



Series Overview

In the weeks ahead your teenager will learn about the greatest commandment in the Bible, how to love those who are hard to love, how Jesus said we are to treat society's outcasts, and why living a life of Godly love is so important. Advertisers and today's celebrities are quick to get teenagers to buy into their image of love and relating it to theirs, usually for financial profit and rarely in sync with what the Bible says about such issues. With this series we will identify Biblical principles for living a life based on Godly love.

Lesson 1: The Greatest Commandment

This week we will be looking at the Greatest Commandment, that to love God and love others is the true fulfillment of the heart of God's law. Jesus was very adamant that loving others should be one of the key elements in the life of a Christian, second only to loving God! The students were challenged to really evaluate their lives and see how this concept fleshes out in their day-to-day living.

Passages: Matthew 22:34-40, John 3:10

Questions to Ask:

- Ask what your student remembers about the Greatest Commandment. Why do you think Jesus put so much emphasis on loving others?
- Talk about some ways they already practice loving others. Consider what this looks like at home, school, sports, activities, friends, etc...
- Is loving others something that you want to work on a little more? Talk about how you can help them.

Lesson 2: Love isn't Always Easy

This week we shift focus to loving those who may be difficult to love. It's a hard teaching, for sure, but one Jesus was pretty straightforward about. Your student was challenged to consider those people in his or her life who may be tough to love, and to consider ways to show these individuals the love of Christ.

Passages: Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 13:8-10

Questions to Ask:

- Is there anyone in your life right now that is difficult to love? Why is that?
- What is the easiest way to react to people who are difficult to love? Why is it so difficult to love them?
- Why does God want us to love those who are tough to love?
- Have a conversation on this topic and be willing to share some of your own experiences.

Lesson 3: Loving the Least

This week we will talk about how Jesus urged us to show His love to people he referred to as "the least of these." Jesus identified these people as the hungry, thirsty, outcast, sick, and in prison. We will look at who the "least of these" may be in your students life and how they can show them Christ's love.

Passages: Matthew 25:31-46, Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Questions to Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus was so focused on loving those who are truly in need? Who might some of these people be in your world?
- What are some practical things our family can do to show God's love to them?
- How has your understanding of God's love changed after this weeks lesson?

Lesson 4: Known By Their Love

We will conclude this series with a study on what it means to be known or defined by our love for others. We challenged students to consider what they are known by, and what it would take for them to be known for showing the love of Christ to the world.

Passages: John 13:31-35, John 15:12-13

Questions to Ask:

- Ask your student to summarize this weeks lesson and identify any practical applications.
- Brainstorm some examples of people who are known for something specific. Relate that to how Jesus wants us to be known for our love of others.



JESUS & TOUGH TIMES

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This study will help teach students that when they experience tough times, they should express their emotions to God in real, honest ways; that faith in Jesus and His ability to lead them through trials is what will get them through tough times; that Jesus stands ready to offer comfort to them in the midst of their tough times; and that when Jesus ultimately delivers them from tough times, their response should be thankfulness and praise.

Lesson 1: The God who Listens

This week, we focused on helping students understand that when they experience tough times, they can and should express their emotions to God in real and honest ways, just like Jesus did in the Garden right before he was arrested.

Passages: Matthew 26:36-46, Hebrews 5:7

Questions to Ask:

- Do you think it is easy or hard for you to be honest with God about how you are feeling?
- Do you feel like hearing more about the way Jesus was honest with God was helpful? Why or why not?
- What are you going to do in trying to be more honest with God about the way you are feeling about life?

Lesson 2: Faith in the Tough Times

The week, we focused on helping students understand that when they experience tough times, they can and should have faith that Jesus will be with them and even strengthen them through these times.

Passages: John 11:1-3; 17-27; 38-44, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Questions to Ask:

- Do you believe that Jesus is with you during the tough times? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that Jesus is the one that can help us get through tough times? Why or why not?
- Part of having faith that Jesus is with you, is trusting in who He is. Do you think you focus on Him or on what He can do for you? What's the difference?

Lesson 3: Comfort in the Tough Times

This week, we focused on helping students learn that God gives us rest and peace beyond anything the world offers in the hard times.

Passages: John 14:25-27, John 16:33, Matthew 11:28-30

Questions to Ask:

- Do you believe God truly wants to comfort us when things are hard?
- How can we rely on the Lord as our peace during tough times?
- What does it mean to take up God's "yoke" which is easy and light, so He can carry our burdens?

Lesson 4: What To Do When It's Over

This week we focused on helping students learn to praise and thank God when He brings us through our tough times.

Passages: Luke 17:11-19, Psalms 28:7

Questions to Ask:

- Do you take the time to thank God when the hard times are over?
- Why do you think nine of the lepers didn't come back to thank Jesus? Who are you most times: The nine who went on or the one who was thankful?
- What are some ways we can remember to show God praise when He helps us in a hard time?