

Love God, Love Others

Adapted from CreativeBibleStudy.com

Items needed: piece of paper towel for each learner, plain pen, water-based markers (not permanent markers), bowls of water, OR a pan and a few drops of water.

Bible truth: The point we want to get across to our learners using this lesson is that - first: our hearts are empty without God's love, and second: that God means for us to share His love with others!

Bible verses:

1 John 4:19 - *"We love because he first loved us."*

Matthew 22:37-39 - *"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*



1. Take a piece of paper towel and draw a single heart with a pen (not a marker) about two inches from the bottom. (See left.)

Tell learners this heart looks empty. Use John 3:16 as a familiar verse to begin talking about how much God loves us and how His love is for anyone who will believe or trust in Him.

Explain that God didn't just say, "I love you!"...He showed it! Ask learners how they "show" others they love them. Explain that Romans 5:8 says that God showed His love for each one of us by sending Jesus to die for us. He loves us just the way we are, but because He loves us so much, He doesn't want us to stay the way we are - empty-hearted without Him!



2. Use a water-based marker (not a permanent marker) to color in the heart. (See left.) Tell your learners that when we believe and trust God's love for us He fills our hearts with His love!

Then grab your learners' attention by excitedly saying, "But God doesn't want us to stop there!!! If we look, there are other empty hearts in people all around us!"



3. Draw three or more hearts with a pen in the area above your colored heart. (*See left.*)

Explain that God wants us to share His love with others! We don't have to do it alone though!



4. Place the bottom of the paper towel into the shallow water so that children can watch as it soaks up the water. You can also lay the towel flat on a pan and add a few drops of water to the colored heart. (*See left.*)

When we allow God to "fill" our lives, His love will overflow and spread to others! Jesus talks about this in John 7:38.

Wrap It Up: Jesus sums up all the Ten Commandments in Matthew 22:37-39 - Love God, Love Others! That pleases God, and it is His best for us!

If age appropriate, let your learners have a try at seeing if they can see God's love going out to other hearts on a paper towel.

End this lesson by emphasizing God loved us first, but because He showed His love for us by Jesus dying for our sins, we can love Him back and have eternal life. Right now is a perfect time to start loving God and asking for Him to fill your empty heart with His love. That's the first step - love God! Then we are to stay close to Him and let Him fill our lives everyday so that His love will overflow through us - love others!