

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 10 – The Love of God (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening questions. Explain that when the Bible used a word to describe God, that word was "love".

Study Notes:

1 John 4:7-8

Everyone who loves knows God.

Everyone who does not love does not know God.

God is love.

Every work of God towards us is determined by His love for us. Because He loves us, we should love others (John 15:12).

Exodus 34:6-7

This passage is from when God appeared to Moses and made a formula that was repeated throughout the Old Testament as a description of the character of God (e.g. Numbers 14:18, Psalm 103:8, Jonah 4:2). Observe that when God punishes man's sin up to the third and fourth generation it is really only a logical extension of our actions. Future generations reap the consequences of what we sow in our families. Also, for those who love God, He keeps his covenant with them for a thousand generations, not just for three or four.

Psalm 36:5

The love of God is greater than anything else that we can imagine. It is limitless. His love goes hand in hand with His faithfulness – because He loves, He is faithful. Because His love is limitless, His faithfulness is also limitless.

Romans 8:38-39

Paul speaks with a lot of detail about all the things that cannot separate us from the love of God. No matter what happens, He will always love us. Some have said that the one thing not mentioned here is us. In other words, nothing can separate us from the love of God except ourselves. We can walk away from Him. By rebelling, this does not negate God's love for us. He continues being faithful, even if we are unfaithful (2 Timothy 2:13).

John 14:23

The Christian group DC Talk has a song titled “Love is a Verb.” That is what this verse is talking about. God’s love for us does not depend on our obedience – He loves us, no matter what. But to have a relationship with Him, we should love Him and demonstrate that love with our lives.

Summary: God’s nature is love. God’s love is perfectly constant and unchanging. He will always love us, no matter what happens.

1 Corinthians 13

This is a very famous passage, often used in weddings to describe the type of love the husband and wife should have for one another. This passage originally described type of love that all believers should have, because it describes God’s perfect love.

Love is: patient, kind, rejoices with the truth (honest), protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.
Love is not: envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil.

Application: Help students see how God’s love is demonstrated in His actions. It is always perfectly demonstrated, while our love is often imperfect. Help students identify areas in which their love life falls short of what it should be.

Lesson 10 – The Love of God

The Last Word

If you had to describe your personality with one word, what word would you use? What words would you use to describe the other members of your group?

God is Love

A famous passage that describes God with one word is 1 John 4:7-8. Read those verses and answer the follow questions.

Everyone who _____ knows God.

Everyone who does not _____ does not know God.

God is _____.

Obviously, understanding love is the key to understanding God. Notice how love for God is linked with love for others. Loving God means loving what God loves, which are people.

Read the following verses about God’s love.

Exodus 34:6-7

Psalm 36:5

Romans 8:38-39

John 14:23

God’s love for us does not change. He is always faithful. But to completely understand God’s love, we should understand what love is. Many of us have an idea of love that comes from books, movies, or television, but not the Bible. God’s love is different. His love is perfect.

More than a feeling

When we say that God is love, we should be careful and understand that this does not mean that love is God. All of the feelings we have are not God. The type of love that God has for us is the type of love described in 1 Corinthians 13. Read this passage and complete the table below.

Love is...	Love is not...

Love Check-up

Looking at the list above, how close would your love be to the love of God? Let's look at some of these qualities and see where you fit. Underline the statements that apply most to you.

	Generally	Sometimes	Rarely
Patience I can wait on God to answer my prayers.	—	—	—
Kindness I use gentle words and phrases.	—	—	—
Humility I think of other's needs before my own.	—	—	—
Trust I give others the benefit of the doubt.	—	—	—
Truth I tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.	—	—	—
Perseverance I strive to continue doing God's will, despite the difficulties.	—	—	—
Forgiveness When someone does me wrong, I forgive and forget it.	—	—	—

Scripture to memorize:

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:8