MY LOVING HEART ☆

Children create a heart pendant to remind them to show love and kindness to others as Jesus shows them love and kindness.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Kindness, Love, Valentine's Day

MATERIALS:

White or light colored construction paper "I want to love..." labels <u>Click here</u> (Optional) Heart template <u>Click here</u> Crayons or colored markers
Brightly colored yarn
Scissors, glue sticks
Hole punch



DURATION:

Approximately 20 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, use the optional template to cut out heart shapes from white or light colored construction paper. Cut lengths of yarn so each is about 24 inches long. Also, cut out the labels into 1-inch strips. You will need one heart, one length of yarn, and one label for each child.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Part 1

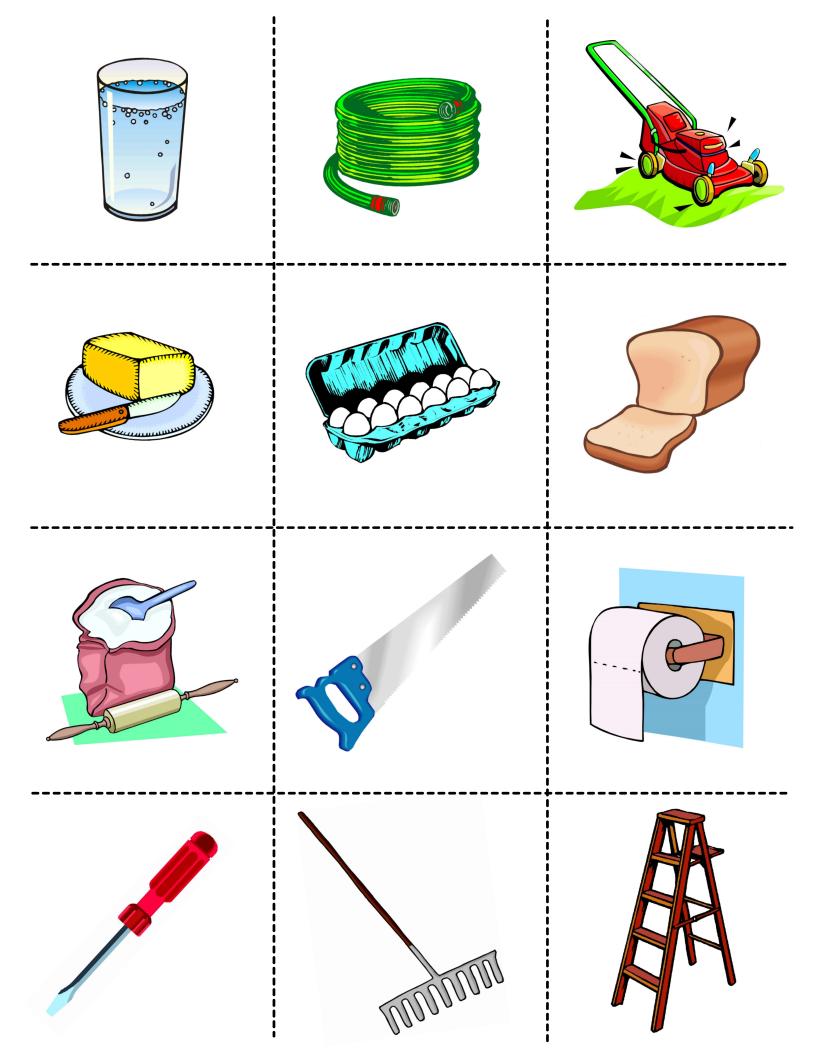
Give the children a heart cut out and have them draw a picture on one side. The picture should be something that shows what love looks like to them. Once everyone has completed his or her drawing, ask each child to talk about what he or she drew with the rest of the class. Explain to the children how Jesus loves us so much, and that He wants us to love others in the same way.

Then read Matthew 22:37-39 to the children.

Part 2

Give each child his or her heart along with a length of yarn and one "I want to love the way Jesus loves." label. Have each child paste the label onto the back of his or her heart. Then, help the children punch holes in their hearts and attach the yarn to make a pendant. If time permits, let the children decorate the side of the heart with the label as they like.

Explain how this will serve as a reminder for the children that they should show love and kindness to others, just like Jesus shows love and kindness to them. Have the children follow along as you read the label, "I want to love the way Jesus loves."



WHO IS JESUS?

LESSON 4: JESUS IS LOVE ☆

Lessons in this series: 1 2 3 4 5 Overview

This lesson will demonstrate the love and kindness of Jesus. The children will also learn how important it is to show that same kind of love and kindness towards others.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Caring, Jesus, Kindness, Knowing Jesus, Love, Valentine's Day

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

My Loving Heart (Craft) Part 1 Click here

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

BIBLE VERSE (5 MINUTES)

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

Have the children repeat the verse until they have it memorized. As they are saying the verse, have them hold up a finger each time they say FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. After saying the word LOVE, they should have 3 fingers up in the air.

Then, when they say the last part of the verse, the children should grab the last finger they raised, when they said LOVE.

Optional: Give a heart sticker to each child to put on his or her finger to hold up when saying the word "Love."

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about the Good Samaritan right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Today we are going to learn about love. How to love the way Jesus loves. God has commanded all of us to love Him and each other. Jesus said, "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." Matthew 22:37-39.

The story we are going to read about begins when a lawyer comes to Lord and wants to prove his love to Jesus. Yet he doesn't know how. Jesus begins to tell him that he needs to love God with all his heart but also he must love others as much as he loves himself. Let's read this story about love.

Read Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Who were the two people that wouldn't stop to help the injured man? (A priest and Levite.)
- 2. Who finally stopped to help him? (A Samaritan.)
- 3. What did the Samaritan do for the injured man? (He helped him get better by taking care of his injuries, taking him to an inn, and paying for his stay.)
- 4. How does this story show us that Jesus is love? (Allow for responses. Jesus loves the whole world, every person, no matter what he or she looks like, what skin color, hair color, eye color, or background he or she has. We are to love others and help them in times of need.)
- 5. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (Go and show love as the Samaritan did to the injured man.)
- 6. How can you show Jesus that you love others in the same way the Samaritan loved the injured man? (Allow for responses.)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Where is Love? (Game) Click here

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

Love Your Neighbor (Activity) Click here

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

If possible, make or purchase cookies in the shape of hearts for treats. Before all the children eat their heart shaped cookies, have them all hold hands and repeat the memory verse. Thank God for the gift of love and ask Him to help the class love each other just as they love themselves..

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

My Loving Heart (Craft) Part 2 Click here

NEXT WEEK

So far, we learned that Jesus is God's Son, He is God, He is Lord, and He is Love. But Jesus is even more than that. Come back next week to find out more about Jesus.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF], $\underline{Click\ here}$

I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
I want to love the way Jesus loves.	I want to love the way Jesus loves.
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LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR ☆

An activity to help children learn how they can love and help their neighbors.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Helping, Love, Neighborliness, Sharing

MATERIALS:

Picture cutouts [PDF] Click here
Masking tape
Bucket or large paper bag
Scissors

DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, print out the picture cutout sheet and cut out each picture. Put the pictures inside a bucket or large paper bag

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Using masking tape, make a straight line down the middle of the room. The masking tape will represent a street. Have the children line up on opposite sides of the street and facing each other. It is okay to have more children on one side or the other.

Then, have the children put their hands over their head, forming the roof of a house. The object is for each child to take a picture from the bucket and then go to any neighbor to ask them for that item.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today you are going to learn how to love your neighbor as yourself. One way to show love to your neighbors is to help them out when they need something.

I want you to pretend that the line is a road, and that you are houses on either side of the road. Like a neighborhood. Now, raise your arms above your head and touch your fingertips together to form a roof. (Demonstrate this for the children.)

Now, you have a neighbor to the right or left of you, but really, everyone is your neighbor. Let's remember what God's Word said in 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."

Do you think God is saying just love the person to your right or left, and you can be mean to everyone else? No. He is saying that we should be a good friend to everyone and help everyone out as a neighbor.

I am going to select one of you at a time to come up and pick a picture out from the bucket. You might get a picture of food, a tool, water, or something else. Then, you must go to any neighbor and knock on his or her door. When your neighbor opens his or her door, politely ask if you can borrow or use whatever the picture is that you took from the bucket. The neigbor prentending to open the door can then decide if he or she wants to share the item or not.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. According to the scripture, we should not only love the Lord, but also our neighbor. Besides the person living next to you, who else can be your neighbor? (Friends at school or church, people we see often, cashiers, bus driver, etc.)
- 2. What are some things we can do to show love to our neighbors? (Help them when they need something, share food, tools, etc.)



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