Lesson 3: God Is Love

Overview:

Key Focus God shows His love through His plan of salvation.

Bible Story: God's Love Throughout the Bible

Scriptures: Genesis 2:8–3:8; John 19:5–7, 28–30; 20:11–18

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Cut heart shapes and write directions on them. (See Bible Story Activities.)

Classroom Prep:

- Ask your classroom helpers questions about their favorite things (Ex. What food do you love? What animal do you love? What worship song do you love? What flavor ice cream do you love? What book of the Bible do you love the most?). Write the answers on a white board or pieces of paper that you can read from. Make sure you have the answers for yourself, but not in a place where the kids can read them.

Engage:

Play a guessing game based on questions you asked your classroom helpers before class time. Read questions with answers and have the kids guess who gave that answer. End with the question, "**Who loves you enough to send His Son to die for you?"** (God) **Today, we will discover that God's love is shown through His plan of salvation, and everything He does is based on the fact that God is love.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and divide the verse into three sections based on the commas in the verse. Divide the children into three groups and have each group form a line facing their section of the verse. The first person in each group will say their third of the verse and go to the end of their line. After saying the verse, everyone says the reference. Then have the lines move to the next section of the verse (those in the third line move to the first position) and repeat the process allowing groups to practice all parts of the verse.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:8 (NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Bible Story:

We learned that God created everything, but only man was created in the image or likeness of God. Paraphrase Genesis 2:8–25. **The woman was made from the rib of the man, and both of them lived in the Garden of Eden. Each day God came and spent special time together with them in the garden. God's directions were to take care of the garden but not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.**

Read Genesis 3:1–8. **The Bible tells us the serpent was cunning and that means he was deceitful or used trickery and shouldn't be trusted. Eve shouldn't have listened to the serpent—she should have run away from it. When we hear something that isn't the truth, we don't have to listen to it. What lie did the serpent tell Eve?** (He said that if she eats the fruit, she will be like God and know good and evil.) **We know that was a lie because God created people in His image and likeness. She was already like God, but she listened to the serpent and ate the fruit along with Adam, her husband. When God came to see them, what did they do?** (They hid.) **Why do you think they hid?** (They knew they had done what was wrong.)

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit, which was the first sin. Because of sin, God had to remove them from the garden. They no longer walked and talked with God, but were separated from God. The separation was not what God wanted. He created people to love and worship Him, but sin ruined the relationship between God and humans. Did the Bible end when sin separated Adam and Eve from God? (No.) Hold up your Bible and show that Genesis 3 is still at the beginning of the Bible. **The whole Bible is one complete story of God's love. God created the world, and people were His special creation in His image. He loved people and created everything they needed. He blessed them with creating beauty and variety in things for them to enjoy. God loved people and wanted to stay in a relationship with them. God's love for the people was so huge that He made a plan to allow people back into a relationship with Him.**

Hold up your Bible and flip through to John. **All of these pages in the Bible between Genesis and the New Testament tell how God was getting His plan ready. After hundreds of years, it was time for God's love gift to come to the earth. God sent Jesus, His Son, to live a perfect, sinless life so that He could pay the price for the sins of all people—including you and me! God's plan meant that Jesus would be arrested, beaten, and put on trial.**

Read John 19:5–7. **Pilate was the Roman in charge, and he didn't find anything wrong with Jesus. The people wanted Jesus crucified, which means to be nailed to a wooden cross and die. The people didn't like that Jesus said that He was God's Son, so they crucified Jesus, meaning He was nailed on a large, wooden cross.**

Read John 19:28–30. **Jesus knew God's plan of love that was written in the scriptures, and He agreed with the plan to die for our sins. What a strange way to show love, by allowing Jesus to die, but that was God's plan. Let's see if that is the end of the story or if it is a new beginning.**

Read John 20:11–18. **After three days, God raised Jesus from the dead. God's plan had worked, and now people could be in a relationship with God again. Jesus paid the price for all sin— sin no longer comes between God and us.** Lead the children in a cheer. **Mary was the first person to see Jesus alive after He had died. What did Mary immediately do after Jesus talked to her?** (She told the disciples that Jesus was alive.) **Now that we know about God's love for us, we can go and tell people just like Mary did. What do you think Mary told people?** (Answers will vary.) **We can tell people the good news about God's love being shown by sending Jesus and forgiving our sins.**

Bible Story Questions:

- **What was special about the Garden of Eden?** (God spent special time with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.)
- **What caused sin to enter the world?** (The serpent talked to Eve and told her she would be like God if she ate the fruit that God said not to eat. She and her husband disobeyed God and ate the fruit.)
- **How do you think God felt about the people He created sinning and ruining their relationship with Him?** (Possible answers: disappointed, sad, sorry)
- **How do you think Adam and Eve felt?** (Possible answers: upset with themselves, angry at the serpent for tricking them, guilty, ashamed)
- **How did Jesus' death on the cross show God's love?** (Jesus paid the price for sin, and people could be in a relationship with God again.)
- **Who do you know who needs to hear about God's love and plan of salvation?** (Answers will vary.) Encourage children to show God's love to the person by telling them about salvation.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Before class, cut heart shapes and write a direction on each heart: tell the person on your left that God loves them; shake 3 people's hands and tell them God loves them; hug yourself and whisper God loves me; high-five 2 people and tell them God loves them; hop over to someone and tell them God loves them; and walk backward to 2 people and tell them God loves them. Select a volunteer to pick a heart. Read the directions and have everyone do what it says.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Gather several boxes of varying sizes that will fit inside each other. Inside each box, put a heart that says "God is love. God loves YOU!" Wrap the smallest box and set it inside the next size box and wrap it. Continue until you have one large wrapped box containing all other boxes inside it. Have the children sit in a circle. Sing “Jesus Loves Me” while passing the box around the circle. At the end of the song, the child holding the box unwraps one box and you read the heart to the child. Repeat until the last box is unwrapped.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Introduce and discuss “The Romans Road to Salvation”: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23b). Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9).

Worksheet:

Read the directions and have the children count the number of words “LOVE” inside the heart. Have them use their Bibles to look up 1 John 3:18 or display the verse. Encourage them to think about how the verse could be said in a more “kid-friendly” way. This activity helps them think about the verse and what it says to them. On the back of their papers, have them draw a picture or write a story or poem showing God’s love. They might want to share how God’s love is seen in their life or how they feel about God’s love.

Affirmation/Declaration:

I trust God to always love me.
I can't make God stop loving me.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
God loves people because we are made in His image. God hates sin, but many people are confused and think God hates them. We are to speak the truth in love and let people know that the path they are on leads to bad consequences. Encourage the children to share with others that God is love, and His love isn't earned or deserved.

Missions Connections:
People of all cultures crave love because that's how God created us. No other gods are known as loving. Pray for missionaries to share God's message of love and salvation. Explain to the children that when they say "yes" to Jesus they are part of the Great Commission to tell people about Jesus. Their mission field is anywhere their feet take them! Commission them this week to share about Jesus with their friends.

Family Connection:
Read together 1 John 4:11. Discuss how God has shown His love to each family member and how family members can show love to each other. Cut out several heart shapes or draw a heart on sticky notes. Place the hearts in an area where all family members can get them. Throughout the week, write notes to family members showing how God loves the person. For example, "Emily, God loves you and gave you a beautiful singing voice to praise Him." Leave the hearts where they will be seen. At mealtimes, affirm that God's love is seen daily in each person's life.

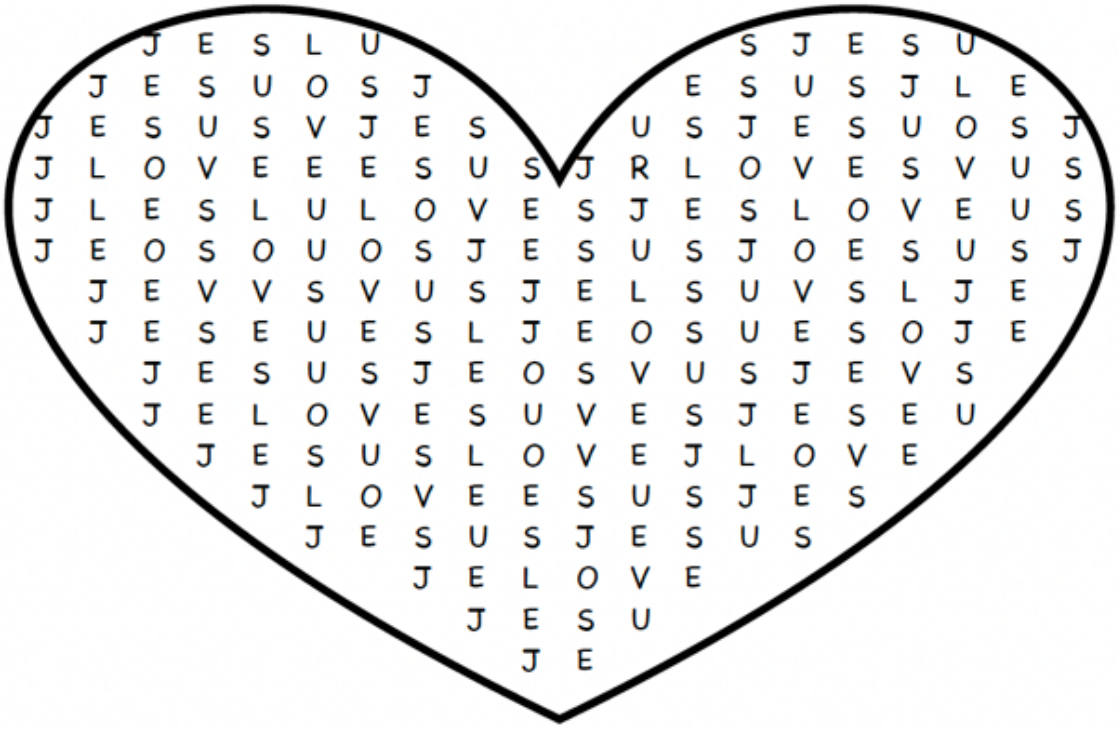
Prayer Points:
Invite children to pray to receive God's love gift of salvation.

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross for my sins. I know that I have sinned, and I am asking to be forgiven. I trust in Jesus as my Savior, and I choose to follow Him. Thank You for loving me and giving me the gift of eternal life.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

Lesson 3: God Is Love

Count how many times the word LOVE is written up, down, across, or diagonally inside the heart.



I found LOVE _____ times in the heart.

God's love is everywhere in the Bible. *Look up 1 John 3:18 (NKJV). Fill in the blanks with the missing words or draw pictures of the words.*

My little _____, let us not _____ in

word or _____, but in deed and in _____.

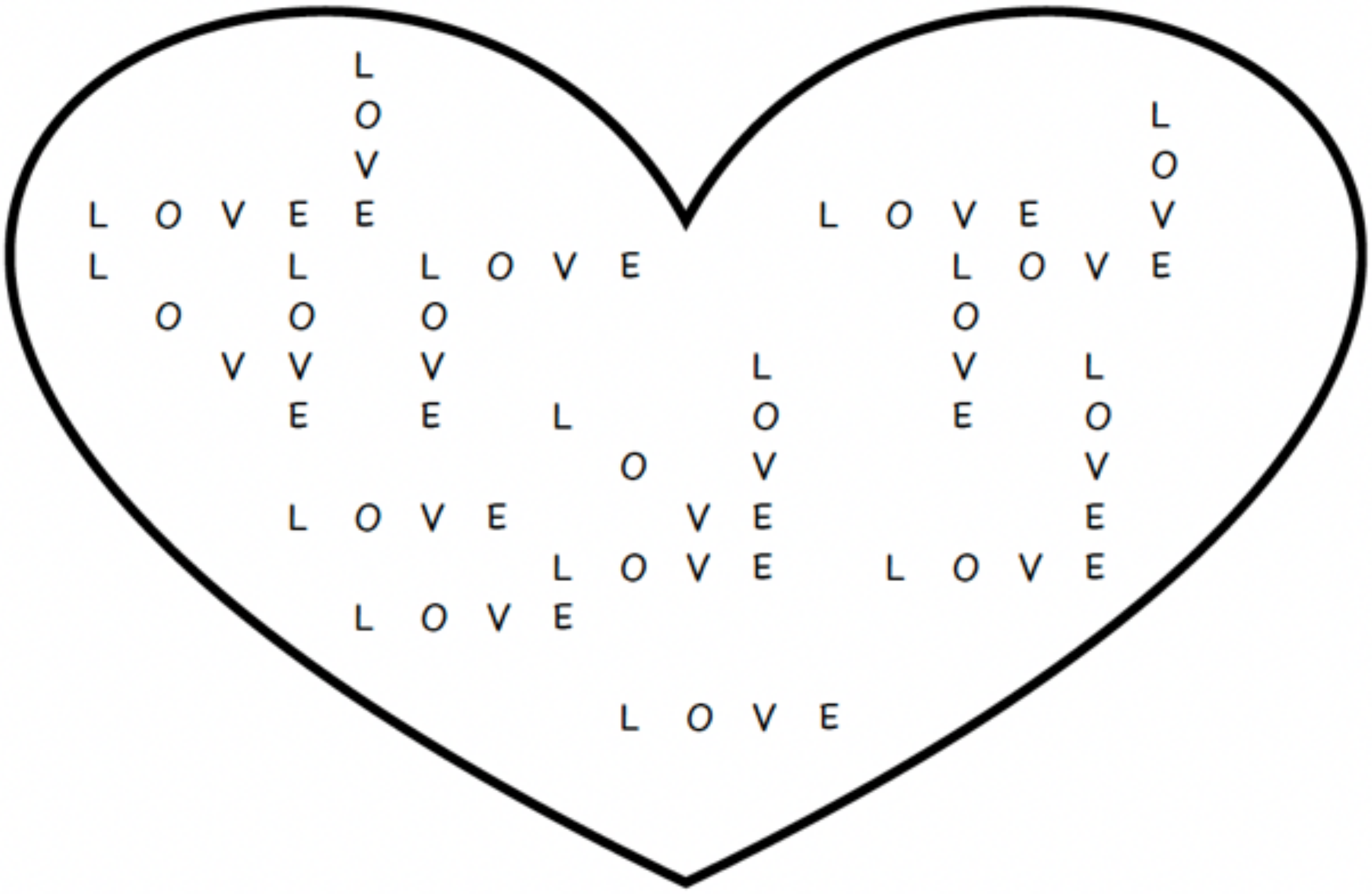
Now write the verse using your own words to show what God says about love.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write a story or poem showing God's love. You might want to share how God's love is seen in your life or how you feel about God's love.*

ANSWERS:

Lesson 3: God Is Love

Count how many times the word LOVE is written up, down, across, or diagonally inside the heart.



I found LOVE 18 times in the heart.

God's love is everywhere in the Bible.

Look up 1 John 3:18 (NKJV). Fill in the blanks with the missing words or draw pictures of the words.

My little children, let us not love in

word or ____________________, but in deed and in ______________________.

Now write the verse using your own words to show what God says about love.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a picture or write a story or poem showing God's love. You might want to share how God's love is seen in your life or how you feel about God's love.*

COPYRIGHT POLICY
You may make copies of Charis Kids Curriculum for use in the church and home. You are not to alter any of the teaching in any Charis Kids printed material. Please feel free to share the website information with other churches, families, and homeschool groups.

CharisChristianCenter.com/Shop
© Copyright 2023 Charis Kids Curriculum. All rights reserved