



Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

“Love Without Measure”

-- Or --

You Mean I Even Have to Love--*that Person!*?

Memory Verse: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
1John 3:16

Lesson Overview: This lesson continues our discussion on love. The primary goal is to teach children exactly how to love. It moves the focus from themselves—giving love to get love—to discovering “a selfless love” that brings satisfaction. This kind of love is one that gives without expecting a return. By the end of this lesson, the student should understand the difference.

Requirements for the Lesson:

1. Lemons
2. Pitcher of water
3. Wastebasket
4. Sugar
5. Paper cups

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

Use the object lesson “*The Sour Lemon Drink*,” Power Pak of Object Lessons, Charismalife, Lake Mary; pg. 55.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *“The Sour Lemon Drink”*

1. Love

Today we are going to talk some more about love. Love is a very important subject because people are always getting it wrong. God’s love is not the same kind of love that people often think love should be.

a. Love is Not Selfish

QUESTION: Have you ever seen a person who just wants to get, get, get? What are they like? *(They expect you to give everything to them, but they never want to even share.)*

Let’s read about a person that is a lot just like this. This story is about two brothers who had some problems with understanding what love is all about. You may be surprised to see which brother had the most trouble loving the other.

READ: Luke 15:11-32

QUESTION: Which brother do you think loved money the most? *(This could be close, but they can say either or both loved money about the same)*

QUESTION: Which brother do you think figured out that money could not take care of all his problems? *(The younger son)*

QUESTION: Why do you think that the older son could not be happy for his younger brother? *(Because he came home and was now spending his money—or at least that is how he saw it)*

b. What Is Love?

QUESTION: What is love? *(Giving without expecting something back; forgiveness; doing for others what you would want them to do for you; sharing; helping; giving more than your share, etc.)*

That’s right. Love has nothing to do with getting anything. We give love without expecting anything in return.

c. Who Do We Love?

QUESTION: Do you remember who it is that we are supposed to love? (*Everyone, including our enemies.*)

Remember that you do *not* have to like someone in order to love them. It is extremely hard to like a person who does not like you, but you can love them because you don't want them to go to hell.

QUESTION: What is a way that we can love others even when they hate us? (*Pray for them; do something nice for them; rescue them from a jam*)

These things are all very true. God does expect us to love others if we are going to love Him. Jesus said that if we say that we love Him, but we don't love others, that we are not telling the truth. We must love everyone—especially those who do bad things to us or hate us. Jesus said that the all of your enemies hated Him first, so you're not alone. The trick is making sure that you don't become an enemy yourself!

2. How Do We Love?

Never fear! Jesus is looking out for you! He made sure to put some instructions into His Bible to tell us exactly how to love others. Let's look at some scriptures so we can see exactly how to get the job done.

(Have the children look up some or all of these scriptures. Go over all of them even if they just look up a few.)

1John 4:19 **BY GOD:** *"We love because he first loved us."*

God shows us exactly how we should love others. If we ask Him, He will speak to our hearts and tell us what we should do. He always knows what is best.

Luke 6:32 **EVERYONE:** *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them."*

This scripture tells us that we have to be the children of God in order to love those that hate us. If we ask God, He will show us how He sees certain people. They act the way they do because they don't have Jesus in their hearts, and that makes Him sad. But God can see the things that make a person act badly. When He shows them to us, it makes it very easy to love them.

1John 3:18 **ACTIONS:** *“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with **actions** and in **truth**.”*

God says here that if we really love Him, that we will do things for others, instead of just saying we will do it. There’s a big difference!

1Peter 4:8 **WITH ALL WE GOT:** *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”*

We got to love others with all of our heart! If we do, then there won’t be time for hate. Sins just don’t happen because we do the right things instead.

1Peter 3:8 **BY GETTING ALONG:** *“...live in **harmony** with one another; be **sympathetic**, love as brothers, be **compassionate** and **humble**.”*

When we see someone having a bad day, we should help them out. Everybody gets down in the dumps sometimes. God wants us to lend them a hand.

1Titus 6:11 **GET THE TOOLS:** *“...pursue **righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness**.”*

God wants us to act and be like Him. We can only do that if we ask Him to change us by His Holy Spirit, and read His Word (the Bible). Then He wants us to go and tell others about Jesus so that they can go to heaven too.

Ephesians 4:2 **DON'T BE A BIG SHOT:** *“Be completely **humble** and **gentle**; be **patient**, bearing with one another in love.”*

God doesn’t care much for people who “show off” or act like they are bigger and more important than someone else is. According to God’s Word, that’s definitely not love! He says that’s kind of like “playing God”.

Galatians 5:22, 23 **HAVE GOD GIVE YOU THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**.”*

Remember, these things can only come by God's Holy Spirit. If we want them, then we must be filled with His Holy Spirit. This is the best thing in the whole universe that we can do for "us". If we love ourselves, then this is something that we can do that's just for us. The amazing thing is this: We can still help others get the Holy Spirit into their lives too.

1 Corinthians 13:6

WHAT LOVE DOESN'T DO: "*Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*"

Always remember that if it seems evil (or bad), then it probably is—don't do it! The good part is that we can always ask a person for forgiveness if we do something wrong. Then we need to ask God to forgive us. If we really mean it in our hearts, then He gladly takes our sins away. We should also ask God to help us to not do it again. Guess what? He'll help you!

3. Love God's Way

God's Word tells us that He did not give us a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2Ti 1:7).

QUESTION: What do you think a spirit of fear is? (*To be shy, embarrassed, and afraid all at the same time!*)

The devil tries to tell us that we really need to be this way, but that's just his usual lie. God made us to be mighty warriors! Warriors of God never do things because they are afraid, but because they are strong and bold. God can make us that way. Strong warriors of God love others because they can! We can do that because God helps us to think clearly, so we do the right things.

4. How We Should Love

QUESTION: How should we love?

- Honor one another (Romans 12:10)
- Love sincerely (Ro 12:9)
- Love our enemies (Luke 6:27)
- Love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and
- Love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37)

5. The Love Challenge

Think of someone that you really need to love this week. Try to love that person just like we have talked about, and see if it makes a difference.

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