

Life of Christ

Loving Jesus

John 14:19-24, 15:9-27

Younger Verse

Love each other in the same way that I love you. John 15:12 (NLT)

Older Verse

I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. And here is how to measure it--the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. John 15:12-13 (NLT)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

How do you feel when someone does lots of wonderful things for you? Do you hate them and tell them you never want to see them again? No! That would be an awful thing to do. When someone starts to do wonderful things for us, even if we might not have liked them before, we slowly begin to like them and then care about them. When we know that someone really cares for us and wants what is best for us, and when we trust them, then we choose to love that person.

Well, the Bible tells us that God loves us. We can believe it just because He said it, but He has shown us in amazing ways. He has created this amazing world for us to live in. God has given us parents and teachers and the things we need. God has given us His Word, the Bible, to read about just how much He loves us, but the most amazing thing He did to show us His love for us was to send His One and Only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life with Him, forever and ever.

On this last night of Jesus' life, while He is still walking through the city with His friends, Jesus tells these friends that in the same way that God loves Him, He, Jesus, loves them. Jesus' love is not just some fuzzy feeling with a smile and a hug. They don't realize it yet, but Jesus loves them enough to give up His life for them. Jesus was about to do more than just tell them He loved them. Jesus was about to show them how much He loved them. Jesus was going to die on the cross in their place, for their sin.

Jesus shared something with His followers as they walked through Jerusalem. In fact, what He shared was so important that He did not just mention it once. And He didn't just mention it twice, or

Lesson Goals

To learn that loving Jesus is more than happy feelings and singing songs. Loving Jesus means obeying Him.

*John 14: 15, 21, 23;
15:10, 12, 14, 17

**Ephesians 4:25-28

Memory Verse Activity

Prayer Time

even three times. Jesus had a new rule for them, a commandment. This rule was so important to Him that He repeated it five times!* That's right, **five** times! Jesus wanted to make sure they would remember. Jesus said, "The one who knows what I say and who obeys me is the one who loves me. I want you to love each other." Jesus was explaining His kind of love to them. He wanted them to understand that love for Him, or others, is not some fuzzy feeling. Love is obedience! Love is not waiting around to do things when we want to or if we want to. Whether or not we love God can be seen by how quickly and how well we obey! Jesus also said that we will stay connected to His love if we love Him in return. Jesus knows if we love Him; we show Him by the way we act, by whether we obey or not.

So, if you know that the Bible says that you shouldn't tell lies or stay angry or steal,** how can you show Jesus that you love Him? Will He know that you love Him if you lie to your mom? Do you love Him if you stay angry at your best friend because someone said your friend said something bad about you? What does Jesus know about you if you go around stealing, taking things that are not our own. How will Jesus, and the people around us, know that we love God? They will know by watching us! What do people know about you? Do you lie, or stay angry or steal, or any of those other things God tells us not to do? Will you choose today to love Him more than you want to do things your own way?

Jesus also shared that, "A really good friend will give his life for his friend!" Jesus loved you that much! He gave His life on the cross for you and for me. Will you give your life to Him, not on a wooden cross, but by choosing to do things His way and not your own way? That is how you can show Him that you love Him, because our love for Jesus is about so much more than drawing hearts and saying "I love you." Our love for Jesus is about obedience to Him!

Write the memory verse on construction paper. With finger paint or a stamp pad, allow your students to decorate their memory verses with thumb print hearts by applying paint to the thumb and transferring it to the page, then repeating the steps while transferring the second thumbprint diagonally and in the opposite direction from the first to form a heart.

Pray, thanking Jesus for doing more than just saying, "I love you." Thank Him for showing you. Ask Him for strength to be obedient and show Him that you love Him in return.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 37

Jesus Talks About Going Away and Sending the Holy Spirit

John 16:1-33

Preschool Lesson

Love Each Other

Sing: “Jesus Loves Even Me”

I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me, Jesus loves me,
I am so glad that Jesus loves me, Jesus loves even me.

or “Jesus Loves Me”

Teach: I open my Bible book and read . . . “Jesus loves me!” The Bible tells us over and over again that Jesus loves us! Jesus loves you. Jesus loves me. Jesus does not just say He loves us; He shows us. But how does Jesus show us that He loves us? Jesus formed us when we were still babies inside of our mommas. He made us just right! Jesus watches out for us and protects us. Jesus even died on the cross for us.

Jesus wants us to love Him, but He doesn’t just want us to say that we love Him. We can love like Jesus loved, by showing our love for Him. Jesus even tells us how we can show that we love Him. He tells us to obey Him. Obeying Jesus means that we do what He says we should do. Obeying Jesus also means not doing what He says we shouldn’t do. What are some of the things Jesus wants us to do? (Allow your students a chance to offer suggestions that should sound like; “read the Bible,” “pray,” “learn Bible verses,” etc.) And what are some of the things Jesus says we should not do? (Again, allow your students a chance to offer suggestions that should sound like; “don’t lie,” “don’t steal,” “don’t cheat,” “don’t stay angry,” etc.) Jesus knows that we love Him when we obey Him.

Jesus also wants us to love each other. Just like He doesn’t just want us to say that we love Him, He doesn’t just want us to say that we love other people. He wants us to show the people around us that we love them. What are some things the Bible says about loving others? The Bible tells us to put other people first. The Bible also tells us to obey our parents. So, that means that if you love your parents, you can show them by obeying them and by not lying to them. And if you love your friends, you can show them by letting them choose first and not staying angry with them. It is so much easier to say “I love you” than it is to show someone that we love them. But Jesus and the other people around us will really know that we love them if we are obedient and put them first.

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for showing your love for me. Help me to love others by showing them that they are important.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Make “Road Signs” with Jesus’ commands; “Love Others,” “Stop Lying,” etc. Stress the memory verse that says we show we love Him if we obey His commands, or do what He has said. It would be nice to laminate these and post them around your Bible Study area as reminders.
- Provide each of your students with several multicolored heart cut-outs. Give them a chance to think about one person that they love, a friend, a parent, a grandparent or a teacher. Have them make “Valentines” for that person. These valentines should not be the conventional “Be Mine” or “I love you” type. Instead, allow students to write on each valentine one thing they are willing to do to show their loved one how much they love them.
- Sing “This is My Commandment” from John 15:12 & 17, “Jesus Loves Me,” “God is so Good” with the “He loves me so” verse, “For God So Loved the World” from John 3:16, “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love,” “The Mission,” and “Oh, How He Loves You and Me.”
- Play “Tic, Tac, Toe” with a twist. Make a life-sized “Tic, Tac, Toe” board on the floor in your study space. Review the lesson with questions. Every correct answer means a student from that team takes his place in the desired square. Play progresses as usual.