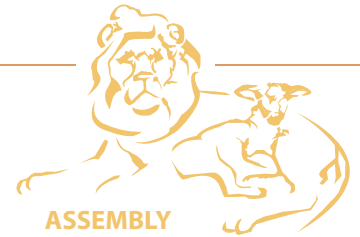


LOVING ONE ANOTHER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 JOHN 3:11-18



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

LESSON IDEAS

LOVE SERVES

Supplies

a small blanket

To illustrate the point that love involves giving of ourselves, not just words, perform the following skit in front of the children. Have two teachers pretend to be in a very cold place. They should really shiver. Have one teacher pull a blanket out and put it around himself while the other teacher continues to shiver and hop to keep warm. Have the teacher with the blanket try and encourage the freezing person, offer to pray for him, give him advice about ways to keep warm, but not give up his blanket.

Then ask the children the following questions:

- Did the person with the blanket love the person without one?
- What could the person with the blanket have done to show love to the person who did not have a blanket?
- How can we show love to those around us?

Point out to the children verse 16: "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." The best example of love is what Jesus did for us.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 JOHN 3:11-18

THE HEART BEHIND THE WORDS

Supplies

- heavy white paper (card stock)
- markers

Cut the card stock into half sheet sized cards. On the back of each card draw a large outline of a heart. In the middle of five hearts draw a cross and in the middle of the other five draw a mean or angry face (a frown will do if you are not the best artist). On the front of the cross cards list the following words, love, peace, kindness, help, and sacrifice. On the front of the angry face cards write the words Angry, mean, murder, hate, and selfish.

For class, shuffle the cards and explain to the children that you are going to read them a word and they need to guess what is behind that word in the heart. Act out the words by altering the tone of your voice to match the particular word. Call the angry face sin and the cross the grace of God. Ask the children which they think is in the heart behind the words, sin, or the grace of God. Point out to them that the same sin is behind the words murder, hate, and angry. Saying mean things to people is just as much sin as hurting them.

Explain to the children the Gospel in that Jesus died on the cross to change our hearts. All of us have sin in our hearts. Ask them if they ever got angry. Then ask them what kind of heart is behind their anger. Finally take a moment in class to pray that God would help you turn away from sin and trust in Jesus.

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.

Once again we see the Gospel clearly outlined in Scripture. Verse 16 tells us that the ultimate example of love is Jesus laying down his life for us. Jesus did just what John is exhorting us to do. Jesus saw that we were "in need" (verse 17) and he gave up his life for us. Jesus' sacrifice is to motivate us to love one another. Our motivation for loving someone is based on what Jesus did for us, not what they have done for us. This is how we can find the grace to love even our enemies.

