

Camp Venture Counselor's Guide: Ages 6-12 Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation Unit 5, Lesson 22

# **Letters About Love**

Lesson Aim: To understand love as it is explained in the Bible.

### THE WORSHIP - AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

### THE WORD & THE WAY - TENT TIME

**New Testament Letters:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12 **What He Has Done:** God led Paul and John to write about love.

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

	Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance				
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim		
22	Letters About Love, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12	God led Paul and John to write about love.	To understand love as it is explained in the Bible.		
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27	God led Paul to write about unity.	To learn that the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus.		
24	Letters About Forgiveness of Sin, Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul and John to each write about forgiveness of sins.	To know we are all sinners and that through Christ we are forgiven and rescued from the punishment for sin.		
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us.		
26	Letters About Peace, Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about peace of mind.	To know God can give us peace of mind in all circumstances.		
27	Letters About Perseverance, Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To know that keeping our focus on Jesus will strengthen us to never give up.		

### **COUNSELOR'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."

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Prophets & Promises Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc. Camp Venture is most often introduced as Sunday School curriculum during school vacation months but can easily be adapted as a Vacation Bible School curriculum.

Permission is granted to reproduce these materials. Not for resale. Use is subject to the Terms of Use available at ResourceWell.org. Terms are subject to change without notice. All other rights are reserved.



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE	Up to 25	Camp Games: Share Your Heart	4 buckets, 4 cups, marbles in 4 colors (or buttons,
WELCOME	·	Relay	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
THE	Up to 20	Worship	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:
Worship	ļ	Sheet music and recordings for	"Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock"
_	ļ	Bible Memory Verse Songs	Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:
AT THE	ļ	available at ResourceWell.org	"Praise the Lord, O My Soul"
CAMPFIRE	ļ		"The New Testament Overture"
	ļ		"Where the Spirit of the Lord Is"
	ļ		Additional Hymn Suggestion:
	ļ		"I Love You, Lord"
	ļ		"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
	ļ	Worship Scripture Reading:	Bible
		Matthew 22:37-39	
	ļ	Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 22 Bible Barn script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 5	New Testament Letters:	Bibles
&		1 Corinthians 13:4-7;	
THE WAY		1 John 4:11-12	
	Up to 10	Pen Pal Letter	Mailbag, Scripture reference list, Bible, Pen Pal
TENT TIME			Letter, paper hearts (see Tent Time.)
	Up to 5	Share a Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	New Testament Postcards, heart stamps or stickers, Daily Ways and basket or W³s for the older children, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Heart-Shaped Snack	Any heart-shaped snack
	Up to 10	Game: How Do You Love?	Two pieces of cloth
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible
	Up to 5	<b>Discussion:</b> More Letters About Love	Bible
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Care Package—Basket of Love	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity:	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5
		Ask, Seek, Knock!	Bible Memory Verse Song
	Up to 15	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Race to Repeat	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

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



Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will 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 letters teach us about love. Let's play a camp game where we can share our hearts!

**Optional:** For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

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

**Purpose:** To introduce some of the teachings about love found in the New Testament letters. **Supplies:** 4 buckets, 4 cups, marbles in 4 colors (or buttons, bean bags, colored candies, painted pebbles, etc.), 1 piece of sturdy paper in each of the 4 colors of the marbles, floor tape or chalk **Prepare:** Cut a heart shape from each color of sturdy paper. Tape one heart shape to the side of each bucket. Place the four buckets in the center of the play area. Use floor tape to mark four starting lines close enough for campers to toss the marbles into the buckets. Place each color of marbles in a cup; each cup should have the same number of marbles.

Let's pretend these marbles are hearts. The bucket with the colored heart that is the same color as your heart marble is your team's bucket. In this relay, your goal is to toss your heart marbles into one of the buckets, but because this is the "Share Your Heart Relay," your heart marble only counts if it goes into another team's bucket. So, 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. Give the first camper on each team the cup of marbles.
- 5. On your signal, the first camper in each line takes a marble from the cup and tries to toss it into the other teams' buckets.
- 6. When that camper is successful, he or she goes to the end of the line and the next camper takes a turn.
- 7. Continue playing until one team gets all its marbles into the other teams' buckets.
- 8. Determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place by counting the number of marbles they got into the other teams' buckets.

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

**Counselor Clue:** All games may be adapted to a competitive or a non-competitive version. Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers.

# THE WELCOME - CAMP GAMES continued...

## **Option: Team Point System for Camp Venture Units 5-6**

**Teams:** To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

**Point System:** Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

**Grand Prize:** On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

**About Competition:** Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the 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, and 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.

**Counselor Clue:** To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.



Read Matthew 22:37-39. We worship the Spirit who guides us in living a life that pleases God. One way the Holy Spirit guides us is through others who love Him.



During worship, everyone who loves God gets to join together to show Him 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: "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord" while collecting the offering.

Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on love.



Perform Bible Barn script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

### 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.

Today's Camp Critter is the lovebird. Lovebirds are a special type of parrot; they love to be together! Today's lovebird reminds us of today's New Testament letters about love.



**Counselor Clue:** 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.

**Prepare:** Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12) and place it in the counselor's Bible. Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. In a mailbag, place the New Testament letter scripture references, the counselor's Bible, Pen Pal Letter, and paper hearts (see below).

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time, we learned 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.



Counselor 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. Counselor removes the Bible from the mailbag, opens it, and removes the 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 would 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 love. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

John also wrote letters about the importance of love. John tells us what happens when we love one another. Read 1 John 4:11-12.

Directions for creating the paper hearts referenced in the Pen Pal Letter on the next page: Cut 15 paper hearts from sturdy paper. Print each of the following 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIRV) statements onto one of the 15 paper hearts and place them all in a bag.

- 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.

During Tent Time, we open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letters have to do with our lives. Read the Pen Pal letter.

### 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...New Testament letters, that is! Today's letters are about love. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Paul explained what love is. In 1 John 4:11-12, John explained why love is so important.

John wrote about how loving each other can help us see God. 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. Remove the bag of paper hearts from the mailbag. Invite the campers to pick a heart. For groups larger than 15, campers may share hearts.

Each heart describes something about 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, if your heart says "Love is patient," you might remember showing love by being patient when you taught your little brother how to ride his bike. Campers share their individual experiences. Counselor may help younger campers or non-readers.

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

It's important to God that we love Him and love others. Until we meet again, see how many new ways you can love God and the people He created.

Believe and Be love! Your Pen Pal

## THE WAY continued...



Let's thank God for His love. We can pray for each other and all who live in this world to know His love for us. Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Father in heaven, thank You for loving us. Help everyone to know Your love and help us love others. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: 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.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

<u>NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD</u>: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a heart to remind you to love everyone. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way and W<sup>3</sup>. Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

**TREASURE TREAT:** The Treasure Treats for Units 5 and 6 are New Testament Postcards. Campers receive a postcard and a stamp or sticker. The postcards are available at Resourcewell.org. If stamps or stickers are not available, have campers draw the stamp in the designated box.

<u>DAILY WAY CHALLENGE</u>: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 22 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.

<u>W<sup>3</sup> CHALLENGE (For Older Campers)</u>: Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #22 instead of the Daily Way. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

<u>LETTERS FROM CAMP</u>: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Sign it and give it to a family member.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



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

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

Snack Suggestion: Any heart-shaped snack

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 people you love them. Listen closely to each other's answers because you might get some new ideas about how to show your love!

### **Directions:**

- 1. Serve snack and drinks.
- 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 their love for someone.

Supplies: Two pieces of cloth

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

Today, we learned about love. Let's think of ways we can show 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.
  - My little brother pinched me. How can I show love to him?
  - My best friend just got the game or toy I wanted. 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?
- 4. Teams discuss the question and decide on an answer to give.
- 5. The team captain waves the team's flag and shares the team's answer.
- 6. After both teams have answered, have teams select a new team captain.
- 7. Choose another Love Question and play again.

## GOT TIME? continued...

### **GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE**

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

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New

Testament Overture" song, Bible

**Prepare:** Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so 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 clothespins.
- 3. To help the campers, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
- 4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge campers to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

## **DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT LOVE**

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

Supplies: Bible

Love does not cover sins in the way that a secret is covered up or hidden. Love covers sins in the way a loving hug helps as we forgive one another for our wrongdoings. Paul and John are not the only disciples who God led to write letters about love. Let's read the letter Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:8-11. Read.

### 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.

## GOT TIME? continued...

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

**Purpose:** Campers create a gift to show their love to others.

**Supplies:** Red, pink, or white sturdy paper or craft foam, scissors, hole punch, yarn or ribbon, Basket of Love template (available at ResourceWell.org), cardboard or sturdy paper, candy or similar treats, pencils, colored pens, assorted craft supplies (sequins, glitter, stickers), glue, box for shipping or delivering all the baskets

**Prepare:** Create several copies of the template on cardboard or sturdy paper for campers to trace. Each camper will need a 2-foot length of yarn. Determine the recipient(s) of the care package (see Counselor Clues below). You may wish to make a sample craft before class.

#### **Counselor Clues:**

- Suggested Care Package Recipients: Elderly care facility, homebound neighbor, orphanage, 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.
- Provide extra candy for the campers to enjoy.

Today, we learned what a few of the New Testament letters say about love. Who wrote the book of 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.)

One way we can show our love is by caring for others. During Camp Venture, we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make "Baskets of Love" to give to people who need to know God loves them and that we love them, too. Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they understand who will be receiving the gifts.

### **Directions:**

- 1. Trace two copies of the heart template and one of the handle template onto red, pink, or white sturdy paper or craft foam.
- 2. Cut out the shapes.
- 3. Place the two hearts together and punch holes around the outside edge.
- 4. Thread the yarn through the first two matching holes and knot the yarn.
- 5. Sew the two hearts together by threading the yarn through each hole set. Continue threading through all the holes. Knot the yarn.
- 6. Attach the handle to both sides of the heart basket with glue.
- 7. Add or draw a message which tells the recipient(s) that God loves them and you do, too.
- 8. Decorate the basket with assorted craft supplies.
- 9. Place candy in the basket.
- 10. Place all the "Baskets of Love" together in a box.
- 11. Deliver the gifts!

# GOT TIME? continued...



## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

## **GAME: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!**

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song

Our Bible Memory Verse is the words of Jesus encouraging us to keep praying because God is good and He answers our prayers. How do you think God feels when we pray about our questions and our needs? (Campers respond.) God never tires of hearing our prayers! What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Campers respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Campers respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. For example, you can ask God to somehow make a way for you to tell someone about Jesus. You can use the word "ASK" to help you remember our Bible Memory Verse:

A stands for "Ask and it will be given to you."

S stands for "Seek and you will find."

K stands for "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

#### Directions:

- 1. Campers sit in a circle.
- 2. Lead the campers in reciting or singing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.
- 3. Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by going around the circle and each saying the next word in the verse. I will start.
- 4. Say the first word of the verse, "Ask."
- 5. The camper on your left says the next word, "and."
- 6. Continue around the circle until the entire verse is said.
- 7. As time allows, play again. Challenge the campers to recite the verse 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. Arrange the teams into two parallel lines about 15 20 feet from each other, facing each other.
- 4. Assign each team member with a number, so that each team has a player 1, 2, 3, and so on.
- 5. Place a Bible in the center of the play area between the two teams.
- 6. Call out a number.
- 7. The camper from each team with that number races to be the first one 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. (You may choose to allow campers to use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
- 8. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.