

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

- Play Stations:
 - Play Dough Hearts
 - Heart Matching
 - Love Never Fails Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Copycat
- Word of Wonder: 1 Corinthians 13:13
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Question Hearts
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Response Stations
- Game: Musical Walk in Love



Walking in Love Preschool Spotify playlist



INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: God Shows Us How to Love

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13

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.

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Shows Us How to Love

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: red, pink, and purple play dough; various heart-shaped cookie cutters; red, pink, and purple cardstock (1 sheet of each color); scissors (prep only); coloring utensils; butcher paper (optional); large foam hearts (3, various colors; optional)

RESOURCES: [Heart Sheet](#), [Love Never Fails Coloring Sheet](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Play Dough Hearts

Set-up: Set play dough and heart-shaped cookie cutters out on tables.

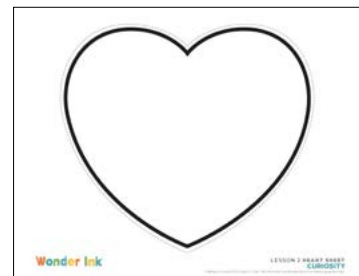
Play: Encourage kids to make hearts out of the play dough using the cookie cutters or shape the play dough into hearts with their hands. Show kids how to make the hearts while talking about what hearts remind us of—love.

Leader Tip: For quick cleanup, consider lining tables with butcher paper.

Play Station: Heart Matching

Set-up: Print the Heart Sheet Template onto the cardstock. Trace the heart shape on different colors of cardstock, cut out, and then cut them down the middle to create different cut patterns. Mix up the pieces and place them on the table. You could also use different cut patterns down the middle of three large foam hearts.

Play: Challenge kids to pick a specific color heart and put its pieces together. Guide kids by showing them how the pieces fit together to make a heart. Assist kids as needed.



Play Station: Love Never Fails Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. Encourage kids to also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone or something they love.

Curiosity Activity: Copycat

"We all need help learning new things, and sometimes the best way to learn is by following and mimicking someone else's actions. Let's play a game together called Copycat.

I will pretend to be a cat, and your job is to follow and copy every move I make. Today, you will all be copycats! However, watch closely, because I am one fast cat, and you will need to pay attention.

Let's practice one time before we get started with our game of Copycat. Slowly move your head side to side and wait for kids to copy you. **Great job practicing copying me. Now it's time to begin.** You can choose your own catlike movements or use the suggestions below:

- Stretch and arch your back while on all fours.
- Walk in a circle like a cat chasing its tail.
- Pretend to paw at something in the air.
- Be a "scaredy-cat" by making a scared face.
- Pretend to climb up a tree.
- Put your hands on top of your head like cat ears and "meow."
- Jump like a cat.
- Walk in a straight line while pretending to be a cat.
- Pretend to chase something around the room.

"You all did a great job being copycats! Who thinks you could have acted like a cat doing all of those things without copying me first? Allow the kids to respond. Copying someone makes it easier to learn and grow. Today, we're going to learn that when it comes to loving others, the best One to copy is God. None of us loves perfectly—only God. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SHOWS US HOW TO LOVE."**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

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)

"Our Word of Wonder comes from a book in our Bible called **1 Corinthians**. It's a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of Corinth to tell them what God says about love. Let's say our Word of Wonder together. Practice the Word of Wonder with the kids using the actions below.

- **THE THREE**—Hold up three fingers.
- **MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO HAVE**—Make a "check mark" motion in the air.
- **ARE FAITH,**—Make prayer hands.
- **HOPE**—Hold hands out with palms upward.
- **AND LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM**—Hold up pointer finger as number one.
- **IS LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Now that we've practiced, let's play a game. Divide kids into two groups and tell them their group's key word: *faith* or *hope*. **I'm going to say our Word of Wonder several times, and when you hear your group's word, you can take a big jump forward.**

Now the most important part of our game happens whenever you hear the word love. When you hear the word love, we will all take one big jump together. Why? Because love is the most important thing!" Repeat the Word of Wonder several times, inviting kids to jump on the key words.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Can you name someone who has a lot of faith and hope?**
- **Share about someone in your life who is very loving. What does that person do that is loving?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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 hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible. Read

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–8, 12 from an NIV Bible.

Circle Time: Question Hearts

SUPPLIES: red paper (6 sheets), scissors (prep only), marker (prep only), beanbag

Ahead of time, use the scissors to cut out six paper hearts. Number the hearts 1–6 and place them face down on the floor in random order.

We've been learning a lot about love today. Let's practice sharing what we know about it. We are going to take turns tossing a beanbag onto a heart. Then, you can answer a question with that number. Ready? Let's go! Allow kids to take turns tossing the beanbag and answering questions according to the numbers on the hearts. Turn the heart shape back over after each turn.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- (Heart 1) **What did Paul say is the most important thing?** (love)
- (Heart 2) **What did Paul say is important but not more important than love?**
(*knowledge, giving things away, faith, hope*)
- (Heart 3) **What words describe genuine godly love?** (*kind, patient, forgiving, selfless*)
- (Heart 4) **Who shows us how to love?** (God)
- (Heart 5) **Whom can you show love to today?**
- (Heart 6) **How do you like to show love to others?**

Jesus knew that it's not always easy to love others, but He promises to show us how to do this. Jesus loves us so much and promises to help us. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for the different ways we can show love to others.

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Response Stations

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, marker (prep only), coloring utensils

Before the kids arrive, prepare three large pieces of butcher paper. Use a marker to label one piece with *Forgiveness*, another one with *Patience* and the last piece with the word *Kindness*.

"What have we been learning about today? Allow kids to respond. God loves us and shows us how to love others! What are some of the ways God loves us? Pause for kids to answer. How can we show love to others? Allow kids to respond.

Leader Tip: Consider enlarging the first letter of each key word. Most young kids can recognize letters, and you can offer prompts, such as having them look for F for forgiveness.

There are different stations you can visit to respond to God while you think about what He is speaking to you about today. The first station is Forgiveness. Walk to the Forgiveness area or point to the station. **Love allows us to forgive people who hurt us or make us sad. At this station, you can talk about or act out a scenario that makes you think of forgiveness, like someone giving a heart or a flower to a friend. There could also be two sad friends next to two friends smiling.**

The next station is about Patience. When we love someone, we are patient with that person. We don't get angry easily, we share, and we wait for others to have a turn. You can talk about or act out a scenario (or draw a picture) that reminds you of patience. For example, kids waiting in line or taking turns playing a game.

Our last station is the Kindness station. At this station you can talk about, act out, or draw examples of kindness. It could be something kind that someone else has done for you or something kind that you can do for others."

Allow kids time to move from station to station. If needed, prompt kids with drawing suggestions. Reassure kids and affirm that it's OK if they don't know exactly what to draw.

Game: Musical Walk in Love

SUPPLIES: chairs (1 per kid, minus 1)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the [Walking in Love Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Before this game, place the chairs into a circle. You'll need one for each kid, minus one. You'll play a version of the game Musical Chairs. Prepare music to play.

God shows us how to love! We don't have to figure it all out on our own. In this game, we'll walk around these chairs while a leader shows us actions to do and copy as we are walking around the chairs. When the music stops, stop walking and find a chair to sit in. The person without a chair is the next leader to show us new actions.

Be the leader for the first round or designate a leader. Remind that child he gets to choose fun actions the others have to follow (such as touching their head, hopping, or touching their shoulders) as they walk around the chairs when the music is playing. Pause the music from time to time for the kids to find a seat.