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## Forward

The ***Showing God's Love*** series helps you present biblical principles through objects your students can touch, see, smell, hear, and taste. Kids will experience God's love and learn how to show His love to others. These lessons work great with groups that include multiple age levels! You can also use the hands-on activities as resources to supplement other lessons.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositionally. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from a curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called *Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life* that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website:

<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)*

*Sheila Scroggins*

Sheila has had over 35 years' experience in teaching children and has several other lesson series available. You may contact her by eMail at: [ccuv-ChildrensMinistry@usa.net](mailto:ccuv-ChildrensMinistry@usa.net) for more information.

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## Showing God's Love Curriculum Overview

**Lesson 1:** God's Love is Everywhere – In this lesson we learn that God's love is everywhere and that he wants us to love him, too. We discuss how we can't see God's love, but we still know it's there. We do an activity with ice and boiling water to discover that our air contains drops of water that we can't see. We compared these invisible drops to God's love.

We learn that although God's love is invisible, we can see the effect of it just like we can see the effect of gravity, wind, or a magnet. We learn that God loves us and He wants us to love Him back with all of our heart, mind, and soul. And He wants us to love each other in the same way He loves us.

**Lesson 2:** God Knows Me Completely – In this lesson we learn that God loves and knows all about us and that God wants us to show His love to others, too. In class, we do several activities that help us discover that even though other people or even we ourselves don't know everything there is to know about us, God knows us completely. The children draw maps of their towns and mark where their home, church, school, and a friend's house are. They use highlighters to trace the roads. We meditate on Psalm 139:1-3 and discuss how God always knows where we are, what we're doing, and what we're thinking and feeling. Wherever we go, whatever we think or feel, God understands and loves each one of us.

**Lesson 3:** By Taking Care of Planet Earth – In this lesson we learn that because planet earth belongs to God, we can show others that we love God by taking care of our environment properly. We play a litter game that helps us understand the frustration of having your possessions trashed. We talk about ways to care for trees, animals, grass, and oceans. We do an activity that shows the effects of oil spills on ocean, birds, plants, and animals. We also see how hard it is to clean up an oil slick.

**Lesson 4:** By Being A Good Neighbor – In this lesson we learn 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 put puzzles together and find out that each piece is important to a

complete puzzle. It is easy to think of our friends as important enough to do good things for them, like sharing. But sometimes we find it hard to do good things for people we don't know or don't like. But the good things we do for others helps them feel good about themselves and others. We do 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 add drops of dish soap, it causes the food coloring drops to swirl together to make a beautiful rainbow.

**Lesson 5:** By Being Compassionate – In this lesson we learn that we can show God's love by being compassionate to those who are hurting. Sad things happen to people we love. God wants us to help those who are sad, lonely, scared, shy, or feeling rejected. In class we put Band-Aids on a broken heart and talk about ways we can help hurting people. Learning compassion is an important part of living and loving the way Jesus does.

**Lesson 6:** By Forgiving Others – In this lesson we learn that we can show God's love by forgiving others when they do wrong things to us. We discuss how forgiving others can change hurtful situations and unify people. We learn that Jesus told us to forgive others 7 times 70, so we count out 490 bird seeds and put them in a film canister so we can be reminded of how much trouble it is to keep track of how many times we should forgive someone.

**Lesson 7:** By Using Kind Words – In this lesson we learn that we can show God's love by using kind words. We find that the Bible compares kind words to apples and honey; a tongue that uses unkind words is compared to a sword, arrow, and a snake. We do an activity using a ramp covered with aluminum foil. We put a paper clip on the ramp, but it just sits there like unkind words sit on a hearer's heart. But when we pour oil over the clip, it moves down the ramp, just like how kind words can help move sad things out of a person's life.

**Lesson 8:** By Being a Cheerful Giver – In this lesson another way to show God's love is by being a cheerful giver. To do this, the class makes a magnifying lens with a glass filled with items, plastic wrap, a rubber band, and water. When we look at the items through the side of the glass, they are normal size. But when we look at the items

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through the top of the glass, they look larger. We will discuss how this is like giving. When we give, our gifts become “larger” because they not only make the person we are giving the gift to feel special, it makes us feel good, too. We will learn that one of the simplest gifts we can give someone is a compliment.

**Lesson 9:** By Cooperating – In this lesson we learn that we can show God’s love by cooperating with each other to do God’s work. To do this, we form an assembly line to make a pretend submarine sandwich. God wants us to learn how to get along together, helping one another as we work and play with them.

**Lesson 10:** By Helping Missionaries – In this lesson we learn to show God’s love by helping missionaries tell the good news of Jesus’ love around the world. We discuss what a missionary is and what they do. We make foil figures and use them in an interactive activity to discover how we can help them.

**Lesson 11:** By Being a Hero of Faith – In this lesson we learn that we

can show God’s love by being a super hero of faith. We discover the qualities of true heroes and learn that building these qualities into our lives can be exciting and fun, as well as hard work.

**Lesson 12:** By Being Filled with The Holy Spirit – In this lesson we learn that in order to keep on showing God’s love to others, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. To help us understand this idea, we put raisins in a jar filled with water and vinegar. Then we add baking soda to the water. After a few minutes, we see that the raisins are “dancing.” They keep going up and down. We compare this to our attempt to love others. Without God’s love in our lives (like plain vinegar-water), our attempts to love others falls short. Sometimes we get tired of doing loving things for others. But, 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.

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