



Paul Describes Genuine Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13


Fifth- and sixth-graders are developing a broader concept of love. Before this age, their love was mostly for family members. But they're now starting to have a clearer concept of romantic love, although that concept is not very mature at this point. Preteens begin to realize that kids of the opposite sex may not have "cooties" after all, and crushes develop. Kids this age are also becoming more influenced by the media. Their ideas about love will be strongly influenced by the movies and TV shows they watch and the music they listen to.



► **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 show biblical love to several different people in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Love: Hollywood Style <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss what their favorite forms of entertainment say about love.	Bible Buzz; markers; items such as entertainment magazines, movie ads, music CDs, TV listings, celebrity posters	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
2 Bible Exploration	The Greatest Love of All <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Read the Scripture and discuss <i>love</i> defined by the world and defined by God.	Bibles, newsprint, marker, CD player, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Tape a piece of newsprint to the wall, and create two columns. Label one column "The World" and the other column "God."
	Love in Action <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Look at four different Bible stories that demonstrate 1 Corinthians 13 love.	Bibles, pens Teacher Pack: "Love in Action" cards 	Separate the "Love in Action" cards.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Brainstorm with each other about how love is shown to different people.	Bible Buzz, pens	
	God's Love Connection <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Participate in a game show about genuine love.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Paul Describes Genuine Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS**

What Is True Love?

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

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

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.



Love: Hollywood Style Supplies

Bible Buzz markers
items such as entertainment magazines, movie ads, music CDs, TV listings, celebrity posters

Love: Hollywood Style Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

The Greatest Love of All Supplies

Bibles
newsprint
marker
CD player
copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: "Love Is" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) (track 23)

The Greatest Love of All Easy Prep

Tape a piece of newsprint to the wall, and create two columns. Label one column "The World" and the other column "God."

1 GETTING STARTED

Love: Hollywood Style

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Say: **Let's take a look at all these different kinds of entertainment we have available to us. You'll probably find some of your favorites in here.**

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What messages do these people and media tell us about love?
- How is love demonstrated in your favorite movies, songs, and TV shows?
- How do these messages make you feel about love?
- What is love?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have students find the "What Is Love?" section in Bible Buzz, and provide markers or crayons.

Say: **I'd like for you to draw a picture of what love means to you. You can draw a scene, symbols, words—anything you'd like to use to express the idea of love.** Give students several minutes to work on their drawings. Then ask a few students to share and explain what they drew.

Say: **As you might expect, God has a few things to tell us about what love is. After all, God is love. And ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE. Let's find out what his Word says.**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

The Greatest Love of All

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather kids around the newsprint you prepared before class. Have your students open their Bibles to 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Read the passage aloud as they follow along, or go around the room and have kids each read a verse aloud.



Ask:

- **What kinds of things does God tell us about love?**
- **How is the love that these verses describe different from the kind of love that's talked about in our entertainment culture?**

Write the students' answers in the two columns on the newsprint.

Ask:

- **Why do you think God wants us to love other people in this way?**

Say: **Let's read verses 4-5 again.**

Slowly read verses 4-5 aloud for your class, pausing briefly between phrases: **"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."**

Ask:

- **How would it make you feel to have that kind of love shown to you?**


Say: **It's not always easy to live out that kind of love, though, is it?**

Ask:

- **What are some reasons we don't always love other people the way God wants us to?**

Say: **Now let's sing a song about the kind of love that God tells us about.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Love Is" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) (track 23 on the CD).

 **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.





Love in Action Supplies

Bibles
pens
Teacher Pack
“Love in Action” cards

Love in Action Easy Prep

Separate the “Love in
Action” cards.

How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Love in Action

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have students form four groups. Give each group one of the four “Love in Action” cards from your Teacher Pack.

Say: **Now that we know ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE others, let’s look at some examples he gives us in the Bible of love in action.**

Ask kids to choose a reader, a recorder, and a reporter in each group. Tell the readers to look up and read aloud to the rest of the group the verses listed on their card. Then have the recorders read one question at a time to the group and record the groups’ responses. When everyone has finished with the Bible stories, have the reporters each briefly tell the class what the Bible story was about and how that story demonstrated 1 Corinthians 13 love.

Ask:

- What is love?

Say: ► **GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE throughout the Bible, not only in 1 Corinthians 13. He has shown real, genuine love in the lives of others so that we can learn from them and have that kind of love in our lives. Let’s see how we can love others in our lives with God’s definition of genuine love.**

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids work in the same groups. Ask them to brainstorm about ways to show love to family members, friends, and strangers. Give groups a minute or two for each area, and have them record their ideas in the “Loving Others” section of Bible Buzz.

When kids have finished writing ways they have seen love shown in each category, have them work together again to brainstorm three specific people they can show love to in those three categories. Encourage kids to think of practical ways they can love others and to follow through on their commitments this week.

Say: **In order to help us know how to show genuine love this week, let’s look at some examples of ways love can be shown in specific situations.**



God's Love Connection

What You'll Do

Working in their same groups, have students participate in a mock game show called "God's Love Connection." Read the first scenario to the first group. Tell them they have 20 seconds to discuss an answer, then they must tell how they could respond in a way that demonstrates 1 Corinthians 13 love.

After they give their answer, play the "Bell Sound" (track 24 on the CD), and encourage applause from the other students. Then give the second scenario to the second group, and repeat the process for all four scenarios.

Say: **Scenario 1: Your mom has been sick for the last few days, and you can tell she's really feeling bad. Today is Saturday, and you got all your homework done early. Your friends have invited you to hang out with them and go to the new movie you've been dying to see. As you look for your mom to ask if you can go, you notice dishes piled in the sink and several loads of laundry by the washer.**

Ask:

- What would you do to show love in this situation?

Say: **Scenario 2: You're walking to class one day and you notice Tammy, the person everyone thinks is the biggest nerd in your class. She broke her ankle last week and is hobbling along on crutches. Suddenly she drops the heavy load of books she's struggling with, and they scatter across the hallway. Just then, a group of really popular kids rounds the corner and comes toward you.**

Ask:

- What would you do to show love in this situation?

Say: **Scenario 3: Tonight is the night you and your 6-year-old sister, Kerrie, are assigned cleanup duty after dinner. You want to get it done as soon as possible so you can watch your favorite TV show. But Kerrie is very slow in getting the dishes to the sink, and instead of getting the dishes loaded into the dishwasher quickly, she'd rather play in the water, sing songs, and tell you about her day.**

Ask:

- What would you do to show love in this situation?

Say: **Scenario 4: There's a kid at school who's made you miserable more than once. He's mean to you, and you just can't seem to get along. Then one day you find out that his older brother has cancer and is in the hospital a lot.**

Ask:

- What would you do to show love in this situation?



God's Love Connection Supplies

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CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Bell Sound"
(track 24)



When you've completed all the scenarios, and all groups have had an opportunity to participate, ask the following question.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- From what we've just heard in these situations, what would you say love is?

Say: **It was pretty easy to say what love would be in these situations. But saying and doing are two different things.**

Ask:

- What makes it hard for you to love others?
- How can God help you be more loving?

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Think about the "good deeds" you do right now, and why you do them. Do you do them just because you're "supposed to"? If so, ask God to change your heart and to give you a real desire to love others. As God shows you how to do that, commit to turning those ideas into realities.**
- **Think once more about this lesson's activity where you came up with practical ways to show God's love to three specific people this week. Pray more for God's leading, then follow through on your commitments.**
- **Is there someone you're having a hard time forgiving? Seek that person out, and make an effort to set things right this week. Own up to any part of the conflict that you contributed to, try to see that person's side of things as well, and ask his or her forgiveness, too. If that person is unwilling to forgive, continue to pray that God would change his or her heart.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Buzz



Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

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

Say: ► **GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE. Let's love others God's way by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

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

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

Close by reading aloud 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 together with your students.

Say: **Let's reflect on the words of 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 is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."**

Pray: **Loving God, thank you for teaching us how to love. Please give us opportunities to love others the way you want us to. Your love is amazing, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.**



**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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