



# 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.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "Love one another."

## 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 Tips:** Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature 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 symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Mailbox</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "Love one another."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "With God All Things Are Possible" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The New Testament Overture" (Ages 6-12 BMVS) "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Special Delivery:</b> 1 John 4:7a, 12	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, sturdy red paper, mailbag or tote bag
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Love Necklace	Sturdy paper, yarn, large washable ink pad (or non-toxic, washable paint), wet hand wipes or soap and water, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> Hearts from God	Two red paper heart shapes per child
		<b>Game:</b> Pass the Love Letter	Sturdy white paper, red marker
		<b>Snack:</b> Hearts of Love	Any heart-shaped snack
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 22 Color This Story: "A Letter from John About Love" (A picture of a heart)
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Collect the Letters	"The New Testament Overture" Song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Circle Verse	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Bible Memory Verse Hop	Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about loving others as God loves us

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Love one another

## THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come and 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "Love one another."** Teach the 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 [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**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 toward each other as fists circle one another to show they are in close proximity.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has 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," 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 Bible story.



The Spirit who guides us

## THE WORSHIP

**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.

**It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who guides us. The Holy Spirit guides us in how to follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped John write a letter about love. It guides us in how to love one another. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let’s try it together.** Review the Whisper Verse together: “Love one another.” Include sign language.



**Let’s say our Whisper Verse one more time, and then we can sing it!** Say the Whisper Verse: “Love one another.” Sing: “Love One Another.”

**Love comes from God. We can show God we love Him by singing praises to Him and by giving our offering to help His Church.** Sing: “How Great Is Our God” or “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” while collecting the offering.



**I hear our friend Delbert is waiting for a special letter 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.** Sing: “We Love.”

**Sometimes it is hard to love one another. God can help us because, with Him, all things are possible. That reminds me of our new Bible Memory Verse. Let’s sing it now.** Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, “With God All Things Are Possible.”



John's letter says, "Love one another"

## THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;  
My mouth quiet as can be,  
I will listen to hear,  
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.  
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.  
Cup hand around ear.  
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Paul told people in his house about Jesus. This week, we will begin reading some special letters in the Bible written by believers to people like you and me. The first letter we will read is about love; it is from Jesus' friend John.

### SPECIAL DELIVERY: 1 JOHN 4:7A, 12

**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. Cut the shape of a large paper heart from sturdy red paper. Place the Bible and the paper heart in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag).

**Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to find this week's letter.** Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. **Where does love come from?** (God.) **Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible.** Open the Bible and remove today's New Testament letter. 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

**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.

**Our symbol for John's letter about love is a heart.** Invite a child to reach into the mailbag to find today's symbol (a large paper heart). **Let's talk about John's letter as we play "Pass the Heart."** **If you know the answer to the question I ask, raise your hand. When someone passes you the heart, hold it and tell us your answer.**

**PASS THE HEART:** One at a time, ask each of the questions below. Give the paper heart to a child who has raised his or her hand. The child gives his or her answer and then gives the heart to another child whose hand is raised.

- **Who do you love? How can you show them you love them?**
- **Who loves you? How does that person show he or she loves you?**
- **No one has ever seen God. What do you think God looks like?**



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.")**
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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: HEARTS FROM GOD**

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

**Supplies:** Two red paper heart shapes per child

**Where does love come from?** (God.)

**Directions:**

1. **Imagine the falling hearts are God's love for you!**
2. Drop and scatter hearts from above the children's heads.
3. **Catch two hearts; one for you and one for a friend.**
4. Each child picks up two hearts.
5. **Give one heart to a friend!**
6. Help each child find a partner.
7. Each child keeps one heart to remember God loves him or her.
8. Each child gives the other heart to his or her partner to show love to one another.
9. Play again as time allows.

## **GAME: PASS THE LOVE LETTER**

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

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper, red marker

**Prepare:** On the paper, write: **"God ♥s you!"**

**God told John a special message which John wrote in a letter. What did John tell us to do?** ("Love one another.") **One great way to love others is to remind them that God loves them. Let's share a letter about God's love with each other.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Show the letter and read the message with the children.
3. Deliver (pass) the letter to the child on your left, then say and sign, **"Love one another."**
4. That child delivers (passes) the letter to the child on his or her left, then says and signs, **"Love one another."**
5. Play until the letter has been delivered to each child all the way around the circle.
6. Play again. This time, have children pass a hug, a handshake, or a high five around the circle while saying the Whisper Verse.

# 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

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. **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 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.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

**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.**

**Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Love Necklace" craft. Tell someone at home that John wrote a letter about love which can be found in the Bible.

**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.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "A Letter from John About Love." For today's Color This Story, draw the outline of a heart. Ask children to draw a picture of one way they can show love to others inside the heart. Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible," as the children color.





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

**Directions:**

1. Choose a child to hide the letter.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding today's New Testament letter in the play area.
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

**Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of Jesus' friends. Isn't it wonderful to know that same letter was delivered to us through the Bible? (Children respond.) To practice delivering special letters, let's play "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**

**Directions:**

1. Children sit 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...*

## **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:** "The New Testament Overture" song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible

**Prep Steps:** Fold each sheet of paper in half to look like a letter. Scatter the letters (or envelopes) around the play area.

**Optional:** Write the name of one of the New Testament books of the Bible on each of the sheets of paper or envelopes.

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."
3. Children collect the letters as fast as they can and stack them on top of the Bible.
4. After the letters are stacked, have the children hold hands and form a circle around the Bible. Skip or move in a circle until the song is done.



## **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 hand motions 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"** (Point to heaven.)  
    **"all things"** (Stretch arms in a wide circle.)  
    **"are possible."** (Thumbs up motion.)
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
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.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **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.



## **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!** Read 1 John 4:7a, 12 with your family. These verses come from one of John's letters. We find his letters in the Bible. God led John to write the letters. Where did John say love comes from? Who should you 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!** Play a game to show your love to someone. Draw and color a big heart that stands for your love. Hide the heart and then ask a family member to search for it. Be sure to give clues to help him or her find your heart. When it is found, hug your family member and say, "I love you!"

### **Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse:**

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