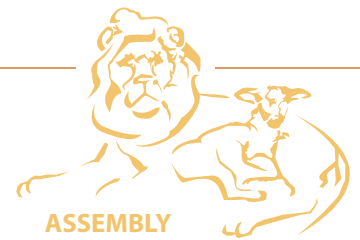


LOVE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

A CLANGING CYMBAL

Supplies

borrow a cymbal on a stand and bring it to class along with a drum stick (In a pinch you could use two large cooking pot lids)

Have one of your helpers come into the class just after it begins and announce that he or she would like to encourage you and the class. At first they can share a few nice words but as they continue they should freely pound on the cymbal or smash the pot lids together to create a lot of noise. This should go on long enough that the children pass from shocked and amused to being annoyed. (A note of caution: Don't get too loud for too long as the noise could actually be harmful in a closed classroom.) The object is to illustrate 1 Corinthians 13:1. Once the kids look like they would like an end to the noise, have the volunteer end by saying, "I hope that really encourages you!" and leave the room.

Ask the children if they felt encouraged by the words of the person who stopped in. They will likely mention the noise and how it was even hard to hear what was said. At that point you can read 1 Corinthians 13 again and help them make the connection to love. A person might be very gifted but if he do not have love, his actions will not be received well. Ask the children if they know what the greatest demonstration of love was. Read 1 John 4:10-13 to the children from your Bible.

LOVE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13

LOVE IS?

Supplies

red hearts to keep track of
team scores

Review the list of the characteristics of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Divide the room up into two teams. Ask them if they can remember the different ways Paul describes love in the passage and then explain what it means. If they come up with a correct characteristic give them a red heart as a tangible expression of their score. The team gets a second red heart if they correctly define the characteristic. If they cannot give the definition then the other team gets a chance at the definition. When neither team can remember any more characteristics the game is over. Count up the red hearts to determine the winner. Then review with the class any characteristics they missed.

WHEN THE PERFECT COMES

Supplies

Hershey's Kisses™

Write the following words largely on the whiteboard in your classroom. "When you first take off the foil wrapper of a Hershey's Kiss™ and smell the chocolate, you just can't wait to pop it in your mouth. As soon as you do, you want to take a bite and feel the smooth creamy chocolate flavor of the candy. It is even fun to play with the foil wrapper while you chew."

When your class comes in, read the statement above while you ask them to pretend they are eating a Hershey's Kiss™ candy. Have them act out what they would do while they ate their delicious candy. Then, pull out a bag of real Hershey's Kisses and ask if they would like to eat the real thing or just keep thinking about it. Of course they will say they want the real thing. Go ahead and give them each one candy and then read to them 1 Corinthians 13:10 "but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away." Tell them that the perfect is Jesus. Now we have His word and His instruction, but when we see Him face to face, we will not want to go back to the partial, we will have the Lord really before us.



LOVE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Many quote 1 Corinthians 13 on love and try to separate it from the gospel. Portions of this passage might sound wonderful at a wedding ceremony but without an understanding and connection to the gospel, this description of love cannot be fully appreciated. The gospel defines and gives meaning to love. We know that the Bible says, "God is love." And the Apostle John in 1 John 4:8-11 describes God's ultimate demonstration of love as the death of His Son on the cross. John goes on to explain that the cross is the motivation for loving one another. Paul points to this too in 1 Corinthians 13:10 when he says, "when the perfect comes..." The perfect is Jesus.

Since God is love and Jesus is God and He lives forever, love never ends! All other worldly gifts and knowledge will be superseded by a more complete truth that will come to us in eternity, but the love of Christ will remain forever. The love Paul speaks of is not a humanistic works-based love, but rather a love which comes from a heart changed by grace.

