

SECTION

1.4

God Is Love



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Who do you love? Hearts

What You'll Need: Colored construction paper, scissors, colored markers

PREP: Cut out hearts, one per kid.

STEP 1: Give each kid a paper heart. Place colored markers nearby. Tell each kid to write on the heart the names (or just initials) of people they love. Then ask the following questions:

- What does it mean to love another person?
- How is loving a person different from loving chocolate or loving your favorite video game, movie, or toy?
- What do you do for people you love? How do you treat them?
- Where does love come from?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- We often show love to those who are closest to us, like family or friends. Those who love us and treat us kindly are easy to love.
- We have a hard time showing love to those who we don't know or those who are unkind or mean. On our own, we cannot truly love those we consider to be enemies.
- God Himself is love. He loved us even when we were His enemies.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is love.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Vote for Who Is the Most Loving

What You'll Need: Easel, whiteboard or poster board, markers

PREP: Write the names Tamika, Caleb, and Emma on the board.

STEP 1: Read the following scenarios. Encourage kids to listen carefully because they will vote on which person they think is most loving.

Scenario 1: Tamika spent several weeks planning a special surprise birthday party for her best friend. She made the invitations, bought decorations, and even got a special gift for her friend. On the day of the party, her friend was surprised and happy.

Scenario 2: Marcus is the meanest bully at school. He makes fun of everyone. One day, he tripped Caleb. But then in gym class, Caleb saw Marcus sitting on a bench. Caleb brought Marcus a cup of water.

Scenario 3: Emma was swinging at the playground, and a friend asked her if she could have a turn. After a few minutes, Emma got off the swing and let her friend have a turn.

STEP 2: Ask the kids to vote by show of hands who was the most loving: Tamika, Caleb, or Emma. Record their responses on the board. Then ask the following questions:

- How did Tamika, Caleb, or Emma show love? How do you show your love to these people?
- Where does love come from?
- How did God show His love for us?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We often show love to those who are closest to us, like family or friends. Those who love us and treat us kindly are easy to love.

- We have a hard time showing love to those who we don't know or those who are unkind or mean. On our own, we cannot truly love those we consider to be enemies.
- God Himself is love. He loved us even when we were His enemies.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is love.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Word Unscramble

What You'll Need: Bible, easel, whiteboard and or large notepad and markers (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Set up the easel in the front of the room.

STEP 1: Write the following letters on the board: EVOL. Ask kids to work together to unscramble the letters and come up with the correct word. After 30 seconds, invite a volunteer to write the correct word on the board (LOVE).

Share these key concepts:

- God is love. He created us to have a loving relationship with Him.
- Our sin keeps us from a loving relationship with God.

STEP 2: Write the following letters on the board: ERCYM. Ask kids to work together to unscramble the letters and come up with the correct word. After 30 seconds, invite a volunteer to write the correct word on the board (MERCY).

Share these key concepts:

- We deserve punishment for our sin.
- But instead, God showed us kindness, or mercy.
- God's love is strong and amazing. He loved us and did what was best for us, even though we did nothing to deserve His love (Ephesians 2:4-5).

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:4-5. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We were dead in our sins and could do nothing to deserve God's love.
- God was merciful and showed kindness to us.

- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are saved because of God's grace.

STEP 4: Write the following letters on the board: PEEMLAX. Ask kids to work together to unscramble the letters and come up with the correct word. After 30 seconds, invite a volunteer to write the correct word on the board (EXAMPLE).

- When we remember how much God loves us, we can learn to love others.
- We learn to love others by following God's example of love (1 John 4:7-8).
- Loving others means we will choose to do what is best for them, even if it means that we will not get the best for ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

STEP 5: Have kids divide up into groups of two or three. As time allows, read each question aloud and give kids 30 seconds to discuss their answers together. Ask one or two groups to share their responses.

- How can you follow God's example by loving your parents?
- How can you follow God's example by loving your siblings?
- How can you follow God's example by loving someone who is unkind to you?

Step 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Word Poster

What You'll Need: Bible, 3x5 cards, poster board, colored markers, art supplies, T&T handbooks (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

PREP: Write each of these words on a 3 x 5 card: Love, Mercy, Grace, Example.

STEP 1: Divide the kids into groups of three and give each group a sheet of poster board and materials. Assign one of the following words to each group: Love, Mercy, Example. Tell the groups to write the word in a creative and artistic way on their posters.

Then, on the back of their posters, ask groups to write one sentence that describes what the word means to them. Encourage kids to look through their handbooks to help with the meaning of their words.

STEP 2: Ask several volunteers from the first group to present their posters for the word "love" and to share their sentences.

Share these key concepts:

- God is love. He created us to have a loving relationship with Him.
- Our sin keeps us from a loving relationship with God.

STEP 3: Ask several volunteers from the second group to present their posters for the word "mercy" and to share their sentences.

Share these key concepts:

- We deserve punishment for our sin.
- But instead, God showed us kindness, or mercy.
- God's love is strong and amazing. He loved us and did what was best for us, even though we did nothing to deserve His love (Ephesians 2:4-5).

STEP 4: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:4-5. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We were dead in our sins and could do nothing to deserve God's love.
- God was merciful and showed kindness to us.
- When we trust Jesus as Savior, we are saved because of God's grace.

STEP 5: Ask several volunteers from the last group to present their posters for the word "example" and to share their sentences.

- When we remember how much God loves us, we can learn to love others.
- We learn to love others by following God's example of love (1 John 4:7-8).
- Loving others means we will choose to do what is best for them, even if it means that we will not get the best for ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

STEP 6: Encourage kids to write in the corner of their poster some way they can follow God's example of love this week.

STEP 7: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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