

## LOVE

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 CORINTHIANS 13



## The STORY

Read about love in 1 Corinthians 13.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is Paul talking about in this passage? (Paul is saying that love is the most important gift of God that we can use to bless one another.)
- What is a person like who can do many things but doesn't have love? (He is like a clanging gong or cymbal.)
- Why would God compare a person who does not have love with a clanging gong or cymbal? (A clanging gong is noisy and nobody really wants it around no matter how nice it might look.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a dad giving his daughter a hug. Engage the children by asking:

- What is love? (Love is when you demonstrate patience, kindness, trust and joy toward another person not based on what they do but just because you want to.)
- How did God demonstrate his love for us? (God demonstrates His love to us in many ways including giving us everything we have, but the greatest demonstration of His love is sending Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins.)
- Can anyone think of a passage in the Bible that talks about God's love for us in sending His Son Jesus? (Some children may know John 3:16. You might take some time to try and teach the children to memorize this verse.)

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**ASSEMBLY WARM UP**

In today's lesson we will see that it is very important to obey God.

Does anyone remember what Samuel is? (A prophet.)

Can anyone tell me who's words a prophet speaks, does he speak what every he wants or does he speak the words of God? (The words of God.)

Does anyone remember what Saul was? (Saul was King over Israel.)

Explain to the class that God tells us what to do in his word because he loves us. Demonstrate this by showing them a power outlet in your classroom. Ask the children why a mom or dad would say that you are not allowed to touch the power outlet? (You could get a very bad shock.)

Tell the children that it might look fun to play with but it could hurt you very badly.

Explain to the children that God knows that sin can hurt us badly and so He has given us laws to protect us and keep us from sin.

The problem is that we all have sin in our hearts and sin causes us to sin. The sin inside makes us say not to God's law.

Tell them that there is only one person who did not sin and ask them if they know his name. (The name of course is Jesus.)

Pray for your children's teachers in preparation for the lesson



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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Who does the Bible say we are to love first? (According to Deuteronomy 6:5, first we are to love God.)
- Who does the Bible say we are to love in addition to God? (The Bible tells us to love our brother, our neighbor, and our enemies. See 1 John 4:21, Matthew 19:19, and Matthew 5:44.)
- Is there anyone we should not love? (No. The Bible tells us we are to love all men because all men are made in the image of God. We don't have to love the bad things evil men do but we must love our enemies. We can love our enemies by praying that God would change their hearts.)

### 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

