

**Unit 5 The Promise of Guidance**  
**Camp Venture Counselor's Guide**  
**Letters about Love**

**Aim: To know what true love is as explained as the letters in the Bible.**

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

**At the Campfire**

Worship the Spirit Who Teaches Us  
Camp Critter: Lovebird

**Tent Time**

New Testament Letters: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:11-12  
GOT TIME? Letter: 1 Peter 4:8-11  
Christ Connection: Deuteronomy 6:5

**Bible Memory Verse**

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul  
and with all your mind."  
"Love your neighbor as yourself."  
Matthew 22:37, 39b

**CAMPING SUPPLY CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Set out mats or sit-upons in a semicircle, Counselor's camp chair
- ☐ Camp Venture Counselor's Guide on a clipboard and a Counselor's Bible
- ☐ Camp Games: Four buckets, four cups, marbles and sturdy paper in four coordinating colors, scissors, floor tape or chalk, timer
- ☐ At the Campfire: Lesson 22 Worship Illustration or Storybook, Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh: Love The Lord Your God" and other related music
- ☐ Mailbag: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references, fold it and place it in the Teacher's Bible. Put Teacher's Bible, Pen Pal Letter and a bag of 15 paper hearts in mailbag. Print each description of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 on a separate paper heart.
- ☐ Got Time Gear: Heart-shaped snack, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, two pieces of cloth, red, pink or white sturdy paper or craft foam, scissors, hole punch, yarn or ribbon, Bible, Basket of Love template, candy or similar treats, pencils, colored pens, assorted craft supplies, box for shipping or delivering, "New Testament Overture" song and player, 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse song, player and poster
- ☐ Today's New Testament Postcard with a stamp or sticker of a heart
- ☐ Daily Way Lesson 22

**ADD-A-VENTURE**

Use additional items to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: set up a camp tent, Camp Venture Photo Board or photo album including photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded with stones as a flameless campfire, etc.



# Camp Games

(30 Minutes)

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. (Pray.) Today, our New Testament letter teaches us about love. Let's play a camp game where we can share our hearts!

## **GAME: SHARE YOUR HEART RELAY**

**PURPOSE:** To introduce some of the teachings about love found in the New Testament letters.

**SUPPLIES:** Four buckets, four cups, marbles in four colors (or buttons, bean bags, painted pebbles, small balls, etc.), four pieces of sturdy paper that coordinate in color with the marbles, scissors, floor tape or chalk, timer

**PREPARE:** Cut a heart shape from each piece of paper. Tape one heart shape to the side of each bucket. Place the four buckets together in the center of the play area with the heart shapes visible. Use floor tape to mark four starting lines close enough for Campers to toss the marbles into the buckets. Place a cup full of the same colored marbles at each starting line. Each cup should have the same number of marbles.

**SAY>** Let's pretend these marbles are hearts. In this relay, try to toss your heart marble into one of the buckets. The bucket with the colored heart that is the same color as your heart marble is your team's bucket. But because this is the "share your heart" relay, your heart marble only counts if it goes into another team's bucket. So, don't aim for your team's bucket! Give your heart to another team!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Help campers divide into four teams of equal number.
2. Each team lines up behind a starting line.
3. Assign one camper from each team to retrieve any marbles that miss the buckets and put them back into the team's cup.
4. When the timer begins, the first camper in each line grabs a marble from the cup and tries to toss it into one of the buckets that is not their team's bucket.
5. The first camper goes to the end of the line and the next camper takes a turn.
6. Teams play until time runs out.
7. To determine a team's score, count all of the team's marbles that landed in every bucket except their own bucket.

**SAY>** To win this game, you had to give your heart marbles to another team. God gives us love. He wants us to give our love to others. Let's find out how God wants us to love!

**\*Counselor Clues:** For added fun, be very generous with points (For example: 100,000 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place; 75,000 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 40,000 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 30,000 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.) Prizes for points can range from a round of applause to a grand prize for the team with the highest total points at the end of camp. The grand prize can be an ice cream party, pizza party, etc. Before closing on the last day, have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party. Always encourage good sportsmanship and cheering for each other.



# At the Campfire

(15 Minutes)

We worship the Spirit who teaches us how to live a life that pleases God. One way the Holy Spirit teaches us is through others who love Him. During worship, everyone who loves God gets to join together to show Him that love through songs, prayers and giving our offering. Those are three of the many ways we can love the Lord with all our heart and soul and mind. (Sing: "Your Love is Amazing" while collecting the offering.)

## Worship Elements:

Designate a special corner or area for worship.

Collect and lead prayer for an offering.

Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:

- Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22

Say the Camper's Code together.

Today's camp critter is the lovebird.

Lovebirds are a special type of parrot that love to be together. They are today's camp critter because we are learning about some special letters found in the New Testament that teach us about love.

## Praise Song Suggestions

Select songs containing that focus on love.

"Hallelujah (Your Love Is Amazing)"

"How Wonderful Is Your Love"

"I Love You Lord"

Worship Jamz (Volumes 1, 2, 3)

## Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will be a light wherever I go.

## Camp Critter Song

I spied a LOVEBIRD overhead.

Here is what that LOVEBIRD said,

"The truest love—comes from above!"

I spied a LOVEBIRD,

And the LOVEBIRD hollered,

"Yippee-kigh-yay! At Camp Venture today!"

## Bible Memory Verse Song

"Yahweh: You Shall Love The Lord"

Matthew 22:37, 39b (NIV)

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind.

Love your neighbor as yourself,  
the best commandments you'll find!

Yahweh!

I know I can go to...Yahweh!

She can, he can go to...Yahweh!

We know we can go to...

Yahweh every day!

*Repeat two times getting faster each time.*

*Sheet music and recordings available at  
[www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)*



# Tent Time

(15 Minutes)

(Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.)

## New Testament Letters

**Welcome to Tent Time! Last time we learned that Paul stayed in a house guarded by a soldier for two years. He spoke boldly to everyone who would listen. Paul was bold in his letter writing as well. His letter to the Corinthians taught them about the deepest, strongest kind of love—the love of Jesus.**

(Teacher holds up mailbag.) **Today we have a mailbag with letters about love from the Bible. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** (Hand out spare Bibles. Teacher opens mailbag and removes Bible, opens Bible and takes out list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 1 John 4:11-12.)

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** (Camper prays aloud.) **Be seated.**

**Let's read from Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth. Check out Paul's description of real love.** (Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.)

**John also wrote letters about the importance of love. Let's read what John says happens when we love one another.** (Read 1 John 4:11-12.)

Directions to create paper hearts for mail bag.

Cut 15 paper hearts from sturdy paper. Print each of the following statements below from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIRV onto one the 15 paper hearts. (One sentence per heart.)

- Love is patient.
- Love is kind.
- Love does not want what belongs to others.
- Love does not brag.
- Love is not proud.
- Love is not rude.
- Love does not look out for its own interests.
- Love does not easily become angry.
- Love does not keep track of other people's wrongs.
- Love is not happy with evil.
- Love is full of joy when the truth is spoken.
- Love always protects.
- Love always trusts.
- Love always hopes.
- Love never gives up.



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## **Mailbag**

(Print the Pen Pal letter on a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope.)

**Let's open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament Letter has to do with your life today.** (Take out Pen Pal Letter from mailbag, open the envelope. Remove the letter and read.)

**Hey Pals,**

Have you ever had a pen pal? That's a name for a friend who writes letters to you. Many pen pals live far apart and never meet in person. They become pals or friends through the letters they write each other. As your pen pal, I'll be writing you letters about letters...the New Testament letters, that is! Today's letters are about love. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Paul explained what real love is. In 1 John 4:11-12, John explained why love is so important.

Have you ever wanted to see God? Me too! We can't see God completely until we get to heaven, but John shows us that when we love each other, we can see God's love. (Take out bag of hearts from mailbag. Invite all campers to pick a heart from the bag. For groups larger than 15, campers may share hearts.)

Each heart describes something about real love such as "Love is patient" or "Love is kind." Read the words on your heart. Think about a time when you gave or received that type of love. For example: **I showed love by being patient when I taught my little brother how to ride his bike. That took a lot of patience!** (Teacher may help younger campers or non-readers share the description of love printed on their heart. Campers share their individual experiences.)

**Let's vote on which is the hardest way for you to show love. For me, it is hard to never boast or brag. Listen carefully to all the examples.** (Invite campers to raise their hands for the ways of loving they find to be most difficult.) **Remember, God is perfect in all 15 ways of loving you!**

None of us are perfect at loving others. Years before Paul and John wrote the letters about love, Moses explained God's commandment about love. **Let's check it out.** (Read today's Christ Connection: Deuteronomy 6:5.)

The way we love God and others seems to be very important to God. Until we meet again, see how many new ways you can love God and the people He made.

**Believe and Be love!**  
**Your Pen Pal**



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## Share A Prayer

Let's thank God for sending us His Word, the Bible! We can pray for each other and all who live in this world for them to hear His Word, too.

(Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests.)

Father in heaven, thank you for sending us Your Word. You know our needs—the ones we just shared out loud and the ones that we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. (Pause of silence.) We can't wait to see the way that You will answer each one. Together, we close this prayer with the words Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Final Five

(When only five minutes remain, begin this segment.)

### New Testament Postcard

As you leave today, you'll receive a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a heart to remind you to love everyone. (Place stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard.) Take it home and create a special mailbox or mailbag where you can collect the remaining postcards. On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. (You'll find the scriptures listed in the Daily Way.) Read these scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

### Letter From Camp

Write a Letter from Camp to someone in your home to let them know what you did today. Write your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Or draw a picture about that. Sign it and take it home.

### Prayer Requests

How can I pray for you this week? (As campers work on their Letters from Camp, write individual requests in your teacher's prayer notebook.)

### Camper Challenge

(Hand out Lesson 22 Daily Way.) Complete your Daily Way at home and bring it back next time to win points here at Camp Venture!

### Bible Memory Verse Song

Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse song or the "New Testament Overture" background as campers wait to be dismissed.





# Got Time?

(If time remains, choose from the connected activities in this segment.)

## **SNACK: HEART-SHAPED SNACK**

**PURPOSE:** Campers will eat a snack while discussing different ways we can show our love to others.

**SUPPLIES:** Any heart-shaped snack, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

**ASK>** Who wrote the letters we read today? (Paul and John.) They taught us how God wants us to truly love each other. Let's talk about ways you like to show someone that you love them. Listen closely to your friend's answers because you might get some new ideas about how to show your love!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: "How do you show your family or friends that you love them?"

## **GAME: HOW DO YOU LOVE?**

**PURPOSE:** For campers to consider practical ways they can show someone they love them.

**SUPPLIES:** Two pieces of cloth

**SAY>** Today we learned about true love. Let's think of some ways we can show true love to the people we love!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Divide the campers into two teams. Ask each team to choose a team captain.
2. Give a piece of cloth to each team captain to use as a flag.
3. Read a Love Question from the list below.
4. Each team discusses the answer together.
5. The team captain waves the flag when they are ready to share the team's answer.
6. After each team answers, select a new team captain and read another question to play again.

### **Love Questions:**

- My little brother pinched me. How can I show love to him?
- My best friend just got the game or toy that I want. How can I show love to my friend?
- A girl at school does not have warm winter clothes. How can I show love to her?
- My mother is talking on the phone, but I want to talk with her. How can I show love to her?
- It's raining. I have an umbrella but my neighbor does not. How can I show love to my neighbor?
- My friend forgot to bring a snack to the park. How can I show love to my friend?

**\*Counselor Clue:** Create your own questions or let your campers create questions to ask each other.



# Got Time? continued...

## **CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE CRAFT—BASKET OF LOVE**

**PURPOSE:** To create a gift and give campers the opportunity to show their love by giving it away

**SUPPLIES:** Red, pink or white sturdy paper or craft foam, scissors, hole punch, yarn or ribbon, Basket of Love template (see [www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)), candy or similar treats, pencils, colored pens, assorted craft supplies (sequins, glitter, stickers), box for shipping or delivering all the baskets.

**PREPARE:** Cut several copies of the template for campers to trace. Punch holes where indicated. For each camper, cut three lengths of yarn: one 20-inch piece, two 8-inch. Determine the recipient(s) of the care package.\*

**ASK>** Today we learned what the New Testament letters say about love. Who wrote 1 Corinthians? (Paul.) What did Paul say we need to have along with faith? (Love.)

In 1 John 4:11-12, why does John say we should love others? (God loves us. So others can see God's love.)

**SAY>** One way we can show our love is by caring for others. For the next few weeks we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today we will make Baskets of Love to give away to people who need to know that we love them and God loves them. (Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Use a pencil to trace the three templates onto the paper.
2. Place a dot in the center of the holes.
3. Cut out the shapes.
4. Punch holes through the dots.
5. Place the two hearts together.
6. Thread the yarn through the first two matching holes on the left side of the hearts. Knot the yarn.
7. Sew the two hearts together by pushing the yarn through the next hole set and back up again through the following holes. Continue threading through all the holes. Knot the yarn.
8. Match one set of handle holes with the holes at the top of a heart. Thread yarn through holes and tie a bow to secure.
9. Repeat step 8 to secure other end of handle to the top of the other heart.
10. Decorate the basket. For example: write a message or draw a picture to tell the recipient(s) that God loves them and you do, too.
11. Place the candy in the basket.
12. Place all the gifts together in the box. Seal and address the box. Deliver the gifts!

### **\*Teacher Tips:**

- Suggested Care Package Recipients: Elderly care facility, homebound neighbor, orphanage, soldier on duty, or children's ward in a hospital. If possible, take some or all campers with you to deliver the care package locally or to place it in the mail for long distance delivery. Take pictures for the campers to share when delivering the package or ask the recipient to send pictures.
- Pre-trace, cut and punch holes for younger campers. Help them tie knots and bows.
- Provide extra candy for the campers to enjoy.





# Got Time? continued...

## **DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT LOVE—1 PETER 4:8-11**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn of a third letter about love from the New Testament.

**SUPPLIES:** Bible opened to 1 Peter 4:8-11.

**SAY>** Love does not cover sins in the way that a secret is covered up or hidden. Love covers sins in the same way that a loving hug helps us forgive one another for our wrongdoings.

Peter wrote a letter about love, just like Paul and John. (Read 1 Peter 4:8-11.)

**ASK>** What are some specific ways Peter gives us to love others?

- Share without grumbling.
- Use our gifts for the purpose of serving others, not ourselves.
- Speak carefully as if speaking God's words.
- Serve others in the strength God gives you.
- Give God the credit for everything.

## **GAME: "NEW TESTAMENT OVERTURE" BOOKS ON A LINE**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the books of the New Testament.

**SUPPLIES:** 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "New Testament Overture" song and player, Bible

**SUPPLIES:** Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Mix the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so the campers can reach it.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Play the "New Testament Overture" song two times. Encourage the campers to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the campers to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with the clothespins.
3. To help the campers, play the song while they work or leave the Bible open to the table of contents for their reference as needed.
4. As campers learn the correct order of the books, try it without the aid of the list in the Bible or music.



# Got Time? continued...

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **GAME: LOVE ALL AROUND**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**SUPPLIES:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse song, player and poster

**SAY>** Our Bible Memory Verse tells us to love God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

**What does that mean to you?** (Respond.) Our Bible Memory Verse also tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. **Who are our neighbors?** (All the people around us.)

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Campers sit in a circle.
2. Recite or sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse one time together.
3. Say the first word of the verse: "Love..."
4. The camper on your right says the next word: "the..."
5. The next camper on the right says the next word: "Lord..."
6. Continue going around the circle, each camper saying the next word of the Bible Memory Verse in turn until the entire verse has been said.
7. As time allows, play again going faster each time.

### **GAME: RACE TO REPEAT**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**SUPPLIES:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Practice saying the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse together once.
2. Divide the campers into two equal teams.
3. Teams sit shoulder-to-shoulder in two lines, facing each other with several feet of space between the two lines.
4. Give a number to each camper on each team beginning with the number 1.
5. Place a Bible in the center of the space between the two teams.
6. Call out a number.
7. The camper from each team with that number races to be the first to touch the Bible.
8. The camper who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (Campers may use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
9. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until all campers have had a turn.

### **DISCUSSION: GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

**PURPOSE:** Campers get to "love their neighbors" by learning about their favorite things.

**DIRECTIONS:** Gather in a circle and discuss some of the camper's favorite things.

What is your favorite thing about:

- being outside?
- going on vacation?
- being at Camp Venture?
- someone that you love?