

Teacher's Guide: Ages 8-9
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 22

Letters About Love

Lesson Aim: To understand characteristics of love

such as not envying, boasting, or being proud.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

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

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Deuteronomy 6:5

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,	God led Paul and John to write	To understand the characteristics		
	1 Corinthians 13:1-7;	about love.	of love such as not envying,		
	1 John 4:11-12		boasting, or being proud.		
23	Letters About Unity,	God led Paul to write about unity.	To learn the body of Christ is		
	Ephesians 4:4-6;		made of different parts uniting to		
	1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27		serve and point others to Jesus.		
24	Letters About Forgiveness of Sin,	God led Paul to write about Jesus	To know we are all sinners who		
	Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23;	saving us from sin.	receive God's forgiveness through		
	Galatians 5:22-23		Jesus.		
25	Letters About Forgiving Others,	God led Paul to write about	To know God calls us to forgive		
	Colossians 3:12-13;	forgiving others.	others as He has forgiven us.		
	1 Corinthians 13:5				
26	Letters About Peace,	God led Paul and the writer of	To know God can give us peace		
	Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1	Hebrews to write about peace of	of mind in all circumstances.		
		mind.			
27	Letters About Perseverance,	God led Paul and the writer of	To learn that focusing on Christ		
	Hebrews 12:1-3;	Hebrews to write about	helps us to persevere.		
	Philippians 3:12-16, 20-21	persevering by focusing on Jesus.			

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 Tip: For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
WELCOME		Game: Share Your Heart Relay	See game for supply list.
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "The New Testament Overture" "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "I Love You, Lord" "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:37-39	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 22 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 John 4:11-12	Bibles, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, highlighters, "Perfect Love" paper hearts in a bag (See GOT TIME? for instructions.)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster,
		Christ Connection: Deuteronomy 6:5	mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards and heart stamps or stickers (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, 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 15	Craft: Care Package—Basket of Love	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
	Up to 5	Discussion: More Letters About Love	Bible
	Up to 10	Game: New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture," Bible
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Ask, Seek, Knock!	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song
	Up to 15	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Race to Repeat	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible
	Up to 5	New Testament Letters Review	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint- shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question. **Meet & Greet Question: Who is one person you love?**

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, same number of 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 a 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 children to toss the marbles into the buckets. Place each color of marbles in a cup; each cup should have the same number of marbles.

Teacher Tip: Small groups can play with two teams.

Let's pretend these marbles are hearts. Each team will be assigned a color. This relay is called "Share Your Heart Relay" because your heart marble only counts if you toss it into the bucket of another team. So, give your heart to another team!

Directions:

- 1. Help children divide into four teams of equal number.
- 2. Each team lines up behind one of the start lines.
- 3. Give the first child on each team the cup of marbles.
- 4. On your signal, the first child in each line takes a marble from the cup and tries to toss it into the other teams' buckets.
- 5. When that child succeeds, he or she goes to the end of the line and the next child takes a turn.
- 6. You may choose to periodically pause the game so a member of each team can collect any marbles that did not go in a bucket and put them back in the team's cup.
- 7. Continue playing until one team gets all its marbles into a bucket.
- 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 He wants us to love others!

Limited Space? Divide the room of children into two teams based on the location of their seats. Place the two buckets together in the middle of room. Use paper balls or beanbags instead of marbles and have the children toss the "hearts" into the buckets from their seats.



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 music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the Holy Spirit who guides us in living a life of love. When we worship God, we are showing Him how much we love Him. During worship time, everyone who loves God gets to join together to show Him love by joining our voices through songs and prayers. Sing: "Open the Eyes of My Heart."

In our new Bible Memory Verse Song, we will sing the promise Jesus made when He was teaching about prayer. Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock."

Another way we can show our love to God is with our offerings. Sing: "I Love You, Lord" while collecting the offering. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on love.



Another way we show God our love is by obeying His commandments. Jesus told us that the most important commandments are about loving God and others. Read Matthew 22:37-39.



Perform Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 22.



Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: Create the "Perfect Love" paper hearts as explained in the GOT TIME? section of this lesson. Place them in a small bag and place it inside the mailbag with the teacher's Bible and highlighters.

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class 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 Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

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. He wrote to the churches he had started during his travels. His first letter to the Corinthians taught them about the deepest, strongest kind of love—the love of Jesus. If a map is available, point to the ancient city of Corinth, Greece. This letter is found in the Bible's New Testament, along with 22 other letters written by Luke, Paul, Peter, James, John, and others. This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share letters written by these men and other disciples. Open the mailbag and remove the teacher's Bible and highlighters.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; 1 John 4:11-12. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go! Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. Let's highlight our Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

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? Child 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 13:1-7.

When Paul writes that love "always perseveres," that means love never gives up. John also wrote in his letters about the importance of love. John tells us what happens when we love one another. Read 1 John 4:11-12.



John wrote about how loving each other can help us see God. What do you think God looks like? (Children respond.) 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.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he describes perfect love in 15 ways. Remove the paper hearts from the mailbag. Invite each child to choose a heart. For groups larger than 15, children may share hearts. Each paper heart describes something about love such as "Love is patient" or "Love is kind." Read the words of Paul on your paper heart. Younger children or non-readers may need assistance. 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 catch a ball or a time when someone was patient with you while you learned something new. Children share their experiences.

Which of these hearts might be used to describe you? (Children respond.) Which of these hearts describes something that is often difficult for you? (Children respond.) Invite children to share the way of loving that they find to be the most difficult. Remember, God is perfect in all 15 ways of loving you!

Display the following three hearts: "Love does not envy," "Love does not boast," and "Love is not proud." Return the other hearts to the bag. To envy is to want what someone else has. It is also known as jealousy or greed. What situations tempt you to be jealous? (Children respond.) How can thankfulness help you with jealous feelings? (Children respond.) What situations tempt you to be greedy? (Children respond.) The opposite of greed is being generous or giving. Let's count how many ways you could be generous with others this week to show them God's generous love. Children brainstorm and count the ways they can be generous. To boast is to brag. When are you tempted to brag? (Children respond.) How might giving the credit to God for every good thing you do help you with bragging? (Children respond.) What tempts you to be proud? Being humble is the opposite of being proud. What can you say or do to help you be more humble and less proud? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

None of us are perfect at loving others. Years before Paul and John wrote about perfect love in their letters, Moses explained God's commandment about love. Let's check it out.



<u>FIND IT FIRST></u> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Deuteronomy 6:5. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Deuteronomy 6:5.

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

THE WAY continued...



Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

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

TREASURE TREAT: 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 on the Daily Way.) Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

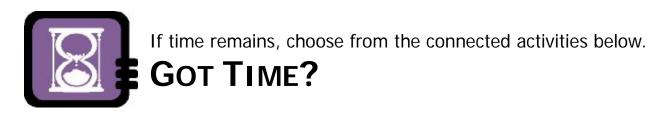
<u>DAILY WAY CHALLENGE</u>: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 22 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of one way to show God's love to others.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

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



SNACK: HEART-SHAPED SNACK

Purpose: Children 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. Child 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 children to consider practical ways they can show their love for someone.

Supplies: Two pieces of cloth

Teacher Tip: Create your own questions or have children 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 children 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 their team answer.
- 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.

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—BASKET OF LOVE

Purpose: Children 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

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

Teacher Tips:

- Suggested Care Package Recipients: Elderly care facility, homebound neighbor, orphanage, or children's ward in a hospital, homeless family shelter. If possible, take some or all children with you to deliver the care package locally or to place it in the mail for long distance delivery. Take pictures for the children to share when delivering the package or ask the recipient to send pictures.
- Pre-trace, cut, and punch holes for younger children.
- Provide extra candy for the children 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? (We should love because God loves us, and so others can see God's love.)

One way we can show our love is by caring for others. For the next few weeks, we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make "Baskets of Love" to give to people who need to know God loves them and that we love them, too. Share appropriate information about the care package recipient(s) with the children. 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 that 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!

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT LOVE

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

Supplies: Bible

Love does not cover sins in the way 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 one of Peter's letters. Read 1 Peter 4:8-11. What are some specific ways Peter gives us to love others?

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

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Children 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," Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the

papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

Directions:

- 1. Play "The New Testament Overture" two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
- 2. Challenge the children 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 children, 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 children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

THE WAY: "PERFECT LOVE" PAPER HEARTS

Purpose: To create the hearts used during THE WAY.					
Supplies: Sturdy paper, pencils or pens, markers, bag					
Prepare: 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. Decorate each heart and place them in a bag.					
□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.					



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: Children 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. What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Children respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Children respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. 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. Children sit in a circle.
- 2. Lead the children 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 child 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 children to recite the verse faster each time.

Option: For older children, use a timer or clock to see how quickly the verse is completed each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Children 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 children 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 children from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
- 8. The child who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow children to use the Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible as a reference.)
- 9. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.



NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Love (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) John and Paul wrote about perfect love. Who remembers how Paul described love in his letter to the Corinthians? (Children respond.) Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do you think is the best thing about love? (Children respond.) In John's letter, what did he say covers up sins? (Love.) What do you think John meant by that? (Children respond.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

- 1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
- 2. Print each New Testament Letters scroll on sturdy paper.
- 3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
- 4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
- 5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.): Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return