

CHILDREN'S LESSON (of whatever age)

THEME: God loves us

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and 1 John 4:7-12

OVERVIEW: Children will learn that God's love is greater than the love that is expressed in songs and on greeting cards.

EXPERIENCE: Play the "Love Game" At least 3 are needed to play.

- Make colored hearts and attach them to string or yarn. If you don't have either of these, just use tape. Make one color per player. Players can have more than one color. No one should have the same color as someone else.

- Make a game board like the one shown below:



Use at least 8 different colored hearts and add hearts as needed. If you don't have anything to make a spinner, number the hearts and use a dice or used numbered slips of paper that can be drawn out of a bowl

How to play:

1. Each family member picks a colored heart and puts it around their neck (or tapes it to their shirt). If there are more hearts than people, pick a few players to wear an extra heart until they are all used up.



2. Choose someone to go first. The player spins the spinner to see what color it lands on. For example, if it lands on blue then the player looks at the person wearing the blue heart and says something nice about that person or what they love about them. Here are some examples but you can also make them silly:

*I love it when you . . . (give me a hug)

* I love you because . . . (you tell great jokes and make me laugh)

*I especially like it when you . . . (read me a story)

*I appreciate you when . . . (you help with the dishes)

3. Then the person wearing the blue heart gets to spin the spinner and talks to the person wearing whatever color he/she spins. This continues until all family members have had a few turns. Try to make sure each person gets a chance to tell another person what they love about them, and that each person gets a chance to be told that they are loved by someone else.

RESPONSE:

- There are lots of different ways to express love. There are 5 basic love languages: touch (like hugs and kisses), spending time together, doing things for others, giving presents, saying it.

- God shows us that God loves us in many different ways. Can you think of any?
- Often God shows us God's love through others as well as the things we see, hear, touch, and smell that we appreciate. A beautiful sunset or song can be an example.
- Like showing others we love them, we want to praise and thank God for showing love to us.

- READ the scripture verses. Count the number of times the word "love" is used. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul defines love and talks about how it is important. 1 John 4:7-12 tells us that true love comes from God. If a person doesn't love, he or she doesn't know God. God's love was made known to us through Jesus.

* Use Paul's definition of love and think of ways that Jesus shows us God's love by the things he did and taught

* Make a "love banner" writing one of the words Paul uses as a characteristic of love

* On the other side of the heart, tell one way Jesus showed us this kind of love. Think of ways you might do those same

ACTION:

- Make an "I love you" card and send it to someone.

.PRAY: (Think of a word or phrase describing some way God has shown love to you then add them to this prayer) **Dear God, thank you for showing your love to me by...**