



Junior Bible Teacher

March, April, May 2017

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SPRING QUARTER

For Teachers of Children Ages 9 Through 11



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March, April, May 2017

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The Love of God

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Dear Junior Teacher:

God is love. Those three little words make a powerful statement about the character and nature of God. This quarter, students will explore how God manifests and reveals His love for His people.

The first unit describes the nature of God's love. Students will learn that because He first loved us, we are able to share and express His love with others.

Lessons 1 through 4 explain the quality and characteristics of God's love. God's love is overflowing. Although we are initially dead in sin, God loves us so much that He offers life forever with His Son. God's love is manifested in the lives of His people. When we as believers show love to others, we are communicating the love of God. His love is merciful. God is kind, gracious, and forgiving. He offers His loving grace to everyone who turns to Him.

The second unit shows students the many ways God's love works in and through the lives of believers. Students will examine the saving work of God's Son, Jesus.

Lessons 5 through 9 describe the work of God's love. The Lord is our Shepherd who protects and provides. People who faithfully follow Him find His love unfailing and all-sufficient. God loves us so much that He sent His Son to save us from our sin. Believers who trust in Jesus will share life forever in His kingdom. God's love is victorious. This Easter, students will celebrate the glorious new life with Christ. His love is all-powerful. Students will learn that nothing can separate God's children from the promise of His love. His love is all-knowing. Believers are the sheep of God's pasture. When we love and follow God, we are known and cherished by Him.

The third unit tells the story of the Prophet Jonah, who tried to run from God. From Jonah's story, students will learn that no one can escape God's reach.

Our final lessons this quarter describe the power of God's love. God's love disciplines. When Jonah fled from God's direction, God intervened to put him back on His path. God's love protects. When Jonah was thrown overboard, God sent the great fish to swallow the prophet, and Jonah thanked God for saving his life. God's love is for everyone. When Jonah preached in Nineveh, the people repented of their sinful ways, and Jonah saw the extent of God's merciful love and forgiveness. His love is all-embracing. When Jonah became angry and complained against God, God still loved and sheltered him. Jonah learned that God loves all His children.

God's saving love is available to everyone who repents of sin and prays to Him. Lessons 5, 8, and 12 will specifically instruct students how to repent of sin and express their faith in Jesus. Of course, teachers should be available any time a student is ready to make a commitment to Christ.

Teacher, we are loved! God loves us so much that He gave His Son so that we might live. Rejoice in the love of God this quarter!

In His grace,

Elizabeth Shultz

Teaching the Love of God

Think of someone you love unconditionally, someone you will always cherish and for whom you will always wish what is best. Think of someone for whom you would give anything possible, someone you would risk your own life to save. Most parents feel this way about their children. If you are not a parent, perhaps you have a spouse, elder, or sibling you cherish with such unconditional love.

Love is patient, kind, forbearing, faithful, and enduring. Love is always interested, always concerned, always giving.

Now consider that our human love is only a small fraction of the love God has for the children He created. God's love is gracious, merciful, sacrificial, boundless, and eternal. God is always interested, always concerned, always generous.

The Bible tells us God is the nature and source of all love. We are told that "we love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" (vs. 11).

The students in your classroom are the objects of God's unconditional love. He cherishes each one of them as His special, beloved child. He values each one of them as unique, important, and treasured. When their attention wanders, their behaviors are challenging, or your lessons are ignored, remember that God cares for your students with a greater unconditional love than you have for your own loved ones.

God's Word tells us, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). God commands all His children to share His unconditional love with others in their care. Please consider how you can demonstrate God's love toward every student in your class.

Teachers' lives are busy. Our days are hectic. Our prayer times are crowded

with praises, requests, and petitions. Often we remember to pray for the needs of our family members and loved ones, but our prayers for our students may become a mechanical recitation of names or a repetition of "God be with every student in my class."

Next time you pray, please take time to slow down and hold each of your students in your attention individually. Say each child's name, and recall the face of that child in your imagination. Raise up the specific needs and concerns you know involve that child. Make special requests you know can help that child grow.

Ask God to increase your love for each child. Ask Him to show you how to share His unconditional love with all the students in your class. Ask Him to help you address the needs of every child in your care to help each learn and grow in faith.

Take time to meditate and listen for God's response on each child. Thank God for any insights He gives you before you move on to the next child on your roster.

Finally, thank God for all the children in your class. Thank Him for all the lessons you and your students are learning together in your classroom. Ask Him to help you be more like His Son. Pray that you will grow to be more receptive, responsive, compassionate, and understanding toward students. Thank Him for giving you the opportunity to express and communicate His love with others. Be grateful He gave you a classroom of students to teach about His love.

Teacher, your role is important, and your effort is valued. Remember that God also loves you with an unending concern and care. Know that He will be with you to protect and help you at all times. Remember that you also are His beloved, special child.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship

(Readings are for the week previous to the lesson topics.)

1. March 5. God Is Love

M.—Jesus Gave His Life for Us. I John 3:11-17.
T.—Loved by the Father and the Son. John 14:18-24.
W.—Love in Deed and in Truth. I John 3:18-24.
T.—Test the Spirits. I John 4:1-6.
F.—Loving God and the Brethren. I John 4:20—5:5.
S.—Thankful for God's Love. Ps. 40:1-10.
S.—Being Made Perfect in Love. I John 4:7-19.

2. March 12. Saved by God's Love

M.—God's Mercy on Sinners. Luke 18:9-14.
T.—Justified by Faith. Rom. 3:21-31.
W.—Grace Abounding to Many. Rom. 5:12-17.
T.—Raised with Christ. I Cor. 15:12-25.
F.—Know the Love of Christ. Eph. 3:14-21.
S.—Walk Worthy of Your Calling. Eph. 4:1-6.
S.—The Riches of His Grace. Eph. 2:1-10.

3. March 19. Love One Another

M.—The Lord's Vine: His People. Ps. 80:8-19.
T.—Loving as Jesus Loved. John 13:31-35.
W.—Be Holy as God Is Holy. I Pet. 1:13-21.
T.—Walking in Truth and Love. II John 1:4-11.
F.—Becoming One in Christ. Eph. 2:11-21.
S.—Love Shown in Obedience. John 14:8-15.
S.—Bearing Fruit in Love. John 15:1-17.

4. March 26. God's Mercy and Love

M.—The Prophesied Day of the Lord. Joel 2:1-11.
T.—Call for Repentance. Joel 2:15-17.
W.—Promised Restoration. Joel 2:20-27.
T.—Salvation and the Day of the Lord. Acts 2:14-21.
F.—Not Willing That Any Should Perish. II Pet. 3:1-10.
S.—Judgment and Cleansing. Joel 3:1-3, 18-21.
S.—Our Gracious and Merciful God. Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32.

5. April 2. The Lord Is My Shepherd

M.—Seeking a Resting Place. Num. 10:29-36.
T.—God the True Shepherd. Ezek. 34:11-16.
W.—Bringing His People Home Again. Jer. 23:1-8.
T.—The Good Shepherd's Sacrifice. John 10:11-18.
F.—Shepherds in God's Household. Heb. 13:17, 20-21.
S.—Tending the Flock of God. I Pet. 5:1-11.
S.—The Perfect Shepherd. Ps. 23:1-6.

6. April 9. God's Love Sent Jesus

M.—Christ Sent to Save. John 3:17-21.
T.—Love God, Not the World. I John 2:15-17.
W.—The Plea of Nicodemus. John 7:45-52.
T.—The Serpent in the Wilderness. Num. 21:4-9.
F.—The Faith of Nicodemus. John 19:38-42.
S.—The Love of God Our Saviour. Titus 3:1-7.
S.—God So Loved the World. John 3:1-16.

7. April 16. God's Love Wins! (Easter)

M.—Jesus Pierced on the Cross. John 19:31-37.
T.—Eternal Life Is in the Son. I John 5:6-12.
W.—Not One Bone Is Broken. Ps. 34:15-20.

T.—Casting Lots for Jesus' Robe. John 19:23-25.
F.—It Is Finished. John 19:26-30.
S.—The Tomb Found Empty. Luke 24:1-12.
S.—Victory over Death. John 20:1-10; I Pet. 1:3-5, 8-9.

8. April 23. God's Love for Sinners

M.—Preaching the Gospel of Christ. Rom. 1:1-15.
T.—Peace with God Through Christ. Rom. 5:1-5.
W.—Grace Abounding to Eternal Life. Rom. 5:18-21.
T.—Our Hope of Future Glory. Rom. 8:26-25.
F.—God's Purpose and Calling. Rom. 8:26-30.
S.—Suffering for the Gospel. II Cor. 11:21-27.
S.—God's Inescapable Love. Rom. 5:6-11; 8:31-39.

9. April 30. Our Good Shepherd's Love

M.—Blessed Are Those Who Understand. Matt. 13:10-17.
T.—Israel's Faithless Shepherds. Ezek. 34:1-10.
W.—Seeking the Lost Sheep. Matt. 18:1-5, 10-14.
T.—The Responsibility of Shepherds. Acts 20:25-28.
F.—Feed My Sheep. John 21:15-19.
S.—The Blind See. John 9:35-41.
S.—Jesus the Good Shepherd. John 10:1-15.

10. May 7. God's Love Sets Us Straight

M.—No Escaping God's Presence. Ps. 139:1-12.
T.—The Lord's Voice in the Storm. Ps. 29:1-9.
W.—Compassion After Rejection. Isa. 54:1-10.
T.—God's Wrath Against Nineveh. Nah. 1:1-8.
F.—Hope amid Severe Affliction. Lam. 3:15-26.
S.—An Attempt to Flee from God. Jonah 1:1-6.
S.—Disciplined but Kept Safe. Jonah 1:7-17.

11. May 14. God's Love Protects Us

M.—Thanks for Deliverance from Death. Ps. 116:1-14.
T.—Deadly Peril in the World. Job 41:1-11.
W.—Healing After the Punishing Blow. Isa. 19:19-22.
T.—Prayer for Deliverance. Ps. 69:13-18.
F.—A Greater than Jonah Is Here. Luke 11:29-32.
S.—I Am with You Always. Matt. 28:16-20.
S.—Jonah's Song of Thanksgiving. Jonah 2:1-10.

12. May 21. God Always Loves Us

M.—Repent and Live! Ezek. 18:26-32.
T.—Return to the Lord. Zech. 1:1-6.
W.—Joy over One Who Repents. Luke 15:8-10.
T.—Warnings to the Unrepentant. Matt. 11:20-24.
F.—Proclaiming Repentance and Faith. Acts 20:18-24.
S.—Repentance unto Life for Gentiles. Acts 11:11-18.
S.—Repentance of the Ninevites. Jonah 3:1-10.

13. May 28. God Loves All People

M.—The Merciful and Gracious God. Exod. 34:4-9.
T.—The Lord Who Forgives. Num. 14:10-11, 17-20.
W.—A God Ready to Pardon. Neh. 9:16-21.
T.—Mercy as High as the Heavens. Ps. 103:1-14.
F.—Mercy to All Who Call on Him. Ps. 86:1-7.
S.—Mercy That Delivers from Hell. Ps. 86:8-13.
S.—God's Compassion on His World. Jonah 4:1-11.



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 Spir'it.

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 Je'sus 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.

APPROACHING THE LESSON

AIM: to help students receive and share the love of God.

God is love. He is the Creator of all love, the source of all love, and the reason humans can experience love. God blesses us with love despite our sins and shortcomings. God requires us to share His love with others who need compassion.

Love is a choice and an action. We are commanded to show God's love for others through our service and witness to our faith; however, when we

love God, we will want to express His love in our behavior. We demonstrate love for others through acts of compassion and charity. The Holy Spirit, who indwells us as believers, helps us obey God's command to express His love.

This week we will discuss and explore the character and nature of God's love. We will encourage our students to accept God's love and express it.

(Teacher, make sure you have chalk or markers for writing on the board.)

TEACHING THE LESSON

GOD IS LOVE—I John 4:7-11

The Apostle John called himself the “disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:7, 20). John had an especially close relationship with Jesus. He knew Jesus well, and he wrote about his friendship with his Lord and Saviour.

The Apostle wrote a letter to Christian believers. John's letter encouraged the Christians to stay true to their faith in Christ. When John wrote, he called his readers “Beloved” to remind his friends that they were loved by and important to God.

John wrote, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God” (I John 4:7).

What does it mean to love someone? What do you think of when you think about love? (Teacher, invite students to respond, and discuss.)

We love our friends, parents, and neighbors. We love our siblings, grandparents, and even our teachers. Love is a very important part of being human. I would like each one of you to

come to the board and write the name of someone you love. (Teacher, allow students to come to the board individually and write a name on the left side of the board. You should also write a name on the list.)

Do you know that all love comes from God? God loves because He is the source of all love. God created humans to experience and share love. He gave humans the ability to feel and express love. John wrote truthful words when he wrote, “God is love” (I John 4:8).

John wrote that anyone who does not love others cannot know God, for God is love. Anyone who trusts in Jesus and obeys God will love the Father and choose to love His people.

John said, “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” (I John 4:9).

John reminded believers that God loved His people so much that He sent His only Son to the world. God sent Je-