



Mustard Seed Children's Lesson for Sunday, March 11, 2007
Released on Wednesday, March 7, 2007

"Love in Action"

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: I John 3:11-24

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

GOLDEN TEXT (Memory Verse):

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..."
(I John 3:14,)

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

The lesson objective is to teach how God's children can show love in different ways by what they do to help others. The following teacher's notes should help direct the lesson discussion for the children.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. If we love others, we care for them and are concerned for them.
2. If we love others, we will do nothing that will hurt them.
3. If we love others, we notice what other people need and do what we can to help.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

Aids needed for this lesson include: one red and one blue stick figures (to represent Cain and Abel); construction paper, crayons, transparent tape, scissors (round edge for safety), glue, glitter, chopstick or other stick; and copies of activity sheets.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

The lessons this quarter are intended to give a glimpse of God's plan for His people both today and in the future. This week's lesson focuses on the present and discusses Christian love.

The Apostle John was one of the disciples that Jesus personally chose to be a part of His earthly ministry. John is sometimes referred to as the "beloved disciple" and was one of Jesus' closest friends. John lived and served with Jesus in ministry and service to other people. John learned firsthand from Jesus what it meant to love others. Who better then to write about showing love to others?

Every believer is commanded to show Christian love – to show concern and compassion for others while living in this world. We are to love others as Jesus loved. We are not just to talk about loving. Our actions should demonstrate that we love. In this week's lesson, John gives us a great example of love by illustrating how God demonstrated love through the life of Jesus.

TELLING THE LESSON:

1. What does John mean "the message that ye heard from the beginning" (1 John 3:11)?

John was referring to something that Jesus had told them to do, and he was writing to remind some friends of this message. When they had been with Jesus, they were given a new commandment to love one another (John 13:34). This was the message that they had heard from Jesus from the beginning. They were to love one another as Jesus loved them.

2. What example does John use to show what love is not? Explain. (1 John 3:12-15)

The story of Cain and Abel shows us what love is not. Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. They grew up and liked to do different things. Cain planted a garden, and Abel took care of sheep. One day, Abel did something that God wanted them to do, but Cain did not. Cain got angry with Abel because God was pleased with him. Because of his anger, he ended up hurting and killing his brother. John told Jesus' followers not to be like Cain. Hurting someone is not the way to show love.

Teacher's note: You can use the red and blue stick figures, as a visual aid, as you tell the story of Cain and Abel. For example, let the red figure represent Cain and the blue figure, Abel. Each time you mention each character in the story hold up the corresponding stick figure.

3. What example does John give for how we are to show love?

John told the people to think about how Jesus showed His love for us. Jesus did not just say that He loved us. He saw that we needed our sins paid for, and He did it for us. He showed us what love is by giving up His life for us.

4. Did John mean that we should give up our life for others?

John used the example of Jesus giving His life for us as the ultimate way to show love for others. He said that we should love people that way, but he was quick to add that he did not mean we should give our lives as Jesus did on the cross. What he meant was that we should give our lives helping others. We should help with actions that benefit our fellow believers. We should use up our life serving others.

5. What are some of the different ways for us to show love by helping others?

Each person may answer this question differently than others because there are many different ways for us to show our love for others. In the Bible, after Andrew met Jesus, the first thing he did was to bring his brother Peter to Jesus so that Peter could know the Lord too (John 1:40-42). That was a loving thing to do. Dorcas liked to sew (Acts 9:36-39), and she made clothes for others who needed something to wear. This was showing love by doing something that others needed. Some Bible-time missionaries traveled far away from home to tell people about Jesus (Acts 13:2-3). Going and telling is a way of showing love, and you don't have to go far away, you can do that right where you are!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

- Think about other people. Notice what they seem to need. Can you help? Then do it.
- Does one of God's other children need something to eat, and you have food? Then share.
- Does someone need a friend to play with? Then you be that friend.
- Is somebody having a bad day? You be extra friendly and cheer him up.
- Are boys and girls you know having trouble? Pray for Jesus to help them.

John told Jesus' followers to be careful not to love just by saying that you love. It is good to say "I love you," but it is even better to show it. God's way is to love other people by doing. This week find something good to do for somebody who needs help. That is showing love.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren..."
(I John 3:14)

God says in the Bible that Jesus died for us. He also says that when people hear that news and believe it, He forgives them and gives them the kind of life they will have in Heaven. We know we have everlasting life just because God says so. But when we believe in Jesus, something else happens too. He makes us care about other people, especially other people who believe in Him. We want what is good for our brothers and sisters in Jesus' family. That tells us, and others too, that God has changed us.

HELPING TO REMEMBER / LESSON ACTIVITIES:

- (1) Encourage each student to learn the golden text – use this as the memory verse for the lesson.
- (2) Let each child make a pennant that says “Love One Another.” Cut sheets of construction paper crosswise into 2-inch strips so that each child can select a color; trim one end to a point. Print on the paper strip “Love One Another.” They can use the crayons, glue, glitter, and any other items available to decorate the pennant. Tape the pennants to the sticks.
- (3) “True or False” and “Word Search” activities included at the end of this lesson summary.

PRAYER:

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us how to love. Thank you that He showed His love for me by giving up His own life. Help me to tell others about Jesus and to show love for others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK’S LESSON:

Next week’s lesson is “God Loves Us” from 1 John 4:7-21.

Lesson summarized by:

Renee Little
Jesus Is All Ministries

LESSON ACTIVITY: TRUE or FALSE
(Love in Action, 1 John 3:11-24)

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|------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| 1. | True | False | The message heard from the beginning was to love one another. |
| 2. | True | False | Cain was the perfect example of how to love. |
| 3. | True | False | Jesus showed His love for us by dying on the cross. |
| 4. | True | False | It is OK to just talk about love and not do anything. |
| 5. | True | False | Loving others means we do nothing to hurt them. |
| 6. | True | False | Loving others means we do what we can to help them. |
| 7. | True | False | We have to die like Jesus did to show love for others. |
| 8. | True | False | We can show love for others in many different ways. |
| 9. | True | False | Praying for others is a way to love them. |
| 10. | True | False | Telling others about Jesus is a way to love them. |

Answer Key for True or False:

- 1- true
- 2- false
- 3- true
- 4- false
- 5- true
- 6- true
- 7- false
- 8- true
- 9- true
- 10- true

WORD SEARCH

(Love in Action, 1 John 3:11-24)

Find each of the following words.

LOVE
SERVE
PRAY

MESSAGE
BELIEVE
ACTIONS

SISTER
BROTHER
COMMANDMENT

GOOD
NEEDS
HELP

A V H I O E V E I L E B H T H N S G A T R E B
E O O E E G B B O M O E I M E D S E L O R R D
H E L P C G E S M T H E R O I T R V T C E M M
S P T S E R V E S A E E R R D E E E N O T O E
S E E N R H E E C O H E D E M R S L P M S E A
A E N E E D S T E T E E T H E D Y S P M I S S
M R D O O G I S O N M M A N B A E S R A S E I
I M E G E O A R E A L S H N R N R E G N N M M
E S S V N T B I T O G E L P A O V G T D G O E
I S T S S E O B V D T T S M G E A A M M R N S
R M T T P D E E V R D A I Y M S E S C E E I S
O E I I D B L O E L O I T S R V C S H N G S L
M M P S H E L M E S T M Y E O E P E S T O L L
O N P R M M T I C O B S O R I E E M I Y A S O
A O V E S V N O V L M R O O L E G C S R S R E
E V E R S N M O O A G N T R D V S M N R R I C

