

Showing God's Love by Being Filled with The Holy Spirit

(John 15:12)

Objective: *The students will learn that in order to keep on showing God's love to others, we need to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Materials: *Bibles, pint-sized clear jars, raisins, baking soda, vinegar, tablespoons, and four dry towels.*

Before Class: *In different areas of your room, set up four centers with these items in each: Bible, a pint-sized jar filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water and 2 or 3 tablespoons of vinegar; baking soda; a tablespoon. Put a dry towel under the jar of water and vinegar solution.*

When students arrive, form four groups. Then have groups sit in a circle on the floor.

Introduction

What are some things people have done for you that make you feel good? (Given me a gift; helped me up when I've fallen; shared their toys; hugged me.)

These are all ways people have shown love to you. How does it feel to be shown love?

Today we're going to learn that God wants us to show love to others.

Opening Prayer

Lord, You loved us before we even knew You. Teach us how to love others in that same way. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. (John 15:12)

Lesson Review

We've been learning about how to show God's love to others.

1. First, we learned that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul.
2. Next, we learned that God knows all about us. He always knows where we are and what we're doing and what we're thinking and feeling. And, even so, He still loves us completely. In the same way, He wants us to love others, even people who do wrong to us and don't deserve our love. Because that's the way He loves us.
3. Third, we learned that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love Him by taking care of our environment properly. We did an activity that showed the effects of an oil spill on the ocean, birds, plants and animals. We talked about ways to care for God's possessions.
4. Next, we learned that one way of showing God's love is by being a good neighbor—that is, by thinking of others first and sharing what we have with them. We did an activity to show how sharing brings people together and often brings beautiful things into our lives—we put individual drops of food coloring in a dish of milk. Then when we added drops of dish soap it caused the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.
5. Then we learned that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. God wants us to help those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. We put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talked about ways we can help people with hurts on the inside.
6. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We counted out 490 bird seeds to show just how many times 7 times 70 is – that the number of times God tells us to forgive others!

7. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by using kind words. We put a paper clip on a ramp, but it just sat there like unkind words sit on a hearer's heart. But when we poured oil over the clip, it moved down the ramp, just like how kind words can help move sad things out of a person's life.
8. In the next lesson we learned another way to show God's love is by being a cheerful giver. We learned that when we give people gifts, it makes our gifts become "larger" like seeing them under a magnifying glass. That's because they not only make the person we are giving the gift to feel special, it make us feel good, too.
9. Next, we learned another way to show God's love is by cooperating with each other. During that lesson we formed an assembly line to make a pretend submarine sandwich. God want us to learn how to get along together—helping one another was we work and play with them.
10. Next, we learned that we can show God's love by helping missionaries tell the good news about Jesus' love around the world. We discussed what a missionary is. We made foil figures and used them in an activity to discover how we can help them.
11. In last week's lesson we learned that we can show God's love by being a super hero of Faith. We discovered the qualities of true heroes and we're encouraged to build those characteristics into our own lives.

This week we're going to learn what it takes to do that!

Lesson

Think about what you did this week. Can you share some ways you showed love this week? [Let the children give examples.]

Let's do an activity that will help us understand how we can love others even more. Each group can use one work area that I have set up. [Have students move to their assigned area.]

Let's say the **jar of water and vinegar** represents **us**. The **raisins** represent the **acts of love** we show to others. Drop four or five raisins into your glass one at a time. Let a different person in your group drop in each raisin as he tells one act of love he's shown to someone.

Did you notice that your raisins sank to the bottom and are just sitting there? That's a lot like our acts of love. We might help our friend clean her room once or twice, but after a while we grow tired of doing loving things over and over.

Why do you think this happens? (We want to do our own things. It gets too hard for us. We don't love the person enough.)

The Bible tells us how we can keep that love going even when we get tired.

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

Where does the Bible say love comes from? (From God.)

Love for others only comes from knowing God and His love for us. Let's add the baking soda to our jars. The baking soda represents God's love. Do not stir the water when you add the baking soda.

[*Teacher Tip:* The reaction may cause the liquid to overflow the jar. Caution the children and tell them that is what the dry towel is for.]

Now let's give the baking soda some time to work. While we are waiting, let's find ways the Bible tells us to love others.

I'm going to assign you a verse and I want you to tell me what this verse tells us to do to show love to others.

[Teacher, have the children come away from their work area to look up the verse listed below so the experiment doesn't distract them. Assign each group one verse to report on to the class.]

Verse	Ways to show love
Galatians 6:10	<i>Do good things.</i> People can see God’s love in us when we do good things for them.
1 John 5:2	<i>Keep His commands.</i> God gave us many commandments. Some of them tell us not to lie or steal, and to honor our parents. These are all ways we can show love to others.
Romans 12:10	<i>Honor one another.</i> People will know we love them if we think of them first and let them have first choice.
Romans 13:10	<i>Do them no harm.</i> If we always make sure we are doing what is right for others, they will see that we love them.

Galatians 6:10

*Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should **do good** to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.*

1 John 5:2

*We know we love God’s children if we love God and **obey his commandments.***

Romans 12:10

*Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in **honoring each other.***

Romans 13:10

*Love **does no wrong** to each other, so love fulfills the requirements of God’s law.*

Additional verses:

Leviticus 19:18

***Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge** against a fellow Israelite, but love your neighbor as yourself, I am the Lord.*

Proverbs 17:9

*Love prospers when a fault is **forgiven**, but dwelling on it separates close friends.*

Proverbs 17:17

*A friend is always **loyal**, and a brother is born to **help** in time of need.*

Hebrews 13:1-2

*Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don’t forget to **show hospitality** to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without even realizing it!*

Now let’s go back and look at our jars. [The raisins should be going up and down.]

What made the raisins dance up and down? (We added baking soda.)

If you keep watching the raisins, they keep going up and down over and over. Without God’s love in our lives (like plain vinegar-water), our attempts to love others falls short. Once we add God’s love (like adding baking soda to the solution), our love can go on working over and over again. We can’t love others on our own. It has to be God’s love and power in our lives that keeps us loving others time after time. Just like the dancing raisins, we can keep showing love over and over to others if we allow God’s love to work through us.

Bow your heads for a moment. Think to yourself: “*Am I tired of loving others? Have I been trying to show love on my own? Am I getting tired of loving someone I know?*” If you are, you need to ask God to allow His love to work in your life.

Jesus wants us to love others. Let's pray and ask Him to help us love others more.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for loving us first. Help us to show love to others more this week. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Snack Idea:

Ants on a log

Put peanut butter on celery sticks. Line the peanut butter with raisins.

Amazin' Raisin' Cake

1 cup mayonnaise	1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon
2 eggs	2 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups sugar	½ teaspoon nutmeg
3 cups flour	¼ teaspoon cloves
3 cups chopped, peeled apples	
1/3 cup milk	1 cup raisins
½ cup chopped nuts	

Mix mayonnaise, eggs, and sugar. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Add milk and mix again. Add raisins, apples, and nuts. Pour into three greased and floured cake tins. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Frost with cream cheese frosting.

Craft Corner

Heart "Paper Doll" Banner

Cut strips of paper and fold them accordion style. With a heart pattern, draw a heart shape that is slightly wider than the width of the paper. When you cut it out and unfold the paper, it will be like paper dolls—hearts all linked together. The children can make several sections and paste them together. They can decorate their "banners" as they wish.

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]