

Understanding God's Love





Year 1—Quarter 1 “God the Father”

Quarter Aim: God is not distant or unapproachable; rather, He is a caring Father who loves us deeply and wants the best for our lives.

Lesson 1: Understanding God’s Love

Lesson on God’s Love

Read these Bible verses: 1 John 4:19, “We love because he loved us first,” and 1 John 4:12, “If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

God made you so He could love you! God tells you in the Bible over and over again how much He loves you and how many different ways He loves you. God’s love for you never ends!

(See the list of Bible verses on the supplement page for ideas of other passages to share with your class.)

When we show love to others, that is God living in us. God sent his Holy Spirit to live in us (1 John 4:13). And we can love others because God loved us first. Our hearts need to be filled with love in order to share that love.

God’s love is perfect. His love never changes. His love doesn’t end. It is so vast that it never runs out. God doesn’t stop loving. And, nothing can ever separate you from God’s love. Isn’t that good to know?

Look at Jesus’ Life

This is what Jesus told His disciples, “Anyone who has seen me has seen God the Father.” When we read the life of Jesus in the Bible, we see that Jesus is the walking, talking, visible picture of who God is, what He does, and how He loves. How God loves people. Jesus was saying to His followers, “Want to know how to love? Look at me. Stay focused on me.”

Jesus loved His followers very much. Because Jesus was God, every time He loved His followers, He showed them that God’s love is patient, kind, forgiving, and considers what is best for the one being loved. To learn how to love God’s way, we need to stay focused on Jesus. Jesus shows us how much God loves us. We can see God’s love clearly when we look at Jesus’ life in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and see how Jesus interacted with people.

By faith, you can look to Jesus and watch what He did as He lived each day on earth. To love like Jesus loved, pray for Jesus to share His heart for people with you and to help you love others like He does. God’s love is patient, kind, forgiving and considers what is best for the one being loved. You can stay focused on Jesus so that you can learn how to love others with God’s love.

Power Point

There is always more and more of Our Father’s goodness and love.

Lie:

God doesn’t love me.

Truth:

Romans

8:39, “*Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.*” (NIRV)





Digging Deeper

Bible Verses about God's Love for Kids

Here are some of my favorite Bible verses about God's love for kids – and some Bible verses about our love for God and for each other.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16

We love because he loved us first. – 1 John 4:19

Love is patient. Love is kind. – 1 Corinthians 13:4

A friend loves at all times. – Proverbs 17:17

Let love and faithfulness never leave you. – Proverbs 3:3

Let all you do be done in love. – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Love never fails. – 1 Corinthians 13:84

If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. – 1 John 4:12

Love your neighbor as yourself. – Mark 12:31

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. – Ephesians 3:18

Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God. – Romans 8:39

The Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. – Psalm 32:10





Object Lesson

God's Love: Cookie Comparison



Buy a giant cookie and have it decorated with the words “God’s Love” in icing. Buy a pack of regular-sized chocolate chip cookies. Take one out of the pack. Before class, arrange the giant cookie and the single cookie on two separate platters. Keep the cookies covered and talk to kids about different kinds of love. Talk about how Susie loves Johnny, how kids love parents and how pet owners love their pets. Share about whom you love and how they make you feel. Of course, keep everything PG!

Then it is time for the big reveal. Show the two platters. Tell kids that the small cookie is the love we have for each other and all the kinds of love you talked about. Show kids the giant cookie. Tell kids this is God’s love. Explain to kids that God’s love is deeper, bigger and better than any other kind of love you can receive. Then eat the cookies, after the blessing!

