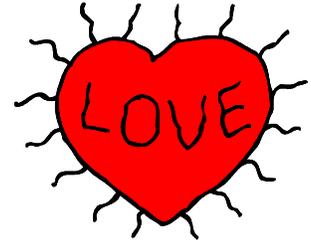


*Get Ready!***Love in Action**

By Myra Montgomery

**Text**

Matthew 6:5-14

Key Quest Verse

A new commandment I give you: Love one another; as I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

Bible Background

God has always given His people guidance on how they should treat one another. We tend to be selfish, unless trained otherwise. But God wants us to be considerate of others. He said that we should treat others the way we would like to be treated. How do you like to be treated? With respect, listened to, not interrupted, loved, share things with, treated fairly, honest with, follow through on promises. If we like these things from others, it is only natural that others would like us to treat them the same.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: The Golden Rule

Feel: Love from other Christians

Do: Show love and kindness in their daily lives

Leader's Devotion

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 60s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab.

She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached...

It read:

“Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain had drenched my clothes as well as my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband’s bedside, just before he passed away . . . God bless you for helping me and serving others!”

Mrs. Nat King Cole

How often do we help others hoping we will get something in return? In this lesson stress to your students how we are to have an unselfish, serving heart.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: A paper heart

When you see a heart, what do you think?" (The kids may think of Valentine's day, loving their mom, etc.) **Today, we are going to listen and see people that Jesus wants us to love.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Two magnets

Bring two magnets that repel on one side and attract on the other side. Have the magnets face the repelling side. Try to slide the magnets together. As they repel, share how most people feel like this toward their enemies. Now turn the magnets so that they attract. Explain that Jesus wants us to love our enemies and pray for those who want to hurt us. Show the kids how the magnets stick together.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Advanced Preparation: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

Jesus sat on a mountainside and taught many things to people. He told them that revenge is for God, not for us. If someone hurts us, Jesus said NOT to stand up to them. In fact, He tells us to be nice to them. In Luke 6:31, there is a verse that is sometimes called the “Golden Rule.” It says to do to others what you want them to do to you.

An important lesson that Jesus taught was about love. He said that we must LOVE our ENEMIES! Jesus is not talking about a kissing kind of love. He was talking about the kind of love you have for a best friend. This kind of love is hard to have for an enemy. Jesus wants us to love others no matter what they have done to you. God created every person and He loves them, no matter what they may look like or the attitude they may have.

Now, God loves the person, but He does not love the wrong behavior.

He wants us to love Him and follow Him with ALL our heart. That means that we do things His way and treat others with kindness and love instead of hatred and cruelty. Think of a way that you can love your enemies. Really, when you love them, they are not your enemies any more! Jesus gives us an example of how He loved His enemies. When He was in the garden praying, soldiers came to arrest Him for no reason. He did not fight or ask God to hurt the people. Instead, He freely went with the soldiers. Even when the soldiers spit on Him and whipped Him, He loved them.

Even on the cross, Jesus asked God to forgive them! Can you believe it?

Jesus loves us too!

Go!**Prayer Reminder**

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Materials: Styrofoam or paper plate, crayons, scissors, yarn or ribbon, markers**Quest Connection**

Sometimes a person wears a string around a finger to help them remember something. We are going to make something to help us remember to pray.

Procedure: Trace or have the students trace their hand on the plate. Cut out the hand. Tie a ribbon around the index finger. Have the students write the Key Quest Verse on the hand with a marker.

Close

Display the hand somewhere to help you remember to pray everyday. It is good to make a list of things to pray for. Some churches have a prayer list with requests from people. Maybe our class can make our own prayer list!

Go!**Prayer Hike**

Field Trip

Materials: None

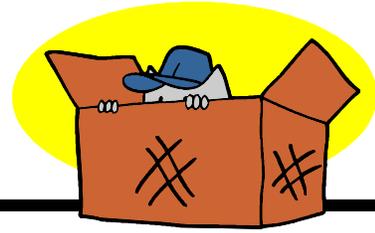
Quest Connection

**Why do we pray to God? Does He hear us? When can we pray? Where can we pray?
How can we pray? Who prayed in our story?**

Procedure: Take a walk. When you see something you can pray about or someone you can pray for, stop your hike, huddle together, and pray for that thing or person.

Close

We need to make it a habit to talk to God as often as possible! This week, try to talk to God the first thing in the morning when you wake up. Then pray every night right before you go to sleep.

Go!**A Little Help From a Friend****OBJECT LESSON**

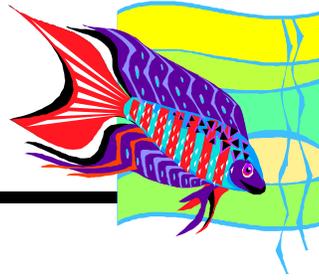
Materials: Box, heavy objects (books work well).

Quest Connection

Procedure: Ask the smallest child to push the box across the room. **It's too heavy isn't it?** Let's see who can we get to help. Ask the next to the smallest child to help. Keep getting help until the box moves easily.

Close

Praying is getting help from the strongest, smartest friend you have. Who do we pray to? What can we pray about? Praying for someone is one of the greatest ways we can show that we love someone. Prayer helps encourage someone to be stronger to help them get through whatever problem they are facing.

Go!**Rainbow Fish****LITERATURE**

Material: A copy of the book Rainbow Fish by Marc Phfister

Quest Connection

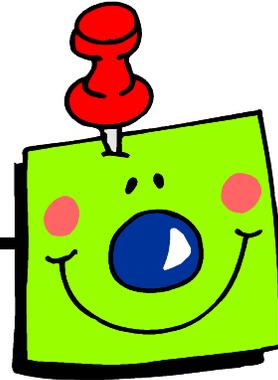
Prior to reading together, discuss with children:

- o **What makes us feel important?**
- o **What makes us a good friend?**
- o **Can the things that make us feel important be the same as being a good friend? Can they also stop us from being a good friend?**
- o **Read "The Rainbow Fish" together.**
- o **Discuss together:**
 - o **What made the Rainbow Fish so extraordinary?**
 - o **The Rainbow Fish was the most beautiful fish but was he the nicest?**
 - o **What did he do when other fish invited him to play? Why do you think he did this?**
 - o **Why not?**

What did the Rainbow Fish learn he had to do if he wanted to get along with others? Does this make him the greatest fish? What became the most important thing for the Rainbow Fish?

Close

Relate this to things in the children's own lives and experiences

Go!**Nose to Nose****GAME****Materials:** Piece of paper, Bible**Quest Connection**

Procedure: Have two of your children sit across from one another. Hold a piece of paper vertically between them and have them press their noses to the paper, so the paper is in between their noses. Tell them you will remove the paper so that their noses will be touching. The first one to blink loses. If you have more children, let them play each other until you have a champion. Older children can help referee the matches.

Was it easy not to blink? Why or why not?

Sometimes God will ask us to do things for Him that feel uncomfortable, like being kind to someone who isn't kind to us. But because we love God, we try to do what He asks us to do, like Jesus did.

What does God tell us about those who wrong us? How should we treat them?

God shows His love to others through the kind things we do for them. It's a tremendous honor to be the messengers of God's love here on earth.

Doing as God asks is not always an easy task.

Close

Who knows our memory verse?

Go!**Clear Hearts****CRAFT**

Materials: A piece of paper, pencil, two sheets of acetate (or other thick, clear, flexible plastic), scissors, hole punch, red or pink yarn, valentine candy (like candy hearts), small slips of paper

Quest Connection

Procedure: Have students write memory verse on the small slips of paper. Fold the piece of paper in half and draw half a heart along the fold line. Cut out the heart. This will be the template for this project. Cut two identical hearts from the plastic (make them at least as big as your hand or bigger—depending on how much candy you want to put in the heart).

Start weaving yarn around the edges of the heart, connecting the two hearts together. When there are only a few inches left to weave, stop weaving and fill your heart with candy. Place the strip of paper with the memory verse on top of the candy.

Finish the weaving and tie the yarn off with a knot or a pretty bow.

Close

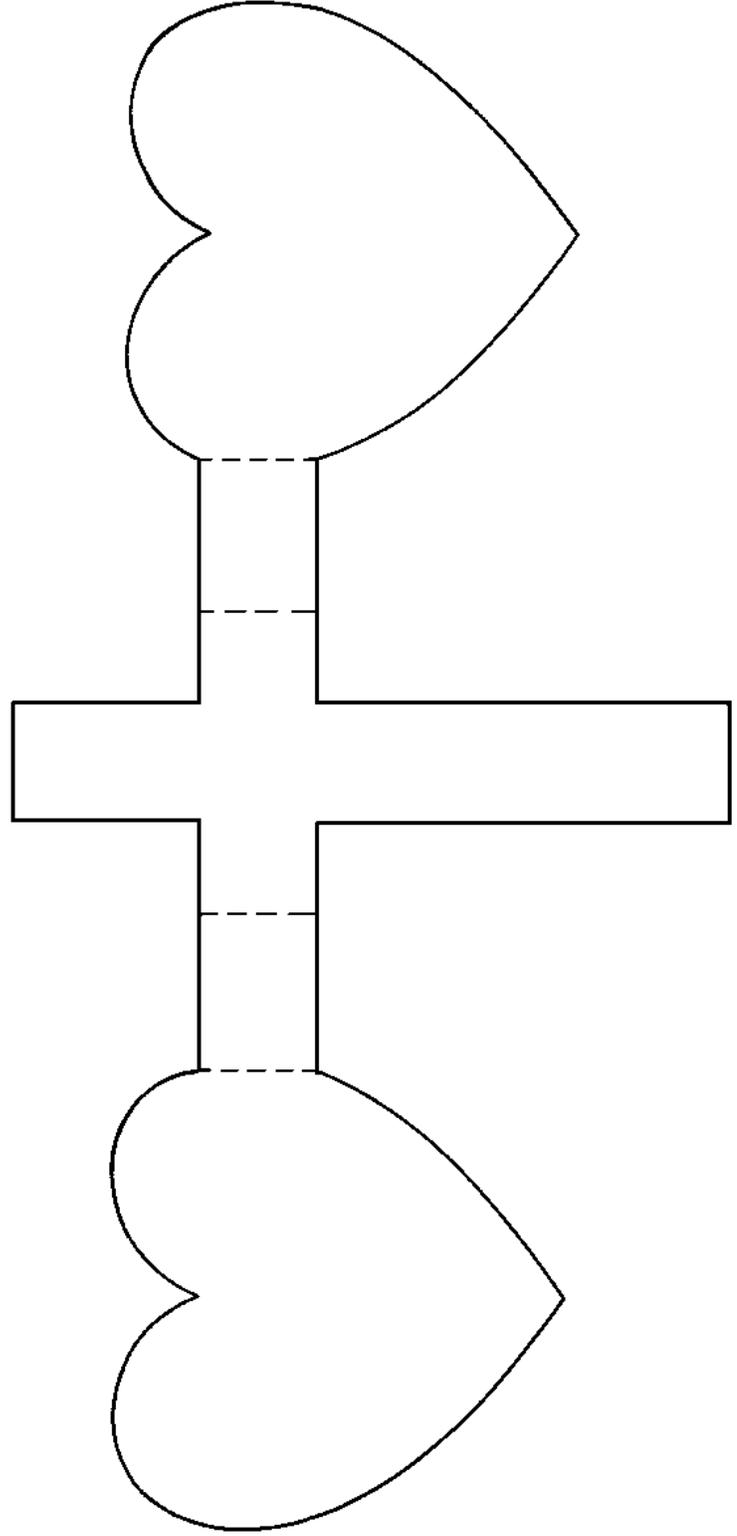
Have students think of someone special that they can give their heart to.

Jesus is able to help us love all people. He can join two different hearts with the bonds of friendship and love.

Articles Needed: Craft patterns, colored pencils, scissors

How to Make the Craft:

1. Cut out the pattern along the outer contour. Color the craft on both sides.
2. Write your own name on one of the hearts, write down the names of those people who have offended you or to whom you don't express love on the other heart.
3. Fold the craft on the dotted lines so that the hearts will join



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

PWZIFBQTARWBWTC
UQNETONEIGHBORZ
TEVPTCCAYWKBSOH
NOSHEBEAQPSSELB
LNERFRUFUNIPSMK
DRKOUTSURLIVEJK
SIDMTCREQEPIKR
RTOOOTJECYPYAGE
AUBNORKEHUMFGHT
ZANHQGENTTTEWGS
SUNJRDSQHPAENDU
ELHIUAMBHKRFAEJ
MBFUHSIATBPAFVN
HEARDDTNTCIOYBC
DZVAAEJNRDYJUGV

**BLESS HEARD PERFECT
CURSE JUST PERSECUTE
ENEMY LOVE PRAY
EVIL MORE RAIN
FATHER NEIGHBOR SUN
GOOD OTHERS UNJUST**

Golden Rule Scramble
Matthew 7:12

H A U L D U . D O R S O O U N T W O
Y O T H E V E Y O U M D N T O T H E A S
O U

**Unscramble the tiles to reveal a
valuable rule.**