

Discovering God on Route 66

LESSON #51

LOVE IS . . .

PREP: Review the Bible verses **I Corinthians 13:1-8** in preparation to teach the children.

Make a table on the board before children enter so that you can write the descriptions of love from the Bible. Go ahead and label the 3 columns.

Pray about selecting a project for the children to work on to put love into action!

Gather supplies that will be needed for the “Love in Action Project” you have chosen. *If you plan a few weeks ahead of time, you can ask the children to help donate needed supplies.*

Bring a camera to take pictures of the children in action.

Copy the FUNSHEET to pass out to the children at the end of class.

Note: Find as much time as possible for this lesson so that children will be able to complete an adequate “Love in Action Project”!

PRAY: Allow the children to give prayer requests. Write them down so that the children know that you really care and will pray for their requests. Open in prayer that the children will have the desire to show love to others.

READ: Have the children find **I Corinthians 13:1-8a** in their Bibles. Help new and younger children first. Tell them to put their fingers on the spot so that you’ll know when everyone has found the correct place.

Allow volunteers to read each of these verses, as the other children follow along. Also, discuss each verse and ask the children questions to verify their understanding. Verses 1-3 reveal the importance of Love. Next, verses 3-8 help to explain what real love is!

Verse 1:

“The person mentioned in verse 1 is a great speaker but is missing something. What is he missing?” *(Love.)*

“What does a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal sound like?” *(It’s loud and gets very annoying after a while.)*

“If you are trying to talk with someone, is it a good thing to sound like a resounding gong?” *(No.)*

Verse 2:

“If a person is brilliant and knows everything in the world, but does not love others, what does verse 2 say what he is able to do is worth?” *(Nothing.)*

“What if he has so much faith in God that he could pray and mountains would move?” *(Without love all that he does is worthless.)*

Verse 3:

“What if a person gives all their money to the poor, but does not love others, what does verse 3 say his actions are worth?” (*Nothing.*)

“What if he was burned with fire for teaching others about Jesus, but did not have love for others?” (*Without love all that he does is worthless.*)

“So, what do you think God sees as the most important thing that we can do? Preach, Give money, have faith, sing??” (*The answer is LOVE! God wants us to show our love for Him by loving others!!*)

“Now that we see how vital it is to love others, let’s read what the Bible says that love is.”

Verses 4-8:

Make a table with three columns on the board. After reading **I Corinthians 13:4-8a**, have the children call out what love “is, does not, and is not” as you write the responses on the board.

Love	Love does not:	Love is NOT:
Is patient Is kind Rejoices in truth Always Hopes Always Perseveres	Envy Boast Keep records of wrongs Delight in Evil Fail	Proud Rude Self-Seeking Easily angered

Spend some time discussing these elements of love. Talk about how it takes work for us to love others. Love is not just a feeling we have! Love is an action verb. So, rather than play a game, the children are going to put love into action!

LOVE IN ACTION: Most of the class time should be spent on the project you choose to help the children put love into action! What project you choose will depend on your time constraints, age of the children, number of adult supervisors, etc. If you leave the premises you will need to get permission slips from the parents ahead of time. Also, you should have at least one adult for every five children.

- **Clean the Sanctuary** or another important room in the church. You will need plenty of cleaning supplies. Towelettes with cleaner already “built in” make it easier to get children started quickly! Consider cleaning the bathrooms. Use magnets to leave Bible verses on the stalls.
- **Do Yardwork** in a flower garden or other designated area of the church lawn. Children can pull weeds, pick up litter (*with gloves*), spread mulch or rocks, sweep, rake, plant flowers, etc. Even if you rent your building, you’ll be showing love by doing some sprucing up – but you will definitely need to get permission.
- **Make and put up decorations** in an elderly group’s classroom. Make sure the children use lots of bright and cheerful colors. Different children can write parts of the Bible verses from I Cor. 13:4-8a. They can decorate large flowers, fish, hearts, etc. with bright paints and glitter.
- **Decorate flower pots** with brightly colored paints. Then, plant attractive flowers. Deliver the plants to a Nursing Home or to Shut-Ins. For more enjoyment, children can learn a song to sing when making the delivery. Another option is to pass out specific names of the people that will be visited. Have each child pray for that person before going to visit them.

- **Make goodie bags** to pass out to each family as they leave your church. Children can write Bible verses and color small pictures to go inside each bag. Then, they can help to fill the bags with candy, stickers, pens, etc. Or they can make “**First- Aid**” **baggies** with band aids, antiseptic, antacids, anti bacterial wipes, etc.

Suggested Verses from NIV:

Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it. <i>Luke 11:28</i>
For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does. <i>Psalms 33:4</i>
Call to me and I will answer you . . . <i>Jeremiah 33:3</i>
Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <i>Matt. 6:33</i>
Every good and perfect gift is from above . . . <i>James 1:17</i>
God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. <i>Psalms 46:1</i>
The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer . . . <i>Psalms 18:2</i>
Cast your cares upon the Lord and He will sustain you . . . <i>Psalms 55:22</i>
When I am afraid, I will trust in you. <i>Psalms 56:2</i>
The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. <i>Psalms 29:11</i>
We love because He first loved us. <i>I John 4:19</i>
God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him. <i>I John 4:16b</i>
This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. <i>I John 3:16a</i>
May the Lord direct your hearts into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance. <i>II Thess.s 3:5</i>
Heal me, O Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise. <i>Jeremiah 17:14</i>
You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <i>Jeremiah 29:13</i>
Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <i>I Corin. 13:4</i>
Love never fails. <i>I Corinthians 13:8a</i>

CLOSE: Take pictures of the children to remind them of all the great work they have done to show love to others! Pass out this week’s FUNSHEET. Close with prayer.