

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED!

5-6

BIBLE VERSES: Mark 2:1-12, John 12:1-8 and 13:34, Acts 2:44-46.

The aim of this session is to see that as Christians we should love other people.

LEADER'S NOTES

Love is what defines Christians. Other people will know that we are Christians when they see the way that we love one another. People will be attracted by our loving lifestyle and come along and become Christians themselves. Or that is the ideal, anyhow!

Think for a moment about the way that people in the church have shown you love. Sometimes it's obvious – someone gives you an anonymous gift; someone lends you their car while yours is broken. Sometimes, however, love needs to be tough – if you are a parent you know about tough love; it is the love that says, “If you don't eat your dinner you can't have pudding.” Love is not touchy feely – although it can be – it is an active word. Love might mean personal cost: it cost Jesus his life.

Children even in this age group may well already confuse love with lust – when you say love they will think of holding hands and kissing. Many of them watch soap operas where love and relationships are a large part of the action. But they will also know about the love that parents and children share, and this is the type of love that we are talking about.

The Bible stories in this session are the four friends who took their paralysed friend to see Jesus. The Bible does not say that they loved their friend – but you don't carry a man on a stretcher for miles, you don't break through a roof in desperation, unless love is motivating you. These four quite clearly loved their friend and were prepared to make sacrifices for him. We also look at the lifestyle of the early church who clearly showed love to one another; sharing their possessions, spending time together. Some even sold themselves into slavery to provide for other people; how amazing is that! And the third story is that of Mary, who showed her love for Jesus by sacrificing her best perfume and pouring it over his feet.

The children should be challenged during this session to think about how we can practically show love to other people. The motivation of love is summed up in Doug Horley's song. “**Help Me Be Your Eyes**” [link to YouTube] which is one of the suggestions for a response activity:

*Help me be your eyes, Lord Jesus,
Seeing where your love is needed.
May I be your hands to help
Hey, hey, hey, hey!*

ME TOO

GAME | 📌↑ WARMING UP

All but one of the children sit on chairs which have been placed in a circle. One child stands in the middle. He makes a statement about something he loves, e.g. "I love sausages," Every child who also loves sausages shouts, "Me too!" The children who have responded must swap seats with one another, and the child in the middle tries to get into a vacant chair, thus leaving a different child in the middle. (To avoid children trying to be in the middle you could say that anyone in the centre 3 times is out.)

The Point: Just for fun.

EQUIPMENT

Chairs for each child.

DURATION: 5 MINS.

LOVE CHARADES

DRAMA | 📌↑ WARMING UP

Ask the children to get into groups of 3. Ask them to think of an episode they have seen on TV or in a book where someone shows love to someone else. They should act out the scene and see if the other groups can guess the programme/book they have taken it from. (For instance, Bolt shows his love to Penny by refusing to leave her when she is trapped in the burning building.),

Before you start you could talk about the different ways in which people show love – it could be boy/girl love, but equally it could be an animal showing love to its master, a parent showing love to a child and so on.

The Point: For fun, but also asks the children to think about love.

EQUIPMENT

None.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

TOILET TAG

GAME | 📌↑ WARMING UP

One child is "it". That child has to try to tag as many people as he can. When a child is tagged they must

stand still with their arm out to the side. Any other child can free tagged children by gently pushing their arm down, as if pushing a chain on a toilet.

The Point: Just for fun.

EQUIPMENT

None.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

PERFUMED

MUSIC | TEACHING TIME

Read the story “Mary honours Jesus” from a children’s Bible. In the “Read With Me Bible” it starts on page 362, but it is also told in most children’s Bibles. Show the pictures. (It is the story about a woman who pours perfume over Jesus’ feet.)

Ask the children why they think the woman poured expensive perfume over Jesus? What was she trying to say?

Explain that she was showing Jesus that she loved him and wanted to make a sacrifice for him – the perfume was probably the most precious thing she owned.

Ask the children if they love Jesus? How can they show it? What can they give to Jesus? (Be careful here – you might like to talk about giving money to charities that help Christian workers, or about giving up toys to such organisations as Love in a Box; but talk as well about things like spending time with Jesus – praying, praising, telling other people about him.)

Choose an instrumental version of a chorus – or one where the words praise God – “You are beautiful beyond description” or “Jesus, holy and anointed one” might work well.

Ask the children to get into pairs. Say that as you play some music one of them needs to act out being Jesus, and the other should act the woman pouring perfume on his feet. They can swap if they like so they both play both parts.

Play the music and let them improvise the scene.

The Point: To think about how Mary showed love to Jesus and ask how we can show our love.

EQUIPMENT

The “Read With Me Bible”, or another children’s Bible, music and the means to play it.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

TO ANY LENGTHS

VISUAL AND AUDIO CLIPS | TEACHING TIME

Put the sheet on the floor and the heavy thing on it. Making sure that the item won't fall out (maybe wrap it in the sheet first), invite four children to take the corners of the sheet and carry the item around the room. You may like to give several groups of 4 a turn. Ask them how it feels to carry something so heavy – and how easy it is to work together carrying something like that? How far would they want to carry a heavy weight?

Watch the clip from Miracle Maker where the paralysed man is healed.

Summary: In this scene from Miracle Maker (which shows Jesus' ministry) four friends take their paralysed friend to see Jesus – going through the roof when all other avenues are blocked.

Start time: 23:40 (crowd entering the house)

End time: 26:44 (healed man hugging his friend and dancing)

Length of clip: 3:04 minutes.

(You could read the story from a children's Bible if you prefer.)

Say that quite a lot goes on in the clip, but we are only interested in the men who took their friend to see Jesus.

- Ask the children how far they think the men might have carried their friend?
- Why did they need to carry him?
- Would it have been difficult to carry him a long way?
- Why did they choose to go in through the roof?
- How hard would that have been?
- How did they show love for their friend?

Say that the friends showed love by taking their friend to Jesus. Love isn't always shown by what we say, it is also shown by what we do and the things we give up to help other people. The friends might have given up work for the day to take their friend to see Jesus – which would have meant not getting any money that day. They gave up time and they use their strength. They may even have been asked to pay for the broken roof; we don't know. But they did it because they loved their friend and they wanted Jesus to make him better.

Ask the children how they can show love to their friends – and how they could bring their friends to Jesus? Discuss their answers together.

The Point: To see how the paralysed man showed love in a practical way.

EQUIPMENT

A sheet of fabric and something heavy to put in it, a copy of Miracle Maker and the means to play it, or a children's Bible.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

LIVING TOGETHER

CRAFT IDEAS | TEACHING TIME

Read Acts 2:44-46 in a child friendly version of the Bible, or paraphrase it thus:

“Jesus’ followers used to meet together all the time. They shared everything. Some people even sold their possessions so they could give the money from them to people who were in need. They used to meet every day in the Temple to worship God, and they ate at each other’s houses and worshipped God together. Everybody liked them, and every day more people became Christians.”

Ask the children if they heard four different things that members of the early church did together?

- They shared everything.
- They sold things to give other Christians money.
- They met together to worship.
- They ate together.

Ask why they think the early Christians did this? Say that it was because they loved each other; and because they loved each other they wanted to spend time together and they wanted to help each other. Say that love isn’t only a nice feeling, sometimes it’s something practical – and sometimes it is difficult! Probably the Christians sold things they really wanted to keep for themselves.

Divide the group into four and ask each group to make a picture showing the early church sharing, selling their possessions, worshipping together or eating together.

You could make a banner which says “Christians love each other” to go along the bottom of the pictures when they are displayed. As you work, talk about how Christians show love to one another today.

The Point: To see how the early Christians showed love to each other.

EQUIPMENT

Bible, paper and pens.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

I GOT YOU, LORD

WORSHIP AND REFLECTION | WATCHER | RESPONSE

Play the song “Help Me Be Your Eyes Lord Jesus (I’ve Got You, Lord)” from Doug Horley's Funky Action Songs Volume 5 ([lyrics here](#), [YouTube video here](#)).

If you can, play the video and let the children join in with the actions. If not, learn the actions beforehand and teach them to the children. Play it through twice so that everyone can join in.

The Point: To respond to today's teaching.

EQUIPMENT

The song "Help Me Be Your Eyes" by Doug Horley and the means to play it.

DURATION: 5 MINS.

TO SHOW LOVE

CRAFT IDEAS | 📌 RESPONSE

Spread out a large sheet of lining paper. Ask the children how they think we can show love to other people in our everyday life? They can think of specific people – how can we show love to parents? How to siblings? How to friends? Ask them to draw small pictures on the lining paper showing their ideas.

Look at the finished collage together. Challenge each child to choose one thing from the collage that they will do over the coming week. Give them a piece of paper that they can write it down on.

Pray together that God will help us to show love to other people over the coming week.

Don't forget to ask them how well they managed to show love next time you meet.

The Point: To respond to the teaching.

EQUIPMENT

Lining paper and pens, small pieces of paper.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

LOVE THEM

MEMORY VERSE | 📌 RESPONSE

"I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you". John 13:34

Stand in a circle. Tell the children the verse and ask them to repeat it.

Divide the verse into three:

- I am giving you a new command/
- You must love each other/
- Just as I have loved you.

Throw the ball randomly to one of the children who says the first part and then throws the ball to another child who says the second part and throws the ball to a third child who says the last part. Do this several times.

You could add an element of competition by saying that anyone who hesitates or says it wrong is out.

The Point: To help young people to learn the Bible.

EQUIPMENT

A soft ball.

DURATION: 5 MINS.

PERFUME BOX

CRAFT IDEAS | 📦 TAKE AWAY

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: Perfumed.

Give each child a box to decorate. “Yellow Moon” has a wide range - from ceramic, which can be decorated with acrylic pens or paint, through to fold up paper money boxes. Alternately you might like to give the children modelling clay to make their own finger pots from.

When the boxes are decorated, put a dab of perfume onto a piece of kitchen roll and put inside the box.

The Point: A reminder craft.

EQUIPMENT

Small boxes which can be decorated (there is a good supply for all budgets at www.yellowmoon.org), pens or stickers to decorate boxes, perfume and pieces of kitchen roll.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

SHOES

CRAFT IDEAS | 📦 TAKE AWAY

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: To Any Length.

Let each child make a pair of paper shoes to remind them that love means walking that extra mile for our friends.

To make the sole of the shoe fold a piece of paper into 3 thicknesses. If they want they could cut the paper into a shoe shape and then staple around it so that the pieces stay together.

Fold another piece of paper into 3. It should be between 5 and 10 cm wide (depending on the size of the child's foot) and long enough to go over the foot and down to the floor on either end.

Staple this onto the end of the sole, so that when worn the toes stick out of the end. Staple one side and then try the shoe on to accurately staple the second side... The shoe needs to fit.

When both shoes are done they can be decorated with pens. Suggest that the children write "friends show love by helping" or "love goes the extra mile" or another phrase which recaps the teaching on the shoes.

The Point: To remind the children of the teaching.

EQUIPMENT

Thick paper – paper towels or shiny paper, stapler, pens.

DURATION: 15 MINS.

SHARING TOGETHER

FOOD AND COOKING | 🍴 TAKE AWAY

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: Living Together.

Set out a table with lots of different types of food on it. Write the names of each child on the bottom of a paper plate – one name per plate. (It might be sensible to do this as you register the children.)

Give each child a paper plate and ask them to look at the name on the bottom. They have to choose a snack for the child whose name is on their plate. Eat the snacks together.

As you eat talk about the ways that we can show love to each other. You might like to take the time to explain that there are different types of love, and the one that the Bible usually speaks about means that you want what is best for someone else – even if it isn't best for you! So when Jesus died on the cross he showed love for us – even though it was hard for him to do. When you give your teddy bear to your little sister that shows love – even though it is hard for you to do.

The Point: To think about practical ways of showing love.

EQUIPMENT

Food, paper plates marker pen, cups, drink, an area to sit and eat.

DURATION: 10 MINS.

