



LESSON 2

LOVE NEVER FAILS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Shows Us How to Love

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13

GOD'S BIG STORY: Paul teaches that love is more important than knowledge or self-sacrifice. It's even greater than faith and hope. Through Paul's words, God—the only One who loves perfectly—shows us how to love.

WORD OF WONDER: The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love. —1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

“Can’t Buy Me Love” by the Beatles was a crazy popular song back in the 1960s. Its message is clear: You can’t buy love.

So how do we find love? And maybe more importantly, how do we share love?

In 1 Corinthians 13:1–8, Paul writes that we can have many spiritual gifts, knowledge, and money, but if we lack God’s love, we truly have nothing. To make matters more challenging, he writes in verse 12, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror” (NIV). Our knowledge, our hope, even our understanding of God’s love are not yet complete—they are like looking in a fogged-up mirror. We can wipe it, but our reflection remains hazy.

So if the mirror is fogged up, how can we understand what God’s love is all about?

We will only know it by entering into a sweet relationship with Jesus. He’s the only one who can fully wipe away the fog. He’s the one who knows us and understands how to love us.

Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 13:1–8, 12–13.

As you consider these words of Paul, what could you do to get a clearer vision of God’s love for you? Have you let yourself be fully embraced by Him, or are there parts of you that you hold back? What might it look like to share this kind of love with those around you?

Sit back and lean into Jesus, who knows you and wants you to fully know Him.

—Tom Bump

Children’s Ministry Leader, Author, and Coach
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Christians of Corinth were part of a church planted by Paul on his second missionary journey. Reflecting their culture, the Corinthians were highly conscious of social class and speaking skill. Paul addresses their tendency to divide into factions and fan clubs.

WHAT?

Paul treats a mirror as an object that obscures (1 Corinthians 13:12). Ancient mirrors were made of bronze and had none of the clarity of glass. An imperfect image from a dark mirror illustrates the way we presently “see” and “know.”

WHERE?

Corinth, the capital of Achaia, was a city with a blended Greek and Roman culture. Because of its important role in trade—Paul himself worked as a tentmaker in Corinth (Acts 18:3)—there existed a great divide between rich and poor.

WHEN?

In Acts 18:11, Luke notes Paul’s residence in Corinth for 18 months. Paul and the Corinthians exchanged letters over what were probably several years. Paul requests their financial support and mentions his plan to return in person (2 Corinthians 8:8–12; 10:2).

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Jesus commands us to love our “enemies,” including those outside the community of faith (Matthew 5:44). In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul describes patient love within the church—the body of Christ. If Jesus’ followers can’t patiently bear with one another, they can’t possibly love their enemies.



LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Kids, look who is headed our way! It's our favorite curious cat, Tac.

Tac the Cat: Meow and hello, kids! How are you today?

(Pause to give kids time to respond to Tac.)

Leader: We've been having fun today by pretending to be a cat just like you!

Tac the Cat: I'm curious, did you make an angry face? Because if you wanted to copy me, I've been making a lot of angry and, well ... sad faces.

Leader: Oh no! Why are you so sad?

Tac the Cat: It's a catastrophe! My friend Oliver and I had a catfight a week ago. I got upset and didn't want to play with him. I really miss him, but I'm still mad, and I'm not sure how to stop being mad. I'm curious, have you ever been mad and unable to forgive?

Leader: Of course! It's not always easy to get along with other cats—or people. Even if those cats are special friends. But no matter how we feel, it's important to show patience, kindness, and forgiveness! I have an idea. What if you went to Oliver's house today and invited him to play with you? Maybe you could even bring a special cat treat to share?

Tac the Cat: But what if Oliver is still mad at me?

Leader: He might be. But be patient with him and try again tomorrow.

Tac the Cat: Thank you! I'm curious, what would I do without you to show me how to love Oliver?

Leader: Well, the next time you're in a catfight, ask God! God is the One who shows us how to love others. God will show you how to be patient and kind and to forgive, even when you might not feel like it.

Tac the Cat: I think I'm going to go to Oliver's house right now to see if he would like to play with me!

Leader: That sounds like an excellent idea, Tac!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: have you ever been frustrated with a friend or maybe a brother or sister? Allow the kids to respond. How can you stop being angry and start loving? Allow the kids to respond. What are some ways to show you love someone? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God knows the best ways to love someone?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SHOWS US HOW TO LOVE**. Today, we'll discover how God shows us how to love."

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say The Declaration with you and do the motions.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

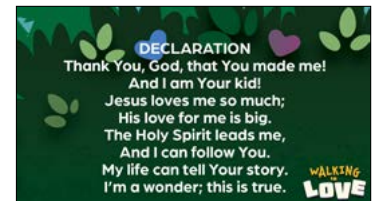
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words with these as a guide if needed: **God, thank You for every kid and leader here today. Help us learn from You and show us how to love others like You do. We thank You for Your love, which never fails. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God shows us how to love. Let's sing about God's love for us and our love for Him!"

VIDEOS: BREAKER ROCK BEACH, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), brown paper bag or canvas bag (grocery size), envelope, small book, coins (3–4), cardstock (optional)

Before you begin, show kids how to make a heart shape with their hands. Not all preschoolers will be able to do this, and that's ok! Praise them for their effort.

When I say the word “love,” you can hold your heart high above your head. Use the word “love” several times in a sentence and allow kids to practice holding up their hearts before you read the script. **Not only can you hold up your heart when you hear the word “love,” but when I move my heart a certain way, you can also copy me.**

Remember when you followed me by being a copycat? Well, the Apostle Paul followed Jesus and wanted others to follow Jesus too! Paul became a missionary. A missionary’s job is to visit different towns and tell others about Jesus. Paul wrote lots of letters (pull out the envelope from the bag and hold it up for kids to see). **You might even call Paul’s letters love** (hold up heart) **letters because Paul wanted to teach people how God wants us to love** (hold up heart) **each other. Paul wrote a letter to a group of Christians who lived in a city called Corinth.** Speak in a mysterious voice: **In this letter Paul told them the most** (pause) **important** (pause) **thing** (pause). **Can you guess what it is?**

Reach into the bag and pull out the book. Hold the book up and keep holding it as you say the next line. **Books give us knowledge and teach lots of things, and that’s good.** Slowly lower the book as you say the next line and put the book away. **But it’s not the most important thing. I’m curious, what else is important?** Reach into the bag and pull out the coins. Hold coins high above your head. **Paul also said giving everything you have away is good!** Slowly lower the coins as you say the next line and put the coins away. **But it’s not the most important thing.**

Is anyone else curious about the most important thing for followers of Jesus? Let’s do a drumroll. Show kids how to do a drumroll by patting your legs quickly with your hands. **The answer is love** (hold up heart).

The word love (hold up heart) **can mean a lot of things, but Paul means the kind of love** (hold up heart) **that makes us patient and kind to one another. Love** (hold up heart) **makes us able to forgive when someone treats us badly, and love** (hold up heart) **keeps us from being angry. Love** (hold up heart) **means we stand up for others. Let’s stand up right now together.** Pause and allow kids to stand. **Love** (hold up heart) **is not happy with evil.** Shake your head. **Love** (hold up heart) **is full of joy!** Shake your heart back and forth as if dancing and encourage kids to copy your movement. **Love** (hold up heart) **is the most important thing because it always protects, trusts, and hopes. Paul says that “love never fails”** (1 Corinthians 13:8), **and he’s right!**

Above all, love (hold up heart) **makes us like Jesus. It was Jesus’ love** (hold up heart) **that made Him give up His life so we can be forgiven. What makes us most like Jesus is showing others the same love.** Hold up heart. **God shows us how to love.** Hold up heart.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SHOWS US HOW TO LOVE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God's love for us is patient. When we were still sinners and the wrong things we do separated us from Him, God sent His Son Jesus to die for us. That's how much God loves us! Now we can love others by showing them patience just like God is patient with us! (See Romans 5:8.)"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for helping us to be like Jesus and showing us how to love. Use your own words, with these as a guide if needed.

God, thank You for all of our friends here today. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love and be more like You. May Your Spirit guide us in love every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words, with these as a guide if needed.

Blessing: The God of the universe sees you and loves you! May you experience His goodness every day. Taste and see that the Lord is good! His love for you never ends. Go in joy, sharing His unfailing love with others!