

YEAR C | QUARTER 2

5

Love, the Greatest Gift

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

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

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13
- *Steps to Christ,* chap. 1, pp. 11-15
- *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, pp. 1091, 1092
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 128-131
- student story on page 62 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 23, Marriage and the Family
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus' love for them is their model of how to love one another.
- **Feel** the joy of loving one another with a Christlike love.
- **Respond** by asking God to make them more loving.

POWERPOINT

God's family members show love to one another.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

This lesson is based on 1 Corinthians 13, that wonderful chapter of the Bible that describes and defines love. This chapter describes what God's love for each of us is like. It also reveals the type of love we can have for one another in Christ.

This is a lesson about community.

As this lesson describes the definition of love, we can immediately see that this is the way Christ loves us. Because we are to emulate the very character of Jesus, there is no better way to do so than within our relationship to other members of His family. We are called to love one another the way Jesus loves us.

Teacher Enrichment

"Jesus did not suppress one word of truth, but He uttered it always in love. He exercised the greatest tact and thoughtful, kind attention in His intercourse with the people. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave needless pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He spoke the truth, but always in love. He denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity; but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. . . . His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others. Every soul was precious in His eyes" (*Steps to Christ,* p. 12).

"The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness, and the confiding love of a little child are the attributes that Heaven values. These are the characteristics of real greatness" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 437).

What actions in my life reveal my intentional love for those around me? How much time each day do I spend meditating on the love of Jesus? How much do I desire to truly love the way Jesus loves?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Show It* *B. Spread Love*	art supplies (modeling clay and foil, if available) situation sheets in a container
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 57. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, heart-shaped plate/serving trays, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	three index cards copies of choral reading (p. 147) Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Love Survey*	survey sheets (pp. 148, 149), pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*From the Heart*	paper hearts, markers, tape
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ modeling clay and foil, if available

Show It

Alone or in small groups have the students describe a characteristic of love and design a symbol for their description. For example: Love connects people to each other and to God. Symbol—a chain. Set out art supplies. Allow the students to choose which medium to work with to design their symbol.

Debriefing

Each group shows their symbol and the class guesses their description.

Say: **Our lesson this week describes what love is. Our power point is:**

God's family members show love to one another.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ situation sheets in a container

Spread Love

Write five to seven of the following situations on separate sheets of paper and put them in a container. Have your students work in small groups. Each group picks a situation, creates a short skit, and role-plays a response that demonstrates love.

1. Your best friend asks you for an answer to a question on a test in class.
2. A classmate knocks you down during a game.
3. Your father comes home from work exhausted.
4. Your sister is ill.
5. Your teacher won't let you sit near your best friend.
6. A homeless man asks you for money.
7. You aren't picked for a ball team.
8. Your church is looking for someone to visit elderly members.
9. You notice the new clothes of one of your classmates.
10. You have to give up your room to guests.

Debriefing

Ask: **What situations make it difficult to show love? How can you know what the loving thing to do would be in any situation?**

Say: **Jesus, our model, showed love in every situation of His life on earth. He helps us define love. Following His example that we find in the Bible and asking for His guidance through the Holy Spirit are the only ways that we can know what to do in many situations.**

Say: **Our power point is:**

God's family members show love to one another.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Consider involving the students with special needs in observing, discussion, answering questions, if they cannot participate physically in the activity.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Got a Reason for Livin' Again" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 79)
"Oh, Fill It Up" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 135)
"Love, Love" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 132)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map and push pins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ heart-shaped plate/ serving tray

Say: **Love can motivate us to give what we can to support God's church around the world.**

Prayer

Ask the students to form pairs and (1) mention instances of unselfish love that they are thankful for, and (2) share difficult experiences for sharing love that they would like prayer for. Close with a request that God will make your church a community known for its love.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three index cards

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **Sometimes people "love if," meaning "If you will do what I want you to do, then I will love you." Sometimes people "love because," meaning "I love you because I get something out of it." But God loves—period.** Have your students stand in a circle. Give an index card to three students. On one card write the word "if," on another write the word "because," and on the third card make a large period (full stop). Tell the students to pass the cards to the right until you say stop (play music and instruct them to stop when you stop the music). The students with the cards when the music stops are to think of a specific situation that shows that kind of love.

Debriefing

Read 1 Corinthians 13:11 aloud.

Say: **God is waiting to teach us how to be more like Him as we mature.**

God's family members show love to one another.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ copies of p. 147

Experiencing the Story

Prepare copies of the reading found on page 147 for each student. Divide the class into three groups. Read the choral reading of 1 Corinthians 13 together.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Have student volunteers read aloud and answer the following questions based on 1 Corinthians 13.

1. Have verses 1-3 read.

Ask: **What special abilities does Paul list?** (Speak with power and eloquence, prophesy, discern mysteries, have all knowledge, have faith that moves mountains, give to the poor, die as a martyr.) **What does Paul say makes all these gifts and abilities worthless? What does a lack of love have to do with these good things?** (It cancels them out.)

2. Have verses 4-7 read.

Ask: **What does Paul say love is not and does not do?** (Is not proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered; does not envy, boast, keep a record of wrongs, delight in evil.) **What does Paul say love is and does?** (Is patient, kind, rejoices with truth, protects, trusts, hopes, perseveres.)

3. Have verses 8-12 read.

Say: **Paul talks about things that will stop. What are they?** (prophecies, tongues, knowledge) **How will these end?** (They will end when they have served their purpose and are no longer useful or needed.) **How is it that love will not end?** (God is love and has no end; love will always be needed.) **In verse 12 Paul talks about knowing only part, seeing a poor reflection. What do you think these have to do with love?** (We see a poor reflection of what love is like because of sin; in the next world we will have a clear picture of love and of God.)

Say: **This passage ends with three things: faith, hope, and love. Why do you think Paul says that love is the greatest of these?** (Encourage a variety of answers.)

Say: **Let's say the power text together:**

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

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familiarized with them.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ copies of pp. 148, 149
- ☐ pencils

Love Survey

Give each student a "Love Survey" handout from pages 148, 149 and a pen or pencil. Read the directions aloud, then allow students time to finish the survey sheets. When they are done, divide the students into groups of three to five. Have each student select one or two of their answers to share with their group.

Debriefing

Ask: **What ideas has this survey given you? Star the items you most appreciate in others. Check the one area you most want God to help you grow in. What is our power point this week?**

God's family members show love to one another.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper hearts
- ☐ markers
- ☐ tape

From the Heart

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Provide red and pink construction paper for each student. Each student in the group will make a heart for each of the other members in their group. In each heart they will write a loving characteristic, beginning with the same letter as the name of the person the heart is about (example: Joyful Jack, Awesome Anna, Kind Ken). When everyone has completed the activity, place them on the wall or a large piece of posterboard and leave them as room decor for a few weeks.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does it make you feel to see the loving characteristics your classmates recognize in you?** (They may deny it; they may want to be more like that characteristic.) **What difference does it make in people's lives when we are intentional about giving them love?** (It makes them feel more worthwhile.) **What can we do this week to show support for friends and family?** (Encourage responses.)

Say: **Make another heart and think of someone with whom you can share it this week. Give students time. Please give the heart to the person for whom you made it. Say the power point with me:**

God's family members show love to one another.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Close by asking Jesus to remind each student all week to be loving and kind to those around them. Pray that they will have the courage to love others no matter how they are treated. Thank Jesus for loving us so completely that we can love others the same way.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul and Barnabas face troubles in Iconium. When we follow God's will, He will help us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Love, the Greatest Gift

Do you find it difficult to love some people? Have you ever read 1 Corinthians 13 and wondered how you could have the love described by Paul? Do you think it's even possible? Let's read about Tina and her family to see how the qualities described in this chapter could be applied to our lives today.

Love is patient, love is kind. . . . It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). This was a very familiar Bible passage for Tina and her two brothers. The message was simple, and it made so much sense. Tina didn't think it would be difficult to love others, as the Bible teaches, but she was in for a surprise!

Tina was 10 when her parents decided to raise foster children. Her family wanted to share the blessings God had given them with those less fortunate. Over the years, God rewarded their desire by sending them a total of 75 children! Tina and her brothers gladly accepted the children and shared their toys with them. They also shared laughter, tears, birthdays, holidays, their parents, and, most of all, the love of Jesus.

One time Tina's parents gave each of the children a gift. The children enjoyed their gifts and played with them throughout the day. As she went to sleep that evening, Tina placed her new gift on top of her dresser. The next morning when she woke up she noticed that her gift was not where she had left it. Had it fallen on the floor? Did she leave it in the living room? Tina looked all over her room, but couldn't find it.

"Mother, have you seen my gift box?" asked Tina, coming down the steps and going into the kitchen.

"No," said Mom. "Didn't you take it to your room last night?"

"Yes, I thought I did," said Tina, looking troubled, "but I can't find it."

Entering the dining room, Tina found her brothers talking intensely about their missing gifts. It didn't take long before Tina noticed that there were empty chairs at the table. Just then Dad came in with the report:

"Andy has run away!" Dad's voice was filled with anxiety. "He's not in his room, and I couldn't find him anywhere around the house or on the street." The children all looked up in shock and disbelief. All of a sudden Andy's disappearance became the focus of heated discussion.

"This solves the mystery of the missing gifts!" Tina thought out loud. She was hurt that Andy would do this to them, especially after they had opened their hearts and home to him. Mom and Dad were very sad as well that Andy had left and stolen the gifts from the children.

"My children," said Dad, getting everyone's attention. "Andy has never had a home or things that belonged to him. If you have nothing of your own, it can be difficult to respect other people's things. I want you to understand that Andy didn't mean to hurt us. He would like to have a home of his own."

"Andy will come back to us," said Mom on a hopeful and confident tone. "Until then, we have something to do. We must remember that God loves each one of us. He has forgiven us, and if we follow His example, we should also forgive others when they do wrong to us. In Ephesians 4:32 we read, 'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' Let's pray that God will help us find Andy."

The family prayed for Andy and asked God to help them forgive him. Later that afternoon Andy was found. He was sorry for what he had done. Tina was still hurt and a little angry, but she remembered her parents' words.

At the evening meal Tina sat right next to Andy and thought to herself, *Now is my chance to show love and forgiveness to my brother.* She said a quick prayer asking God to help her love Andy, although she didn't feel like being kind to him. Andy slouched in his chair and started gobbling up the food on his plate. The family members tried to include him in conversation, but he didn't seem eager to talk. Then Tina broke the silence:

"Andy, we are glad that you returned home!" She was smiling as she continued. "We missed playing with you today! How good to know that our team is complete again." Tina felt peace, and she knew that God had helped her forgive her foster brother.

One afternoon a few days later she sat thinking of Andy and how she had felt when she had found out he had run away. It was then she realized that we hurt God when we run away from Him. She remembered what Dad had read in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 at worship: "Love is patient, love is kind. . . . It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." So, right then and there, Tina decided that by God's grace she would nurture a spirit of love and forgiveness toward others.

God loves us so much, and He wants

KEY REFERENCES

- 1 Corinthians 13
- *Steps to Christ,* chap. 1, pp. 11-15
- *The SDA Bible Commentary,* Ellen G. White Comments, vol. 6, pp. 1091, 1092
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 128-131 ("Love at Its Best")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 23, 10, 14

POWER TEXT

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

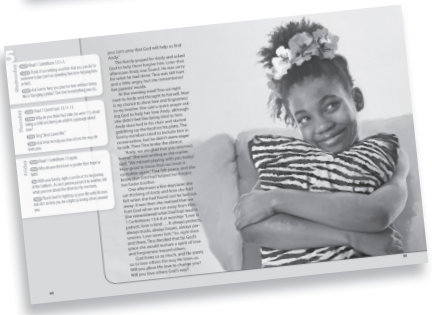
POWER POINT

God's family members show love to one another.

us to love others the way He loves us. Will you allow His love to change you? Will you love others God's way?







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 46.

Sunday

READ Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9 and this week's story, "Love, the Greatest Gift."

THINK How have your ideas about love changed since you were a child?

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 Corinthians 13:13. Practice it every day.

PRAY Ask God to show you this week what He wants you to know about love.

Monday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13. Why do you think it is important to read this chapter every day?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, list good things that are meaningless if done without love.

PRAY Ask God to give you the gift of love.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.

ASK Using this passage, ask yourself such questions as, "Am I patient and kind?" Choose one of the traits in the passage and spend the next 24 hours practicing that trait.

PRAY Thank God for giving you an example of how to love through Jesus' power.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3.

THINK Think of something unselfish that you can do for someone today (such as spending free time helping him or her).

PRAY Ask God to help you practice love without being like a "clanging cymbal." Use love in everything you do.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13:11–13.

THINK Why do you think Paul talks (in verse 11) about being a child and being an adult in a passage about love?

SING Sing "Jesus Loves Me."

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you love others the way He loves you.

Friday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 13 again.

THINK Why do you think love is greater than hope or faith?

DO With your family, light a candle at the beginning of the Sabbath. As each person passes it to another, tell what you love about the other family members.

PRAY Thank God for lighting up your life with His love. Ask Him to help you be a light by loving others around you.