. | Bible Teacher Pack: bouncy ball | |
| 3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i> | Theo’s News Find out what a flashlight and batteries have to do with the Bible story. | CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, flashlight, batteries Teacher Pack: CD | Place the flashlight and batteries in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible. |
| | Bible Time Learn about the characteristics of love, and color pictures that show love in action. | Bible, roll of butcher paper, markers, tape, flashlight and batteries from Theo’s News | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p> | <p>Center 1: Kind Hands Make handprints, and remember that they can use their hands to show love.</p> | My Bible Playground, red tempera paint, shallow bowl, smocks, newspapers, pencils | Remove the Lesson 13 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Spread newspapers over the area where the kids will be painting. |
| | <p>Center 2: Kindness Cupcakes Decorate cupcakes with frosting and candy hearts as they talk about kindness.</p> | 1 unfrosted cupcake per child, frosting, plastic knives, paper plates, napkins, 5 candy hearts per child | |
| | <p>Center 3: Pass the Heart Listen to a song, and pass a heart around in a circle.</p> | red construction paper, CD player, scissors Teacher Pack: CD | Cut a large heart from red construction paper. |
| | <p>Center 4: Devoted Dusters Make cloth dusters.</p> | 3x8-inch pieces of fabric, tacky craft glue, rubber bands, scissors, newspaper | Cut enough 3x8-inch pieces of cloth so every child has several pieces. Follow the directions in “Devoted Dusters” to make a sample duster. |
| <p>5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p> | <p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p> | My Bible Playground | |
| | <p>“Shining” Prayer Say a prayer, and shine flashlights.</p> | flashlights | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p> | | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "It's Good to Have
 You" (track 2)

Believe in the Lord Jesus Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
 bouncy ball

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "It's Good to Have You" (track 2 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?" and lead children in doing the motions.

 **It's good to have you in church today.** (*Have the children stand in a circle, hold hands, and swing hands back and forth.*)

Let's sing, let's learn, and let's pray. (*Cup hands around mouth, point to your head, and then make praying hands.*)

We'll make new friends, and we'll have so much fun. (*Shake a friend's hand.*)

We're glad you've joined us today! (*Hold hands in a circle and swing hands back and forth.*)
(Repeat 2x.)

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Believe in the Lord Jesus

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Acts 16:31, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is from Acts 16:31, and it says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."** Have the children repeat the Key Verse with you.

Use the bouncy ball from the Teacher Pack to personalize this verse. Tell children that they'll each get a chance to bounce the ball and call out someone's name, saying "[Child's name], believe in the Lord Jesus, and you'll be saved!" The person whose name was called gets to catch the ball and repeat the activity with someone else's name. Take turns until each child has had a chance to say and hear the verse.





Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do we believe Jesus has done for us?
- How do you feel to know you are saved?

Say: **When we do bad things, the Bible says that those bad things are called sins. Those sins keep us from God. Just as we caught the bouncy ball, God’s love catches us and saves us.**

God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Because he died for us and came back to life again, we know our sins are forgiven and we are God’s children. That’s what it means to be saved. Let’s shout our Key Verse one more time so everyone can hear how to be saved. Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you one more time: **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo’s News

What You’ll Do

Say: **Friends, it’s time for Theo’s News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin “Here, Theo” (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you’ve dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Friends, let’s look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the batteries and flashlight around the circle so the rest of the class can see them up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this flashlight and these batteries in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, because the batteries help the flashlight.

Teacher: Friends, why does a flashlight need batteries?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Theo: This flashlight won’t work without batteries. Without batteries inside, my flashlight is empty—it’s nothing.

Teacher: Let’s listen to our Bible story today to see what might cause our lives to be empty, like the flashlight is empty without batteries.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.



Theo’s News Supplies

- CD player
- Surprise Box (any box will do)
- Theo puppet
- flashlight
- batteries
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Here, Theo” (track 3)

Theo’s News Easy Prep

Place the flashlight and batteries in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.





Bible Time Supplies

Bible
roll of butcher paper
markers
tape
flashlight and batteries
from Theo's News

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND.** Hold up the flashlight without batteries, and make an exaggerated effort to turn on the flashlight.

Ask:

- **What do you see when I turn on my flashlight?**

Say: **That's right—nothing—no light! The flashlight didn't shine.**

Ask:

- **What's wrong with my flashlight?**

Say: **Oh...that's right! My flashlight doesn't have batteries. My flashlight is empty. It won't light up without batteries. Well, let's see what happens when we put the batteries in.** Put the batteries inside the flashlight and turn it on.

Look! How about that—it does work. Look at the light shining! The flashlight needed batteries inside, didn't it? You know, in our Bible story today, Paul tells us that without love, we have nothing. If we don't have love inside our hearts, we are nothing. Without love, we would be like this flashlight without its batteries—empty. Paul tells us we must have love inside our hearts like the batteries inside the flashlight. In the Bible, Paul also tells us some other things about love.

One of the first things Paul says about love is that love is patient. You know how you take turns when you are playing with toys, and you have to wait patiently for your friends? Well, when we wait patiently for someone, we are showing love.

Ask:

- **When is another time you showed patience to someone?**
- **When was someone was patient with you?**

Say: **The Bible also tells us that love is kind. All of you know about being kind, because I've seen you be kind to your friends in our class. Sometimes it's hard to be kind, but God wants us to be kind to others.**





Ask:

- **Have you ever been kind to someone who was mean to you? What happened?**
- **Was someone ever kind to you even when you didn't deserve kindness?**

Say: **In the Bible, Paul also says that love is not jealous or boastful or proud. When our hearts are full of love, there's no room for jealousy. We aren't jealous of a friend with a new toy or our sister with a new dress or our brother who has a bigger cookie. And love doesn't allow bragging. When we brag because we won the game, that can be hurtful to others. Paul tells us, too, that love is not rude or selfish. When we share our toys and when we say kind words to others, we are showing love.**

Think of a time someone said something mean to you. You don't have to share it aloud, but think about how you felt when that person said mean things to you. It wasn't a happy feeling, was it? Now think of a time you said mean things to another person. When we say mean things to people, it hurts their feelings. We're not showing our love when we say things that hurt others.

Paul reminds us in the Bible that love is slow to anger. We all get mad sometimes, but the Bible tells us that we shouldn't get mad over silly, little things. Close your eyes and think of a time when your mom or dad was mad at you. It makes you feel bad when someone is mad at you, right? Well, we don't want to make others feel bad by being mad at them, either.

The Bible says that love doesn't hold a grudge; when we have love in our hearts, we forgive other people when they do wrong, and we don't stay mad at them. God is happy when we make the right choices. The Bible tells us that when we love someone, we want to take care of that person. Think about the person or people who take care of you. Those people love you! And you love those people.

Ask:

- **How do you know that someone loves you?**

Say: **The Bible tells us that love trusts, hopes, and goes on forever. Love never ever ends.**

Since the Bible tells us that love never ends, we're going to make a really big picture about love. We're going to pretend that our picture goes on and on and on and never ends!

Unroll enough paper so that the children have plenty of space to draw. Encourage the children to draw pictures of the people they love or situations in which they were patient or kind, such as when they shared toys. Tape the paper up in the room when the children have finished. If time allows, have the children talk about what they've drawn.





Say: **We've talked about some of the qualities of love, and we've drawn some nice pictures about love. One of the greatest examples of love is Jesus; he loved everyone in the world so much that he died on a cross so we could live with him in heaven forever! Jesus loves all of us very much, and he wants us to share his love with the world. When we share Jesus' love with the world, we are showing the world that ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Kind Hands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 13 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their papers. Pour red tempera paint into a large, shallow bowl. Have the children put on smocks or old shirts, and encourage the children to dip their hands in the paint and make handprints on their student pages inside the hearts.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How can we use our hands to show people that we love them?**
- **What other ways can we show our love without using words?**
- **How can you use your hands to be kind to someone this week?**

Say: **We can use our hands to be kind to others by patting people on the back or helping to pick up toys. Being kind to others makes God happy, it makes us happy, and it makes other people happy, too. The Bible tells us that ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND.**

Center 1: Kind Hands Supplies

My Bible Playground
red tempera paint
shallow bowl
smocks
newspapers
pencils

Center 1: Kind Hands Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
13 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book. Spread
newspapers over the
area where the kids will
be painting.





CENTER 2:

Kindness Cupcakes

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Instruct the children to wash their hands and then sit at the table. Pass out plates, plastic knives, and napkins. Give each child a cupcake and a dollop of frosting. Instruct the children to find a partner and practice being kind by frosting the other person's cupcake.

Say: **Very good! We know that ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND, and you were very kind just now when you frosted your partner's cupcake! Let's keep decorating the cupcakes with more ways to be kind.**

Give each child five candy hearts. Instruct the children to take turns telling their partner one way they can give God's gift of love through being kind at home. Each time a child shares an idea, he or she can add a candy heart to the cupcake.

After everyone's cupcake is decorated, invite one child to pray and thank God for the snacks.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some ways that you can be kind at home this week?
- How do you feel after you do something kind?

Say: **It feels great to do something kind. That's because ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND. When you do something nice, you get to feel God's wonderful love!**

CENTER 3:

Pass the Heart

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Before you begin the activity, play "Love Is..." (track 20 on the CD) to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" so the children can become familiar with the words. Then give the heart you cut out before class to one of the children, and re-cue the CD. Have the children pass the heart around the circle. Pause the song periodically, and have the child who is holding the heart say kind words to someone in the circle. Re-cue the CD, and repeat the song so that each child has a chance to say kind words.



Center 2: Kindness Cupcakes Supplies

- 1 unfrosted cupcake per child
- frosting
- plastic knives
- paper plates
- napkins
- 5 candy hearts per child

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Pass the Heart Supplies


- red construction paper
- CD player
- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Love Is..." (track 20)

Center 3: Pass the Heart Easy Prep

Cut a large heart from red construction paper.








 Love is patient, love is kind.
 Love's not jealous, doesn't brag.
 Love's not proud or rude or selfish,
 Doesn't ever hold a grudge.
 Love is good; love is trust.
 Love is hope; love never fails.
 Love goes on and on.
(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

-  How did you feel when someone said something kind to you?
-  How do you feel when you say kind things?
-  Who can you say something kind to this week?

Say: **When we love others, we can show them our love by saying kind words to them. God wants us to remember that his love is kind.**

CENTER 4:

Devoted Dusters

What You'll Do

Lay newspaper over the surface of the table. Have the children sit at the craft table. Set the bottles of tacky glue and the cloth strips in the center of the table.

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD'S LOVE IS KIND. Let's make dusters that you can use at home. You can show Mom or Dad kindness by dusting the furniture so they don't have to.**

Center 4: Devoted Dusters Supplies

3x8-inch pieces
 of fabric
 tacky craft glue
 rubber bands
 scissors
 newspaper

Center 4: Devoted Dusters Easy Prep

Cut enough 3x8-inch
 pieces of cloth so every
 child has several pieces.
 Follow the directions in
 "Devoted Dusters" to
 make a sample duster.





Have each child choose several pieces of cloth. Show children how to lay one piece of cloth flat across the table and place two small lines of craft glue at the short end of the cloth. Have the child lay a second piece of cloth over the first one. Have the child place two lines of glue on the short end of the second cloth strip. Repeat until all the pieces of cloth are glued together at the top end. Visit each child and secure the glued ends of the strips of cloth together with several rubber bands. While the glue is drying, move the children to a different part of the room. Use your sample duster to demonstrate how to use a duster.

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD’S LOVE IS KIND. When you use your duster at home, you are showing kindness to your parents.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think your parents will feel when they see you dust the house?
- How do you think God will feel when he sees you being kind at home?
- What are some other ways you can be kind at home this week?

Say: **When we are kind to our parents, we are showing them love. It’s important to be kind because ► GOD’S LOVE IS KIND.**

5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD’S LOVE IS KIND. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to trust that God’s love is kind.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. Before dinner, give everyone in your family a great big hug.
2. Use your “Devoted Duster” to help your mom or dad dust the house.
3. Help your brother or sister or a friend pick up his or her room.



Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Playground





“Shining” Prayer Supplies

flashlights

Say: **If you want to hug your family, circle choice number 1. If you want to use your duster, circle choice number 2. If you want to help your brother or sister, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Shining” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Bring in enough flashlights for each child in your group to have one. If you don’t have enough flashlights, say this prayer several times so that each child has a turn with the flashlight. On the word “shine,” have the children turn on the flashlights.

**Dear God,
Help me love my friends with a love that will never end.
Help me to be kind with a love that will always shine.
In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

