

LESSON 16
"LOVE"
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Matthew 9:9-13 (pages 1036)

CHARACTER WORD

Love - A great affection of the mind and heart

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can show love to people by telling them about Jesus.

MEMORY LINK

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(KBC Study Bible, page 1235)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

Poster board, marker

Option 1: No supplies needed

Option 2: Inflated balloons

BIBLE CONNECTION

Hearts from Get Connected

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME

Option 1: Sponge balls, hula hoops

Option 2: Jump rope

Matthew Follows Jesus

WHAT'S THE POINT?

In today's culture, we have to often ask ourselves – is this love? How can so much hate be in our world today when God's word clearly tells us to love as Jesus demonstrated in His time here on earth? Through Jesus' example we learn to love through friendship, kindness, and sacrifice.

Today, we will focus on Jesus seeing not only outward actions and behaviors, but more importantly on Him knowing the depth of our hearts. He loves us with no conditions, no ifs, and no buts. And, here's the best part, He loves us every minute of the night and day, even when we are not at our very best.

Jesus demonstrated His love to someone unlovable in today's story. Think about your Beach Club students. Do some of them demonstrate unlovable behavior? Those are probably the ones who need your love the most! Let's love our Beach Club students so that they experience the love of Jesus and learn to love like Jesus.

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to further your relationship with the students in your surf team, gain an understanding of their knowledge about Jesus' love, and to introduce today's lesson.

- Today's character word is "love." Love means a great affection of the mind and heart.
- Who are some people that you love?
- If someone was unkind to you, could you still love them?

Activity Option: Pass out different colored paper hearts and pens. Ask students to write different ways to show love on the paper hearts. Give the completed hearts to Bible Connection leader for use later in the lesson.



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



Select songs for today that focus on love. Choose songs that teach about God's love for us or that express our love for Him. Allow students a moment to reflect on the love of God. Make certain that the songs have motions and movement so that they can actively engage in this part of club.

Consider these song choices: "You Are My King/Amazing Love", by Chris Tomlin; and "God Loves Us So", by Group (Weird Animals VBS 2016); "We're Alive" (Ephesians 2:4-5), by Seeds Family Worship

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



LESSON 16 “LOVE” (page 2)

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 1235)

4 sheets of posterboard, markers

Prepare: Cut a large heart out of each poster board. Write each phrase on a separate heart.

1. But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
2. in that while we were still sinners,
3. Christ died for us.
4. Romans 5:8.

Focus on the Bible

Ask the students who have their KBC Study Bible to stand up. Encourage those with Bibles to sit by and share with a person who does not have a Bible today. Remind them of the importance of bringing their Bible to club every week.

Today’s Bible verse is in the New Testament. Guide them to find Romans 5:8 (KBC Study Bible, page 1235). Ask the students to read the verse aloud together from the Bible.

Focus on today’s Memory Link

Today’s character word is love. A few weeks ago, we learned the Bible verse, John 3:16. Let’s say that verse together. (“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16) Today’s verse is another one that tells about the greatest act of love EVER shown by anyone – God. He loves you and me, no matter what. He gave His only Son to die for us because He loves us so much. He sent His son, Jesus, to earth to show us and teach us how to love each other. And, He wants us to show love to others just like Him!

Form four groups. Assign each group one section of today’s verse. Have a volunteer from each group hold up the poster board heart as they say their part of the verse. Recite the verse several times, then invite everyone to recite the whole verse together.

Option 1 - DEMONSTRATING LOVE

No supplies needed

Guide students to stand in a circle and each say one word of the verse until the verse and reference are recited. The last person, who will have recited the reference, will act out a way to show love to someone. The student who guesses the action correctly will say the first word of the Memory Link to start the group reciting the verse around the circle again. Continue the pattern of reciting around the circle and acting as time permits.

Option 2 - BALLOON JUGGLE

2-3 inflated balloons for each surf team

Instruct surf teams to form a circle. Participants will gently tap a balloon from person to person trying to keep the balloon from touching the ground. On each tap, each person should say one word of the verse. When the surf team has completed the task successfully 3 times, add a second balloon and see if they can complete the task keeping both balloons from touching the ground. For an even tougher challenge, try adding a 3rd balloon.

Teaching Tip

While today’s lesson is about love and uses hearts as a visual representation of love, try to avoid a Valentine’s Day look and feel to the lesson. For example, cut hearts out of colors other than red or pink. That is unless you’re using this lesson on or around February 14. In that case, go Valentine’s Day crazy and capitalize on the holiday to reinforce the character word, love. Just remember to focus on God’s unconditional love rather than romantic love.

BIBLE CONNECTION

Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story



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Hearts students completed during Get Connected

Set the Stage

Today's character word is "love." You wrote some ways that you can show love to others on these hearts during Get Connected today. Let's take a look at some of them. Choose some and read them aloud. For each one you read, ask the group if they agree/disagree that the statement as a good way to show love. You learned that love means a great affection of the mind and heart. Do you think these ways you wrote down are good examples of a great affection of the mind and heart? Spend some time discussing. Many of you shared a way to show love to a friend or a family member. Today, you will hear a story about how Jesus showed a great affection of mind and heart (love) to a very unlikely fellow.

Tell the Story

Ask the students to find in their KBC Study Bibles Matthew 9:9-13 (page 1036). Tell the story as they follow along in their Bibles.

God's Word says that Jesus was walking into the city and saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting in his "office" – a table at the city gate. Do you remember Zacchaeus – the man who took more money for taxes from people than what they really owed? Matthew was a guy like Zacchaeus. He worked for the government and he probably kept "extra money for himself" by charging people more than they owed. I imagine there could have been a long line of people at Matthew's tax collection table waiting to pay their taxes. Perhaps Jesus got in that line, too. When Jesus got to the front of the line, He looked at Matthew and said, "Follow Me." And, that's what Matthew did. He got up from the table and followed Jesus.

We have already said that tax collectors often took extra money from people to have for themselves. How well does stealing money show love to others?

When Jesus said, "Follow Me," what do you think Matthew thought about Jesus? Do you think he was scared that Jesus had caught him cheating the people? Why do you think Matthew left his table and followed Jesus?

The Bible says that Matthew and Jesus went to a house to eat a meal with other tax collectors. Now there was a group of men, religious leaders, who enforced the laws. They were called Pharisees, but they did not like Jesus. In fact, they were always looking for ways to find fault with Jesus, or to catch him breaking the law. They were more interested in the rules than loving God with their hearts.

The Pharisees were not happy to see Jesus eating a meal with a group of tax collectors and asked why He was eating with people who cheated others and sometimes stole their money. When Jesus answered the Pharisees, He made a comparison. A well person doesn't need to see a doctor or a physician. That's what sick people need. Jesus came to help the sinners, the people who needed to turn from their bad ways and follow Him. Jesus showed His love to everyone, even people who sin.

Teaching Tip

The word "love" in the English language can have many different meanings. Help students understand that today's character word isn't about romantic love or a person's love for really delicious pizza. Keep the lesson focused on brotherly love, love in action, and especially the unconditional love God shows to us.

Remind students of Romans 5:8, today’s Memory Link. Reinforce that God showed His greatest love for us by sending Jesus, even though no one deserves it because we are all sinners. *Just like Matthew did not do anything to earn Jesus’ love, we cannot do anything to earn God’s love for us. It is a free gift, given in a great act of love.* Invite the group to say Romans 5:8 together. *While we are all still sinners, Christ, God’s Son, died on the cross for our sins.*

Application

Read 2 or 3 more of the ways to show love that the students wrote on the paper hearts. *You all wrote down some great ways to show love. In our story today, Jesus showed us how to love someone that wasn’t a friend, wasn’t a well-liked guy, didn’t have many friends, and wasn’t nice to others. Jesus looked past Matthew’s actions, saw deep down in his heart and loved Matthew. Matthew showed love for his friends by inviting them to eat with Jesus. Matthew wanted them to know that Jesus loved and and would forgive them too.*

Jesus wants us to love like He does. He wants us to see past people’s actions or behaviors and love them no matter what.

Gospel Connection 

Both people who do the right thing, like Pharisees, and people who do the wrong thing, like tax collectors, are born with sin. But Jesus sees beyond our sin and deep into our hearts. He knows the sin in your life. God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to take the punishment you deserve. When you trust Jesus, you are still a sinner, but God no longer sees your sin. Jesus took the blame for your sins because He loves you with no ifs or buts. You can receive that gift of love today. ADMIT your sin and ASK Jesus for forgiveness. BELIEVE that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. CHOOSE TO FOLLOW Jesus and make Him your Forever Friend.

Lead in prayer that boys and girls will open their hearts to love others just as God loves us.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

Understanding the depth of God’s love is foundational to understanding the gospel. The fact that God loves people, even though we are born in sin and have rejected Him, offers a beautiful picture of God’s unconditional love for all people. Verses like John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 4:9-10 are wonderful verses that clearly explain that salvation is a gift given by God out of His love. Help students understand that God doesn’t love us only when we are good and that we can’t earn God’s love. His love for us began at the beginning of time, while we were still sinners.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



LESSON 16 "LOVE" (page 5)

Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *How did Jesus show love in today's story?*
- *Tell about a time when you really felt loved.*
- *How does God love us?*
- *How can you show your love to God?*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today's Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Let's look at the Weekly Challenge shown on your Hang 10. Let's turn to the tip-in page "What Jesus Does" and "Jesus' Greatest Commandment" (KBC Study Bible before page 1011). Jesus loves you, cares for you and forgives your sin. The Bible teaches us how to love God and love other people. Share these pages with at least one family member at home this week.

Pray

Lead the students to pray silently as you offer the following prompts.

God, Your love for me makes me feel...

I'm glad you love me even when I...

Help me to show love to...

Thank You, God, for Your great love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Give students time to write their personal prayer requests on index cards. Remember to pray for their requests at home this week.

Teaching Tip

Some of the students in your club may not feel very loved. They may have been rejected by their parents, abused by a sibling or are being bullied by their peers. They may feel unimportant and ignored. Make sure EVERY student in your Beach Club feels loved by you. Make them feel valued by listening to them and giving them your full attention, even for just a few minutes. When students know how much you love them, you earn their trust and the right to share how much God loves them.

Teaching Tip

When you encourage students to write prayer requests on index cards, you take the responsibility for those requests to be lifted to the Father in prayer. Put the cards in a place you will see them regularly throughout your week. Or set aside the same time every week to pray for the students in your surf team. If the partnering church provides Lifeguards or prayer warriors, remember to share the students' requests so others can join you in praying for your students.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



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Option 1 - HULA TOSS

3 hula hoops

Prepare: Place 3 hula hoops at one end of two relay lines. Option: label each hula hoop with a different point value.

Line up in 2 teams. Ask a review question. The person at the front of the line will answer the question. Correct answers earn a turn to toss a sponge ball into a hula hoop. Award points for successful tosses. The team with the most points wins.

Option 2 - REVIEW LIMBO

Jump rope

Guide students to form a line. Ask two students or leaders to hold the jump rope taut so the others can limbo under it. Ask a review question to the first person in line. For every correct answer, the group will limbo under the rope, passing under the rope without touching it. If a student touches the rope, he drops out and helps hold one of the ends of the rope. Begin again with another student answering the questions. After each question the rope should be lowered just a bit. (If your group is large, consider dividing them into surf teams for this activity.)

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today's character word? (love)*
2. *What does love mean? (a great affection of the mind and heart)*
3. *What did Jesus say to Matthew? ("Follow Me.")*
4. *What was Matthew doing when Jesus spoke to him? (He was collecting taxes.)*
5. *How did Matthew answer Jesus? (He got up and followed Jesus.)*
6. *Name a way Jesus showed love to Matthew. (by giving him attention, by offering him a chance to follow Him, by eating a meal with him)*
7. *Name one way you can show love to a family member.*
8. *Name one way you can show love to a friend.*
9. *What can you do for someone who is difficult to love? (ask God for help, love them anyway)*
10. *Where is today's Memory Link found? (Romans 5:8)*

Teaching Tip

Review games are designed to be played within surf teams, but you have the freedom to organize your game time however it is best for you. You may prefer to play games with your whole club together. You could have two surf teams competing against each other, especially for relay type games. To determine what game solution works best for you, consider the size of your club, the size of your surf teams, the student energy level, and the space you are playing in. Remember flexibility is key!



“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

KBC Study Bible, page 1235