
Lesson 8: The Love Command

BIG IDEA

Jesus commands his followers to love one another as he has loved them.

 **John 15:9-14 (paraphrase)**

(the words of Jesus to his disciples)

I have loved you in the same way that the Father has loved me. Live in a way that shows my love. If you obey me, you will be living in my love. I have obeyed my Father and so I live in his love.

I want you to have deep joy and so I give you this rule – love each other in the same way I have loved you. A person really loves his friends if he dies on behalf of them. Nobody could love anyone more than that.

You are my friends if you obey my words.

 **Teacher Preparation****Read Scripture**

- John 15:9-14 in your Bible
- John 15:9-14 paraphrase (on page 2)

Read *Meet Jesus Book*

- Chapter 8 – The Love Command

Print Resources

- APPENDIX 8.1 – Print 1 for each student.
- APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Other Equipment

- Whiteboard / table
- Whiteboard markers

Activate Prior Knowledge

Write, 'Who do you love?' and 'How do you love them?' on the board.

Brainstorm responses and write them on the board.

And/or

Ask, 'Do you have a faith? What is one thing you love about it?' Listen with genuine interest.

Say, 'My faith is in Jesus. He loves me and shows me how to love.'

Predict the Content

Write, 'Jesus speaks about love' on the board.

Ask, 'What do you think Jesus might say?'

Read and Comprehend

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- Read the passage of scripture to them;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.

OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit bible.com or biblegateway.com to find a number of international translations.

Activities

Activity 1: Information gap activity

APPENDIX 8.1 - Print 1 for each student.

Give out the information gap activity to each student.

Read the words in the box above the text and have the students repeat them. Teacher/helper reads the text. Students fill in gaps as they listen (make sure you give them time to write).

Go through this as a class to check and correct.

Clarify the meaning of the following words – obey (to do what someone says), on behalf of (for another person), nobody (not one person).

Students complete the word tense activity at the bottom of the sheet. Teacher then provides feedback to class.

In pairs students read the completed text using their completed information gap sheet.

Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

- Are there any new words?'
- What questions might someone have about this text?
- What comments might someone have about the text?

An Important Question

Ask, 'What does Jesus say about love?'

BACKGROUND FOR THE TEACHER

Jesus used his power to bring relief to people's pain and suffering. Jesus did this in his life to show that God had sent him and to show what life would be like in God's future kingdom.

The next five lessons look at five of Jesus' miracles. They give a picture of life in God's kingdom and tell us more about Jesus.

 **An Important Question**

Ask, 'What does Jesus say about love?'

 **Concluding Statement**

Jesus tells people who follow him to love one another as he has loved them.

Say, 'My faith is about God's deep love for me in sending Jesus to die for me'.

Information gap activity

John 15:9-14

As you listen, choose the correct word from the box and write it on the line.

joy	obey	shows	friends	obeyed	each other	loved
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(the words of Jesus to his disciples)

I have _____ you in the same way that the Father has loved me. Live in a way that _____ my love. If you _____ me, you will be living in my love. I have _____ my Father and so I live in his love.

I want you to have deep _____ and so I give you this rule – love _____ in the same way I have loved you. A person really loves his friends if he dies on behalf of them. Nobody could love anyone more than that.

You are my _____ if you obey my words.

Write the past tense of these words next to their present tense:

love _____

live _____

obey _____