

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 12

L is for Love

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach the kids that no matter what they have done or what is happening in their lives, God still loves them.

Key Verses

Romans 8:31-39—Main Teaching Passage

Titus 3:4-5

Ephesians 2:8-9; 3:19

Deuteronomy 31:8

John 3:16

Psalms 103:8; 139:7

Romans 5:8

1 John 4:8, 19

Hebrews 4:16

Memory Verse Jeremiah 10:10a (March Memory Verse)

But the LORD is the true God;
He is the living God and the everlasting King.

Hook

Ask the students to close their eyes and think of someone who loves them. Have a few share who they thought of. Explain to the students that everyone needs to be loved.

We all have someone in our lives that loves us, but the One who loves each of us the most is God. God loves us more than anyone else, even the Grammy, Mom, Dad, Pop, Papa mentioned earlier. We all have friends and family that we love and who love us, but there is no love like God's love. His love is greater than all other love in the world.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

God knows everything about us and He loves us. He sees when we sin and He still loves us. He doesn't love us because of the good things we do (Titus 3:4-5). It makes Him happy when we do good things, but He still loves us even when we make mistakes. There is nothing we can do to make God stop loving us (Romans 8:39). God's love is unlike any other love for the following reasons:

- God loves us more than anyone else loves us (Ephesians 3:19).
- God will never stop loving us (Deuteronomy 31:8; Romans 8:35).
- There is nothing we can do that would stop God from loving us (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16).
- There is no place we can go that would stop God from loving us (Psalm 139:7).

In Romans 8:35 and 38-39, Paul lists things that a person might worry about. It is important to stress to the students that whatever things happen, even if there are things that happen that are bad, God will always love us. Bad things cannot stop God from loving us. Read Romans 8:35 and 38-39 to the students briefly explaining any unfamiliar words:

- Tribulation (being in trouble or suffering)
- Distress (being pushed, being upset)
- Persecution (someone being mean or unfair)
- Famine (hungry)
- Peril or sword (bad things happening, even death)
- Principalities (people who are in charge like kings)

Paul's message is that none of these bad things could ever cause God to stop loving us!

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

As we've been going through the ABC's of God, we've learned many words that describe the Lord. One of the most important qualities of God is the one we are learning about today, love. When the Bible describes God, it talks about how loving and kind He is. He is so loving that the Bible actually says God is love (1 John 4:8). The greatest way God showed us His love for us was by dying on the cross for our sin (Romans 5:8).

Since there is nothing that we could ever do to stop God from loving us, we never have to be afraid to pray to God (Hebrews 4:16). He doesn't get angry quickly and He shows us lots of mercy (Psalm 103:8). We are human, and God expects us to make mistakes sometimes. If we disobey

LOOK (Continued)

our parents or take a toy away from a brother or sister, God still loves us. Even if we lie, God will always love us. He doesn't love the sin, but He will always, always love us!

Romans 8:35-39 asks if persecution, distress, and peril could separate us from God's love? No! Those are words that were common in Bible times. Let's think about things that happen to kids. Could moving to a different house separate you from God's love? (Have students answer with you) No! Could going to a new school separate you from God's love? No! Could being scared separate you from God's love? No! Could making a mistake separate you from God's love? No! When we think about how much love God has for us and that he died on the cross for us, it should make us want to thank God and tell him that we love Him too.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.?

TOOK

Ask the kids the question you posed at the beginning of class: Who is someone who loves you? Does that person love you more than God? Is there anyone who loves you more than God? Is there anything or anyone that can separate us from that love? How can we show God's love to others?

Pray: Thank the Lord that His love endures forever. Ask Him for the ability to love others in the same incredible way that He has loved us.

Parent Question: How do we know that God loves us?

Bible verses for Quick Reference

Titus 3:4-5 “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 3:19 “...to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Deuteronomy 31:8 “And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Psalms 139:7 “Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Psalms 103:8 “The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.”

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

1 John 4:8 “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

1 John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.”

FURTHER STUDY

Romans 8:31-39 Commentary by David Guzik

1. (31) Paul begins his conclusion to this section: **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

a. **If God is for us, who can be against us?** If all we had were the first few chapters of the Book of Romans, some might believe that God was *against* us. Now that Paul has shown the lengths that God went to save man from His wrath and equip him for victory over sin and death, who can doubt that God is **for us**?

i. "Our weak hearts, prone to legalism and unbelief, receive these words with great difficulty: *God is for us* . . . They have failed Him; but He is *for* them. They are ignorant; but He is *for* them. They have not yet brought forth much fruit; but He is *for* them." (Newell)

ii. Most all men say or think that God is for them - terrorists commit horrible crimes thinking that God is for them. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit guards this statement with an "**if**," so we may know that just because a man *thinks* God is with him does not make it so. God is only **for us** if we are reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ.

b. **Who can be against us?** Likewise, despite the suffering Christians face, if God is for them, what does it matter if others are against them? One person plus God makes an unconquerable majority.

i. We certainly can be deceived into thinking that **God is for us** when He actually is not (as do cultists and those like them). Yet it cannot be denied that for those who are in Jesus Christ, God is **for** them!

2. (32) Evidence that God is for us: the gift of Jesus Christ.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

a. **He who did not spare His own Son:** If the Father already gave His ultimate gift, how can we think that He won't give us the smaller gifts?

3. (33-39) The security of the believer in God's love.

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

a. **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** We are secure from every charge against us. If we are de-

clared "not guilty" by the highest Judge, who can bring an additional charge?

b. **Who is he who condemns?** We are secure from all condemnation. If Jesus is our advocate, promoting our benefit, then who can condemn us?

c. **More than conquerors through Him who loved us:** No matter what our circumstances, none of the **sufferings of this present time** can separate us from the love of God. This makes us **conquerors** and more.

i. Earle on **nakedness:** "This term today suggests indecency on parade. Then it meant a lack of clothes simply because one had no ways or means of getting any."

ii. **Sword:** This word implies execution. It is the only item on the list that Paul had not yet personally experienced (1 Corinthians 4:11, 15:30).

d. **More than conquerors:** How is the Christian *more* than a conqueror?

- He overcomes with a greater *power*, the power of Jesus
- He overcomes with a greater *motive*, the glory of Jesus
- He overcomes with a greater *victory*, losing nothing even in the battle
- He overcomes with a greater *love*, conquering enemies with love and converting persecutors with patience

e. **Nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord:** Nothing which appears to be good or nothing which appears to be evil can **separate us from the love of God.**