



A Letter About Love

Lesson Aim: To learn to love one another.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

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

What He Has Done: God led John to write about love.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Helping Others, Galatians 6:10	God led Paul to write about helping others.	To love all people by doing good deeds.
24	A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins, 1 John 1:8-9	God led John to write about the forgiveness of sins.	To know we all have done wrong and if we admit our wrongdoing to Jesus, He always forgives us.
25	A Letter About Forgiving Others, Ephesians 4:32	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know we are to forgive others.
26	A Letter About Prayer, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray to God when we are worried.
27	A Letter About Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus, Hebrews 12:1-3	God led the writer of Hebrews to write about focusing on Jesus.	To think of Jesus in all we say and do.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 14:15-27. Please join us in praying, "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 we can love one another. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Love One Another: Today's lesson provides a great opportunity to talk with the children about how we can care for each other. Encourage the children to interact with each other. Provide opportunities for them to care for someone else in the class. Praise children when you see them acting in a loving way.

Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature various letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the letter in a mailbox known as the "Special Delivery Mailbox." See THE WORD for more details.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Mailbox, stamp or sticker of a heart
		Coloring Center: A Letter About Love	Coloring pages of a heart shape, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: God's Love For Us	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Ball Center: Who Does God Love?	Beach ball or other soft ball
	Letter Games	See GOT TIME?	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "With God All Things Are Possible" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Guide Me" "I Will Listen" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: 1 John 4:7a, 12	Visuals: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, beach ball
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Love Necklace	Sturdy paper, yarn, large washable ink pad (or non-toxic, washable paint), wet hand wipes or soap and water, crayons or markers
		Game: Share His Love	One large paper heart
		Game: Jesus Loves You!	Song: "Jesus Loves You"
	Snack: Hearts of Love	Any heart-shaped snack	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 22
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Games: Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Verse	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Hop	Bible
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about loving others as God loves us

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child opens the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a heart remind us to love each other.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: A LETTER ABOUT LOVE

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of a heart shape, crayons

DO

Children color the heart shape as they talk about today's lesson.

TALK ABOUT

Who can tell me where your heart is? (Children respond.) **The heart on your coloring page doesn't look much like your real heart, but when we see a heart shape, it reminds us of love. God wants us to love Him and to love each other. What is one way you can show love to God?** (Pray, read the Bible, sing songs to Him, help others, etc.) **What is one way you can show love to others?** (Children respond.) **Can you draw a picture of one way you can show love to God or others inside the heart on your coloring page?**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD'S LOVE FOR US

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing God's love for us. Encourage children to make a heart shape with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Who can tell me how much God loves us? (Children respond.) **Does He love us this much?** Hold your hands just a few inches apart. (No.) **Does He love us this much?** Hold your hands about a foot apart. (No.) **Does He love us this much?** Hold your hands farther apart. (No.) **Does He love us this much?** Stretch your arms as far apart as you can. (No.) **God loves us more than we can say, doesn't He?** (Yes.) **Let's make a heart shape and remember how much God loves us.**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BALL CENTER: WHO DOES GOD LOVE?

SUPPLIES

Beach ball or other soft ball

DO

Children remember how much God loves us.

TALK ABOUT

Children stand or sit in a circle. **God loves each and every one of us. Is there anyone God does not love? (No.) God loves all of us.**

When I roll (or toss) the ball to you, I'm going to ask you, "Who does God love?" I want you to answer by saying, "God loves" and say your name. Show the children what you mean by rolling (or tossing) the ball to a helper and having the helper say, "God loves his or her name." Continue playing until each child has a turn.

LETTER GAMES

SUPPLIES

Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

DO

Play one of the Letter Games listed in GOT TIME?

TALK ABOUT

Use the letter games to help children understand the letters we are learning are found in the Bible and are God's letters to us.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
Matthew 19:26b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.

Today, we will learn God wants us to love others. One way we can do that is by welcoming each other to Praise Time. Name each child and lead the class in saying, "**Welcome child's name.**"



Now, let's bow our heads and talk to God in prayer. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for teaching us about love. Help us to remember to show our love to You and to others. Amen.**



Sometimes it is hard to love one another. God can help us because, with Him, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26b says "With God all things are possible." That's our new Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together. Practice several times.

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
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Matthew 19:26b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Now, let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "With God All Things Are Possible."

Love comes from God. We can show God we love Him by singing praises and by giving our offering to help His Church. Sing: "Love One Another" while collecting the offering.



I hear our friend Delbert is waiting for a special letter about love today. Let's call for him! Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22.



We know how to love one another because God has shown us what love is. We love because He first loved us. Sing: "We Love."



John's letter says, "Love one another"

THE WORD

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, beach ball

Prepare: Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible in the mailbox used for THE WELCOME.

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

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.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Allow the children to toss the ball to each other before starting. **Beach balls are fun, aren't they? What games can you play with a beach ball?** (Children respond.) **Those sounds like fun games.**

What can you tell me about this ball? (Colors, round, etc.) **There's no beginning or end to a ball, is there? It just goes round and round. God's love is like this ball. God has always loved us and He always will—there's no beginning and no end to His love.**

God wants our love to be like this ball, too. What did we do with it when we started? (Tossed it to each other, shared it.) **God wants us to share our love with others just like we shared the ball. How can you share your love with someone?** (Hug, share, help them, etc.)

This week, we will begin reading some special letters from the Bible. These letters were written by people who love Jesus. Who would like to open the Special Delivery Mailbox for this week's letter? Choose a child to open the mailbox, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. **Today's letter was written by Jesus' friend John. We can read it in the Bible in 1 John 4:7a, 12. Each time you hear the word "love," I want you to give yourself a hug. Ready?** Read the 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

Where does love come from? (God.) **Who should we love?** (One another.)

Let's ask God to help us to love others. Dear God, thank You for always loving us and allowing us to share that love with everyone we meet. Amen.



We can love one another

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: LOVE NECKLACE

Purpose: To remind the children that John's letter reminds us to love one another.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, yarn, large washable ink pad (or non-toxic, washable paint), wet hand wipes or soap and water, crayons or markers

Prepare: Cut a 30-inch piece of yarn. Draw the outline of a large heart on sturdy paper. The heart should be large enough for two children's handprints. Punch a hole near the center of the top of the heart. Near the top of the heart, print:

Love one another

1 John 4:7a, 12

Option: Give two paper handprints of the same color to each child. Children attach one paper handprint to their hearts and exchange the other paper handprint with a friend to add to his or her heart.

Directions:

1. Color the heart.
2. Divide children into pairs.
3. Working with each pair of children, assist them in pressing a hand onto the inkpad and then on the left side of their own paper heart and the right side of their partner's paper heart.
4. Help the children wash the ink off their hands.
5. Assist the children in threading yarn through the hole and making a knot to create a necklace.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who wrote the letter we read today?** (John.) **The Holy Spirit guided John to know what to write in the letter.**
- **What did John remind us to do?** ("Love one another.")
- **When you shared your handprint, you showed love to your friend. What is another way you could show love to your friend?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: SHARE HIS LOVE

Purpose: Children will tell each other "God loves you!"

Supplies: One large paper heart

Directions:

1. Children sit or stand in a circle.
2. **There are many ways we can show love. Let's give each other high-fives.** Lead children in giving each other high-fives.
3. **Can we show love by giving a hug?** (Children respond.) **Sure! Let's give each other hugs.**
4. **Where does love come from?** (God.) Show children the large paper heart.
5. **Imagine this heart is God's love. Let's share His love by passing it around the circle.**
6. **As you give the heart to the person next to you, I want you to say, "God loves you!"**
7. Give the heart to the child next to you and say, **"God loves you."**
8. Children continue passing the heart around the circle until it comes back to you.
9. Play again as time allows. For added fun, challenge the children to see how quickly they can pass the heart around the circle.

GAME: JESUS LOVES YOU!

Purpose: Children will practice sharing a message of God's love.

Supplies: Song: "Jesus Loves You"

God gave John a special message which John wrote in a letter. What did God tell us to do? ("Love one another.") **One great way to love others is to remind them that God loves them. Let's celebrate Jesus' love and dance together. When the music stops, I will ask you, "Who does Jesus love?" Together we will answer,**

Jesus loves you. (Point to another child.)

Jesus loves me. (Point to self.)

Jesus loves every child He sees! (Stretch arms wide.)

Directions:

1. Play: "Jesus Loves You."
2. As the music plays, everyone dances.
3. After a short time, stop the music and ask, **"Who does Jesus love?"**
4. Lead the class in saying,

Jesus loves you. (Point to another child.)

Jesus loves me. (Point to self.)

Jesus loves every child He sees! (Stretch arms wide.)

5. Place your hand on the shoulder of one of the children and say, **"Does Jesus love name of child?"**
6. Lead the children in saying, **"Jesus loves name of child!"**
7. Restart the music.
8. Repeat steps 2-7 until each child's name is called in steps 5 & 6. If you have a larger class, you may want to call the name of more than one child in steps 5 & 6 each time you stop the music.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: HEARTS OF LOVE

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

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack

The people listened when Paul told them about Jesus. Let's remember how they listened as we listen to the crunch of our noisy snack!

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another 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. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who does God want you to love?** (One another.)
 - **Who are some people you can love?** (Children respond.)
 - **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 you love them?** (Tell them you love them, make gifts or cards, help them, etc.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
Matthew 19:26b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

GAME: LETTER GAME #1

Purpose: Children play a hiding game using today's New Testament letter.

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter laying on top. **God helped a man named John write a letter about love. We find it in the Bible. The letter guides us in how to love one another. Let's play a game of hiding the letter. When we find it, we will read the letter together.**

Directions:

1. Choose a child to hide the letter in the envelope.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding the letter.
3. On your signal, the other children open their eyes and search for the letter.
4. The child who finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to you.
5. Read today's letter to the children and put it back in the envelope.
6. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

GAME: LETTER GAME #2

Purpose: Children play a variation of Duck, Duck, Goose using today's New Testament letter.

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter lying on top. **God led John to write a letter to people about love. That special letter was delivered to us through the Bible. Let's practice delivering special letters by playing, "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Pick a child to be the Mail Deliverer.
3. 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.
4. 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.
 - If the Mail Deliverer runs all the way around the circle and sits in the spot where the child with the letter was sitting, then the child with the letter takes a turn as the Mail Deliverer.
 - 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.
5. Play until each child has a turn as the Mail Deliverer.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

GAME: CIRCLE VERSE

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

Supplies: None

"With God all things are possible." That's our Bible Memory Verse. Let's add the sign language and pass the good news around the circle.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Teach the hand motions as you say the verse:

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around it comes back to touch the palm of the hand.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
5. When the message has made its way around the whole circle, lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse together with the motions and cheer.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE HOP

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

Supplies: Bible

Let's review our Bible Memory Verse. After I say each word, repeat it and take one hop toward me. When you get close enough to touch the Bible I'm holding, you may sit.

Directions:

1. Children stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. If you have a large class, divide them into groups, and have the groups take turns playing.
2. Stand at the opposite end of the room, holding an open Bible.
3. Say each word of the Bible Memory Verse, one at a time. As the children repeat each word, they take one hop toward you.
4. When each child is close enough, he or she touches the Bible and sits down.
5. Continue until each child has touched the Bible, repeating the Bible Memory Verse from the beginning as needed.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



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

Unit 5, Lesson 22: A Letter About Love

PONDER! God led John to write a letter about love (1 John 4:7a, 12). Where does love come from? Who should we love?

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

PLAY! Draw and color a big heart that stands for your love. Hide the heart and ask a family member to search for it. When it is found, hug your family member and say, "I love you!" Take turns hiding the heart.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With God

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

all things

(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.

are possible."

(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.

Matthew 19:26b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.