



A Letter About Love— Part 1

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

Challenge Verse for older children:

"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	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love—Part 1, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Love—Part 2, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	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—Part 1, 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 Prayer—Part 2, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray about everything.

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 that we can love one another. Amen."

Teacher Tips: 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 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	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Mailbox	Stamp or sticker of a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Love one another."
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: "With God All Things Are Possible" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," "Guide Me," "I Will Listen," "Love One Another," "The New Testament Overture," "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God," "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 22 Delbert & Lello or Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Special Delivery: 1 John 4:7a, 12	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, sturdy red paper, mailbag or tote bag Flannel board/figures: 3 people (at least 1 child) Clay or play-dough option: Heart
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
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Hearts of Love	Any heart-shaped snack
		Unit 5 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands
		Hearts From God	Two red paper heart shapes per child
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon
		Freeze Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Scenes from Mail Call (older children only)	Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26
		Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Bean Bag Toss	Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)
		Make A Story	4 stick puppets of children
	Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 5, Lesson 22 Color This Story: "A Letter From John About Love" (A picture of a heart)

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Love one another

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. **Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.**

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.)

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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children’s percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.

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” 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 God, 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.”

* May substitute Lesson 22 Mail Call script or storybook.



John's letter says, "Love one another"

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

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). Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a heart from clay or play dough as they listen to the story.

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. **I will read the letter to you and then we will talk about what it means.** 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 5 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the New Testament Letters or the Unit 5 Worship Attribute: The Spirit Who Guides Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 5 New Testament Letters. The pen reminds us of the letters God led people to write to help us as we follow Jesus. The heart-shaped item reminds us to love one another. The cross reminds us that Jesus forgives us and we are to forgive others. The hands remind us to pray when we are worried. We can pray to God about everything!

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.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon

Optional: For a more challenging game, use the Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Matthew 7:7). Phrases may be divided as follows: "Ask/ and it will be given to you/ seek/ and you will find/ knock/ and the door will be opened to you."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball into the air. As soon as the ball lands again on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Matthew 19:26b): "With God/all things/are possible."

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place an inflatable ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball into the air.
4. When the ball lands back on the blanket, lead children in saying a word or a phrase ("With God/ all things/ are possible.") of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play several times.

GAME: FREEZE DANCE

Purpose: To practice the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "With God All Things Are Possible" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," CD player

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Freeze Dance. Be sure to stop and freeze when you hear the music stop.

Directions:

1. Children dance as the Bible Memory Verse Song is played.
2. Have a helper periodically pause the music.
3. When the music stops, everyone "freezes" (stops in place and doesn't move). When the helper restarts the music, the children begin dancing again.
4. Play as long as you like.

GAME: SCENES FROM MAIL CALL

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 5 Bible stories, older children act out today's Mail Call script.

Supplies: Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's New Testament Letter.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: 1 chair per child, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: BEAN BAG TOSS

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

Supplies: Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)

Prepare: Use hula-hoop, rope, or floor tape to create a large target area on the floor.

Directions:

1. Give a beanbag to the first child.
2. Stand with the child approximately 6 feet from the target.
3. Before tossing the beanbag, the child says part of the Bible Memory Verse. (The teacher may say it with the child, as needed.)
4. Child tosses the beanbag at the target.
5. Children take turns to see who can reach the target.
6. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: MAKE A STORY

Purpose: To express the meaning of the Unit 5 Whisper Verses.

Supplies: 4 stick puppets of children

Directions:

1. Ask children if they would like to make up a story about one of the Whisper Verses listed below.
"Love one another."
"Do good to all people."
"Forgive each other."
2. Each child can make up his or her own story or children can make up a story together.
3. Encourage children to use the stick puppets to act out the stories.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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.

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way 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" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

Unit 5, Lesson 22: A Letter About Love—Part 1

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

Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge 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