



**Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for March 4, 2007
Released on Wednesday, February 28, 2007**

“God’s Children Love One Another”

PRINTED TEXT: 1 John 2:7–17.

GOLDEN TEXT: “He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.” (1 John 2:10).

LESSON TEXT

1 John 2:7–11, 15-17

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

.....

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

TEACHER’S NOTES ON THE LESSON

“Boanerges . . . The sons of thunder”—that is what Jesus called James and John when He appointed them members of the Twelve (Mark 3:17). Yet toward the close of his life, it was John who wrote the letter we know as I John, with its gentle *“my little children”* (2:1; 3:18) and repeated recommendations to love one another.

The lessons from 1 John that start off this quarter's studies will teach your children how God expects His people to live while here on earth. They will learn that their job assignment is to love.

The entire letter breathes John's concern for the spiritual welfare of his readers. He reminded them of what Jesus said to His followers just before His crucifixion: "*Love one another, as I have loved you*" (John 15:12).

Though the emphasis in 1 John is on loving others, indirectly John was also encouraging God's people to love *Him*, Jesus had said, "*If a man love me, he will keep my words*" (John 14:23). John repeated the same truth: "*Hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments*" (I John 2:3). The proof that we love God is our obedience.

But the proof that we love others is something else. It is something Jesus Himself defined when He said, "*Love one another, as I have loved you*" (John 15:12). He saw our need—a need He could meet—and He acted. In Jesus' case, meeting our need cost Him His life. But He acted.

John wrote that we should love that way. Be sensitive to what your brothers and sisters need. Do what is in your power to do to help.

John also gave a charge on the negative side: "*Love not the world*" (I John 2:15). Do not focus on the "*lust of the flesh*" (what makes me feel good?), "*the lust of the eyes*" (what can I get for me?), and "*the pride of life*" (what will advance my interests?) (vs. 16). Instead, John would urge us to focus on being of service to others. Love one another.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus wants His children to lovingly seek the welfare of one another.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Pleasing Jesus requires that His children love each other.
2. Pleasing Jesus requires not loving the world.
3. Only God can make us able to love as we ought to.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Beginning the Lesson, you will need a picture of a children's party. Prepare a sign reading "*John*" and a scroll made from a sheet of typing paper, taped to two paper towel rolls. Bring a Bible. (Save the scroll for future use.)

For Telling the Lesson, prepare a sign reading "*Jesus.*" Bring a picture of the Last Supper and one of scenery. On two flash cards print a large "1" and "2."

For Helping to Remember, each child will need scissors (round edge for safety), crayons, and a sheet of yellow construction paper on which you have drawn a 9-inch circle using a black marker. Glue or paste and glitter are optional.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

It was refreshment time at Luci's Sunday school class party. She was watching Mrs. Dean pass around a plate of chocolate chip cookies. (Show party.)

Luci knew the plate would come to her last, and she did not like what she was seeing. Everyone else was choosing the biggest cookie he could find. By the time the plate came to her, all the big ones would be gone. Luci felt like saying, "No one is caring about anybody else!"

Ask the class:

Who do you think *Luci* was caring about? Who *should* people care about?

When the Lord Jesus was here on earth, John was one of His good friends. (Show "John.") He was still a good friend when Jesus went back to heaven.

John wanted to help other friends in God's family know how Jesus wanted them to live, so he wrote them three short letters telling them. Each letter was a scroll, looking something like this. (Show scroll.) God put those three letters in the Bible so that now we too can know what pleases Him.

Here are all three letters near the end of the Bible. (Show the books in your Bible.) We call them I John, II John, and III John because John was the one who wrote them.

Let us look at John's first letter. What did he say to those people long ago? Remember God put it here in the Bible for you too.

TELLING THE LSEON

John started his letter by talking about Jesus. (Show "Jesus.")

"You can know who the people are who love Jesus," he said, "because they do the things Jesus wants them to do. The people who do not please Jesus do not really love Him, even though they say they do."

You see, John was remembering something Jesus had said when He was still here on earth.

Jesus was eating supper with His friends and talking with them for the last time. (Show Last Supper.) He knew He was about to die for our sins and go back to heaven. John was there, and Peter was there. James and all the rest were around the table, listening. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (cf. John 14:15).

We know John was thinking about that night because of what he put in his letter next.

(Show "1.") First, John reminded them of Jesus' commandment to love the other people who are in God's family. "Love one another" was what Jesus had said. "Love one another the way I have loved you" (cf. John 13:34).

Now, how did Jesus love people? You know. He thought mostly about what other people needed, not about what He wanted for Himself.

Jesus knew we needed someone to pay for our sins so that we could live in heaven. He paid for them for us on the cross. Was that easy for Jesus? No, but He was not thinking about Himself. He was thinking about us and what we needed. He loved us.

On another day, Jesus was with a group of men who spent much of their time talking about what God had said. One man asked Jesus, "What is the greatest commandment in God's Book? What is the most important thing we can do?" (cf. Matt. 22:36).

Now, what do you suppose Jesus said? I will tell you.

He said, "The most important thing is to love God." Then He said something else. He said, "The next most important thing is to love your neighbor—other people" (cf. Matt. 22:37-40).

You show you love God when you do what He says. You show you love people when you help them have what they need.

That is what the Bible kind of love is—doing what helps other people get what they need and not just thinking about getting what *you* want. Jesus said, "Love other people in God's family with that kind of love." When you love the Bible way, you are loving the way God Himself loves you.

John said loving other people like that is good—the way walking in the sunshine is better than walking in a dark place.

After talking about loving, John told his friends something else. (Show "2.") This was something Jesus wants His people *not* to do. Yes, we are especially to love others in God's family, but we are not to love the world or the things that are in it.

Now John was not talking about the world of grass and hills and rivers and sky, the things we can see. (Show picture of scenery.) The Lord made those things for us to enjoy.

What John meant was the kind of living in this world that leaves God out. He said loving the world that leaves God out means thinking only of ourselves, trying all the time to get what makes us feel good, wanting to get more and more things for ourselves, wanting to be more important than others, and not really caring about what anybody else needs. Living that way does not go at all with loving God. Jesus cares about what other people need, and God wants to make us like Him.

Boys and girls, John was really just saying, "Do not spend all your time trying to get what *you* want. Make Jesus happy. (Show 'Jesus.')

Love others the way He does. Be the kind of person who loves other people the Bible way."

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

The Bible way is Jesus' way. If we keep Jesus' love commandment, we will be sure to please Him. But how can we do that? We are so interested in ourselves, and it is so easy to be selfish.

I will tell you a secret. We cannot make ourselves love others the way we should. But God can. And God is the only one who *can* make us able to think about others and how to be good to them.

Next week we shall talk more about having Bible love and ways we can show it. But for today, let us start by asking Him to make us boys and girls and grown-ups who really do care about other people the way He wants us to. (Teacher, lead in prayer.)

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Let the boys and girls cut out their circles. On one side each should draw a child holding a balloon that says "Me! Me!" and on the other side a child holding a balloon that says "Others! Others!" At the top of the "Others!" side, have them print "Jesus' Way." If desired, let them decorate the heading with glitter.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." (1 John 2:10).

The Lord Jesus wants us to know that loving others and not just thinking about ourselves pleases Him. It is good the way walking in the light is better than walking in the dark. When we love the Bible way, what we do helps other people and never hurts them.

Lesson Summarized By:

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God's Children Love One Another

U O C W F I Y D F C T P K X N
E T P O D S S S E N K R A D H
S X H R R E H T N B I L J D O
E D U E E D D G P K R E I N J
G L H D X A S N T Z S F C R C
D T F A T H E R I U L O C E R
O L X E B U G I S L M P G H B
O B I R V O F F F M B I C T E
T R G G K O G A A W E Y V O U
J V S N H D L N W O Z D N R K
Q N O U C T D L Z R P Y L B R
L N K A A M I X Y L A G H L Y
K L N N E T J Y U D E U R T M
S T J N G L P Q X E R V H H O
R O T Q Q R H G K R L O N L Z

BLINDED
DARKNESS
JOHN

BROTHER
FATHER
LIGHT

COMMANDMENT
JESUS
LOVE

OTHERS

TRUE

WORLD

12 of 12 words were placed into the puzzle.

God's Children Love One Another Solution

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + N
+ + + + D S S S E N K R A D H
+ + + + R E + + + + + J + O
+ + + E + + D + + + + E + + J
+ + H + + + + N + + S + C R +
+ T F A T H E R I U + O + E +
O L + E + + + + S L M + + H +
+ + I + V + + + + M B + + T +
+ + + G + O + + A W + + + O +
+ + + + H + L N + O + + + R +
+ + + + + T D + + R + + + B +
+ + + + + M + + + L + + + + +
+ + + + E + + + + D E U R T +
+ + + N + + + + + + + + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)
BLINDED(11,8,NW)
BROTHER(14,11,N)
COMMANDMENT(13,5,SW)
DARKNESS(14,2,W)
FATHER(3,6,E)
JESUS(13,3,SW)
JOHN(15,4,N)
LIGHT(2,7,SE)
LOVE(7,10,NW)
OTHERS(1,7,NE)
TRUE(14,13,W)
WORLD(10,9,S)