

Beginner Bible Teacher

March, April, May 2017 • SPRING QUARTER

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5



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Dear Beginner Teacher,

Whatever the season, whatever the weather, or whatever our age, one of our greatest needs is to feel secure in God's love. This quarter's lessons are about the love of God. The unit themes are "The Nature of God's Love," "The Work of God's Love," and "The Extent of God's Love."

We can never fully comprehend God's love. Do you find, as I do, that if you can explain something to a four- or five-year-old, you understand it yourself? A goal this quarter is to more fully understand and feel God's love and to communicate this in terms children can understand.

Think often about God's love this quarter. Notice God's love expressed in creation, in His Word, and in the circumstances of your life. We can best teach about God's love when its warmth fills our hearts.

What is the nature of God's love? Because God is love, we should love one another (lesson 1). God's love has saved us and motivates us to service (lesson 2). God commands us to love others with His kind of love (lesson 3). Because of God's love, we should turn to Him for mercy and forgiveness (lesson 4).

What is the work of God's love? How is it expressed in action? Because God loves us, He will take care of us (lesson 5). God's love sent Jesus (lesson 6). Can we ever doubt that He loves us? Easter proves that God's love wins (lesson 7). God loves sinners, and nothing can separate us from His love (lesson 8). Christ not only gave His life for us; He also leads us (lesson 9). Love is an action, and God's love actively works in our lives.

We cannot fully comprehend the extent of God's love, but lessons 10 through 13 give us a glimpse of the depth of love God has for mankind. As you teach these four lessons from the book of Jonah, remember to focus not only on Jonah's story but also on God's love.

God disciplined Jonah, and He loves us enough to set us straight as well (lesson 10). God's love protects us, even as it protected Jonah in the belly of the fish (lesson 11). God's love forgave even the sinful people of Nineveh when they repented. God always loves us (lesson 12). Jonah had a narrowly focused love for his own people; but God loves all people, so we should too (lesson 13).

I pray God will enable you to rejoice in His love as you teach.

With my prayers for you,

Donna Poole

Keep It Simple and Listen

Do little children surprise you with their interpretations of what adults say? Even as a grandmother of nine, I am still learning how children think.

Children often totally misunderstand adults, and that is why it is so important for us to listen closely. Here are a few examples of how four- and five-year-olds can misinterpret what adults say.

A friend who homeschooled her five-year-old told him to circle half the rabbits on the page. She returned to see that he had carefully circled half of each rabbit.

One of our daughters told her young son, "If you don't get better, I will have to take you to the doctor."

His four-year-old sister looked troubled. "And will he have to stay there forever?" she asked.

The same daughter told her son to look out the window and keep his eyes peeled for Dad, who would soon be home. Several minutes later, she heard her four-year-old daughter sympathetically ask her brother, "Are your eyes peeling?"

We were trying to teach our little granddaughter to play ball with a plastic bat and ball. She kept swinging and missing. We instructed her to keep her eye on the ball. She looked confused, shrugged, and put the ball on her eye.

I read about a mom who often told her skinny child, "Eat more, or the wind will blow you away."

One windy day the mom went outside to find her preschool daughter sobbing and holding tightly to a bush. "What is wrong?" the alarmed mother asked.

"The wind has come," the little girl

sobbed. "It's going to blow me away."

One of our daughters was trying to explain to her four-year-old why it was not fair to expect Mom to pick up all the toys and why children should help. She told our granddaughter the story of *The Little Red Hen* and how no one would help the hen make the bread. The little girl still did not see a need to help pick up toys, but her face lit up as she said, "I will help you make bread, Mom."

Do you see why the editors of this material ask the writers to avoid symbolic language? Young children may not understand it, even when it is carefully explained. Instead of saying that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep, we can say that Jesus loves us and takes good care of us. Instead of saying that Jesus is the Door, we can say, "Jesus shows us the way to God."

I sometimes think teaching four- and five-year-olds is more of a challenge than teaching adults. To put biblical concepts into terms young children understand, we must really grasp those truths ourselves.

After we teach, it is good to question and listen to be sure the children understand. A little boy told his parents that he did not want to be saved. When they asked why, he replied, "Mrs. Poole said that when we ask Jesus to save us from our sins, we go to heaven." He thought that he would go to heaven the minute he was saved. He wanted to live a little longer.

There are few joys deeper than leading a child to Jesus. To do that, we must keep our teaching simple and listen to be sure that children understand.

God Loves the Children

Dorothy Grunbock Johnston

Dorothy Grunbock Johnston

God loves the chil - dren ev - 'ry - where;

The first system of music is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The melody consists of a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The accompaniment consists of a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, and a quarter note chord Bb2-F2.

God loves the chil - dren ev - 'ry - where. He

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody consists of a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The accompaniment consists of a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, and a quarter note chord Bb2-F2.

loves them here; He loves them there.

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody consists of a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. The accompaniment consists of a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, and a quarter note chord Bb2-F2.

God loves the chil - dren ev - 'ry - where.

The fourth system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody consists of a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The accompaniment consists of a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, a quarter note chord Bb2-F2, and a quarter note chord Bb2-F2.



Jesus showed how much God loves us.

God Is Love

LESSON: I John 4:7-19

GOLDEN TEXT—“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another” (I John 4:11).

Scripture Lesson Text

I JOHN 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS

AIM: to teach that God loves us and that we should love one another.

You may have heard it said that love is an action. It is wonderful to hear words of love, but it is even better to see love demonstrated.

Not everyone demonstrates love. I am an administrator for an online support group for aneurysm survivors. Some survivors' mates show amazing sacrificial love. Other husbands or wives walk away from the hurting survivor. They do not want to give the help and support required. Love makes the difference.

Real love is always self-sacrificing. Real love is like God's love. God gave everything to us He had to give. God knew at the Creation that He would have to sacrifice His only Son for our sins, yet He created us anyway.

Do we pass the love test? Our faith in Christ unites us to God, and God's nature is love. Our love to God and to others shows that we truly share God's nature.

God is love. God showed love by sending His Son. God lives in His children and expresses love through them. Love gives us confidence that we are the children of God.

God does not just command us to love others. He lives in us if we know Jesus as Saviour, and He loves through us. I am so glad that we can turn to God and ask Him to love others through us. Never ignore the prodding of God's Spirit to show sacrificial love to another.

Getting Ready

Teacher, please take time to make a visual you will use all quarter. From construction paper, cut out four red tulips, five yellow tulips, and four pink tulips. (Tulips should be large enough

to print on.) Cut out green stems and leaves and attach them to the tulips.

From white paper or poster board, cut out three large clouds. On the first cloud, print "WHAT GOD'S LOVE IS LIKE." On the second cloud, print "HOW GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE." On the third cloud, print "HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US."

Attach the clouds to a board or classroom wall. Leave space between the clouds because you will be putting the tulips under them.

For Telling the Lesson, on the first red tulip, print "GOD IS LOVE." You will need tape, a flannelgraph figure or a picture of the crucifixion, and a Bible.

For Handwork, cut out two six-inch hearts and four three-inch hearts from red construction paper for each student. You will need tape and markers.

Beginning Worship

Welcome, boys and girls! Perhaps you have seen some signs of spring already. (Allow discussion.) Spring begins in just fifteen days. We see many signs of God's love and beauty in the spring. (Allow responses.)

When we see the wonderful things God makes, we remember that He loves us. We worship Him. We will worship God today in prayer and in song.

Suggested Songs

"Love Chorus" (Eckhardt)

"He Loves Me" (Loveless)

"J-O-Y" (Lewis)

Prayer Time

God, I like to talk to You,
Hear Your Word, and obey it too.
Teach me what I need to know,
And help me love You as I grow.

(Teacher, lead in prayer.) Father, we thank You for Your love. Please teach us to love others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.