

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 1 JOHN 3:11-18



The STORY

Read about loving our brother in 1 John 3:11-18.

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.

- Who can remember the story of Cain? (Retell the story of Cain and Abel. See Genesis 4:1-16.)
- What did Cain do wrong? (Cain murdered his brother.)
- Did Cain love his brother? (No.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: a picture of a person giving a coat to a man without a coat. Engage the children by asking:

- What do you think the person in the picture is doing? (Giving the other person a coat.)
- Why do you think he is doing this? (The other person is cold and has no coat.)
- How does this demonstrate love? (Jesus tells us that love is about giving up what we have for others. We learn this from Jesus' example.)
- What did Jesus do that stands as our example? (If the children do not answer, point to the cross and use that as a hint.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- What do you think God might want you to share to show that you love your brothers or sisters? (The children might share their toys or a candy bar or just hold the door for their other brothers and sisters coming into the building.)
- Why is loving our brothers by giving things up for them so special to God? (Each time we give something of our own up for another we are following the example of Jesus who gave up His life for us.)
- Should we only give things up to people we like or should we serve our enemies too? (Jesus tells us that we should also love our enemies. Jesus died for sinners who did not love Him and put Him on the cross and killed Him. Jesus wants us to reach out with love to our brothers and to our enemies as well.)

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.

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.

