

A Letter About Love

Lesson Aim: To learn to love one another as John explained in his letter.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Teaches Us

THE WORD

New Testament letter: 1 John 4:7a, 12

What He has done: God gave John the teaching about love.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Love one another."

Unit 5 Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

TEACHER ENRICHMENT For your own encouragement this week, read John 14:15-27.

Teacher Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for giving us the New Testament letters. Help the children understand John's letter about love. Fill us all with Your Spirit so that we can love one another. Amen."

TEACHER'S PREP

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with 1 John 4:7a, 12.
- ☐ Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.
- ☐ Place today's New Testament letter in the Bible. Place the Bible in the Special Delivery Mailbox.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. If time allows, choose a GOT TIME? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim or the Bible

Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Mailbox: Stamp or sticker of a heart

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time!" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Lesson 22

THE WORD

- ☐ Special Delivery Mailbox containing Teacher's Bible with today's New Testament letter

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Sturdy paper, crayons or markers, large washable ink pad or washable non-toxic paint, wet hand wipes or soap and water
- ☐ Game Supplies: Two red paper heart shapes per child, sturdy white paper, red marker
- ☐ Snack: Any heart-shaped snack and drink
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 22

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse song and player, two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape
- ☐ Color This Story: "A Letter from John about Love."
- ☐ Story Time: Any story about loving others as God loves us.



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"Love one another."

SAY (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** (Child unlocks Mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart.) **Let this sticker of a heart help you remember that we should love each other. Today's Whisper Verse is "Love one another."** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Love one another."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Love" The hands hug something over the heart to indicate the concept of love.

"one another." Make two fists with thumbs out. ("A" hand shapes). Thumbs point towards each other as fists circle one another to show that they are in close proximity.

SAY (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Love one another" from 1 John 4:7. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's New Testament letter.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship The Spirit Who Teaches Us

***Teacher Tip:** Play an opening song such as “Shake A Friend’s Hand” as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY> It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who teaches us. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and knowledge about God so that we can teach each other how to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped John write a letter that teaches us about love. God loves you. He wants you to love Him with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. That is our new Bible Memory Verse. Let’s sing that verse now in our “Praise Time!” song. (Sing: “Praise Time.”)

SAY> We can show God that we love Him by singing to Him and by giving our offering to help His Church. (Sing: “How Great is Our God” while collecting the offering.)

SAY> Another way we can love God is to love one another. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let’s try it together. (Review Whisper Verse together: “Love one another.” Include sign language.) We know how to love one another because God has shown us what love is. (Sing: “We Love”.)

SAY> We all love Delbert and Lello. Let’s see what they are up to today! (Read Chapter 22 from *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello: Prophets & Promises* or interact with puppets according to Prophets & Promises Lesson 22, Unit 5 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY> John’s letter tells us to love one another. Let’s say our Whisper Verse one more time and then we can sing it! (Say Whisper Verse: “Love one another.” Sing: “Love One Another.”)

Unit 5 2009 Praise Time song suggestions

“It’s Praise Time!” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“Love One Another” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“We Love” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“The New Testament Overture” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“How Great Is Our God” My Best Friend; Little Praise Party by Catapult

“Jesus Loves The Little Children” Sunday School Songs; Songtime Kids

“I’ve Got The Joy/This Little Light Of Mine” ABC’s of Praise by Mary Rice Hopkins

“When We Walk With The Lord (Trust And Obey)” Walking With God, Kidzup Production Inc.

“Rejoice In The Lord Always” 120 Bible Songs; Twin Sisters

“Shake A Friend’s Hand” Psalty Kids Praise!



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

John's Letter Says, "Love One Another."

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> **With my eyes on my teacher;** (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> Last time we learned that Paul told people in his house about Jesus. This week, we'll begin reading some special letters in the Bible. These letters were written by believers to people like you and me. The first letter we'll read is about love. It is from the disciple John. Let's open the **Special Delivery Mailbox** to read this week's letter from the Bible. (Choose a child to open the Special Delivery Mailbox, remove the Bible and hand it to the leader or teacher.)



SPECIAL DELIVERY: 1 JOHN 4:7a, 12

Open the Bible and remove today's New Testament letter. Today's letter is available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper and placing it in an envelope. Open the letter and read the quote from today's New Testament letter.

Dear friends,

Let us love one another, for love comes from God. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

Love,
John

ASK> Where does love come from? (God.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible. (Read answer from today's New Testament letter.)

ASK> Who should we love? (One another.) Our **Whisper Verse** tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Love one another." (Include sign language or hand motions.)



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

We Can Love One Another.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: New Testament letter application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT CONNECTION: LOVE LETTER

A Letter from John about Love. 1 John 4:7a, 12

Purpose: To remind the children of John's letter in the Bible teaching us to love one another.

☑ Supplies needed per child:

- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Large washable ink pad (or non-toxic, washable paint to spread thinly onto child's hand)
- ☐ Wet hand wipes or soap and water
- ☐ Sturdy paper

☑ Prep Steps: (Prepared before class)

- ☐ Pre-print the outline of a scroll so that it takes up the entire sheet of sturdy paper.
- ☐ Pre-print on the top of the scroll outline:

A Letter from John about Love

1 John 4:7a, 12

- ☐ Draw the outline of a large heart in the center of scroll.

Directions for children:

1. Color the scroll.
2. Teacher will help you press your hand onto the ink pad.
3. Press your handprint into the middle of the heart.
4. Stand next to a friend. Press your handprints onto each other's scrolls.
5. Wash your hands.

Options:

- Make an envelope: On a large envelope, write child's name as the address and "John" as the return address. Child can decorate the envelope before placing the letter inside.
- Substitute multi-colored paper handprints instead of ink or paint: Give two paper handprints of the same color to each child. Children tape one paper handprint to their scrolls and exchange the other paper handprint with a friend to get a different color handprint to add to their scrolls.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who wrote the letter we read today?** (John.) **The Holy Spirit helped John know what to write in the letter.**
- **What did John teach us to do?** (Love one another.)
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** (Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.)
- **You shared your handprint with a friend to show you love them!**
- **Take your letter home and show it to your family. Ask them to help you make your own special mailbox for your letters. Next time, we will make another letter for you to add to your mailbox.**

THE WAY continued...



GAME: HEARTS FROM GOD

A Letter from John about Love. 1 John 4:7a, 12

Purpose: Children will share hearts dropped from “heaven” to show how they can love each other.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Two red paper heart shapes per child

ASK> Where does love come from? (God.) Imagine that the falling hearts are God’s love for you! Catch two hearts; one for you and one for a friend. Give one heart to a friend!

Directions:

1. Drop and scatter hearts from above the children’s heads.
2. Each child picks up two hearts.
3. Help children find partners.
4. Child keeps one heart to remember God loves him or her.
5. Child gives one heart to partner to show love to one another.
6. Partners may also show love by hugging, giving a handshake or a high-five, etc.



GAME: PASS THE LOVE LETTER

A Letter from John about Love. 1 John 4:7a, 12

Purpose: Children will deliver a letter about love to each other.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Sturdy white paper

☐ Red marker

☑ Prep Steps:

☐ On the paper, write and draw or pre-print: “**God** [outline of a heart shape]’s **you!**”

ASK> God told John a special message. John wrote down the message in a letter. What did John tell us to do? (Love one another.) Let’s share a letter about God’s love with each other.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Show the letter and read message on letter.
3. Deliver the letter to first child, then say and sign, “**Love one another.**”
4. Child delivers the letter to next child and says and sign, “**Love one another.**”
5. Play until the letter has been delivered to each child all the way around the circle.

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: HEARTS OF LOVE

"Love one another."

Purpose: Children will talk about how they can show love to others.

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack and drink

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY** > Let's sing the "Blessing Song." (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.

Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (Choose a child to demonstrate motions to today's Whisper Verse: "Love one another.")
 - **Who does God want you to love?** (One another.)
 - **Who are the other people you can love?** (Children list names.)
 - **Can you give a hug to someone you love?** (Yes!)
 - **Can you be kind to someone you love?** (Yes!)
 - **What else can you do to show someone that you love them?** (Make gifts/cards, help them, etc.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY > God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY > Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____, (gently touch each child's shoulder while saying his or her name.) We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Take home your "Love Letter" craft. Tell someone at home that John wrote a letter about love. Ask your family to help you make a mailbox for your letters.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Talk about how John wrote a letter to tell us to love one another.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time!" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.



GAME: LETTER GAMES

Purpose: Children play games using today's New Testament letter.

☑ Supplies:

[] Today's New Testament letter in an envelope.

Game #1 Directions:

1. While other children close their eyes, assist a child in hiding today's New Testament letter enclosed in an envelope somewhere in the play area.
2. Allow children to search for the letter.
3. The child that finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to the teacher.
4. Teacher reads today's letter to the children and puts it back in the envelope.
5. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

Game #2 Directions: (Variation on Duck, Duck, Goose)

1. **SAY> To practice delivering special letters, let's play "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**
2. Have the children sit on the floor in a circle.
3. Pick a child to be the Mail Deliverer.
4. The Mail Deliverer walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child once on the shoulder with the letter while repeating "**No Mail**" with each tap.
5. When the Mail Deliverer says "**Mail!**" and drops the letter in a child's lap, that child grabs the letter, jumps up and runs around the circle chasing the Mail Deliverer.
6. If the Mail Deliverer runs all the way around the circle and sits in the circle where the child with the letter was sitting, then the child with the letter takes a turn as the Mail Deliverer.
7. If the child with the letter tags the Mail Deliverer, then that child returns to his or her place in the circle and the Mail Deliverer tries again to deliver the letter without being tagged.
8. Repeat until all have enjoyed a turn as the Mail Deliverer.

***Teacher Tip:** To create a fun atmosphere, play the Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time" or "The New Testament Overture." during the game.

SAY> Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the disciples. Isn't it exciting to know that same letter is right here for us in the Bible?

Got Time? continued...



GAME: COLLECT THE LETTERS

Purpose: To familiarize children with the concept that the New Testament contains stories about Jesus and many letters from those who believe in Him.

☑ Supplies:

☐ "New Testament Overture" song and player (or teacher may sing), 27 sheets of paper, Bible

☑ Prep Steps:

☐ Fold each sheets of paper in half to look like a letter.

☐ Scatter the letters around the play area.

☐ Optional: Substitute 27 sealed envelopes for the 27 sheets of paper.

SAY> (Hold up the Bible.) **God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers. Let's see if we can pick up all the Bible letters before the music stops!**

Directions:

1. Place the Bible on a table or chair in the center of the play area.
2. Play "The New Testament Overture" or teacher may sing.
3. Children collect the letters as fast as they can and stack them on top of the Bible.
4. After letters are stacked, children hold hands and form a circle around the Bible; then skip together in a circle until the end of the song.



GAME: LOTS OF LOVE TANGO

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song and player (or teacher may sing)

ASK> **Do you love God?** (Respond.) **God wants you to love Him with every part of your body—from the top of head to the tips of your toes! God wants you to love everyone around you, too! Look at everyone around you. They are your neighbors! Wave to your neighbors!**

Directions:

1. Help children find partners. Partners stand together.
2. Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song and do the following motions along with the lyrics to the song:
 - "You shall love the Lord your God,"** (Point up to God in Heaven.)
 - "With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."**
(Pat sides of body from top of head down to toes.)
 - "Love your neighbor as yourself—the best commandments you'll find!"**
(Hug partner.)
 - "Praise Time" chorus.** (Hop, clap, or dance to the rhythm of the music.)

Got Time? continued...



GAME: HEART HOP

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

☒ **Supplies:**

☐ Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape

☒ **Prep Steps:**

☐ Tape the paper heart shapes in a large circle on the floor.

Directions:

1. Children stand on every other heart.
2. Say the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse. Have children repeat each word after you.
3. Say the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse again. This time, children turn to their right and hop from one heart to the next heart on each word.



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: "A Letter from John about Love"

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about loving others as God loves us.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 5, Lesson 22: A Letter About Love

PONDER! Read 1 John 4:7a, 12 with your family. This is one of John's letters. We find John's letters in the Bible. God told John what to write in the letters. Where did John say loves comes from? Who should you love?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for helping John write us a letter about loving each other. Help us to love one another. Amen."

PLAY! Decorate a box to be your mailbox for your letters from the Bible. Put today's craft inside your mailbox. During the week, take out your letter craft to remind your family about what we can learn about the letters from the Bible.

Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."