

Love Is What Love Does

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: Love others as Christ loved us.

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-18

Memory Verse: We should love not just with words or speech, but with actions and in truth. - 1 John 3:18

The Children's Sermon

Dear kids, today we're going to talk about something really important and super cool—Loving Actions. Loving Actions are when we show love through the things we do, not just the words we say. It's like when you help a friend pick up their toys or share your snack with someone who forgot theirs. Those are Loving Actions because they show you care.

You know, there's someone who showed us the best example of Loving Actions ever—Jesus! Jesus didn't just tell people He loved them; He showed it by helping, healing, and teaching them. He even gave His life for us, which is the biggest Loving Action of all. Jesus wants us to follow His example and show love to others through our actions.

So, how can we do Loving Actions? It's simple! We can start by being kind to everyone around us. If you see someone sitting alone, you can go sit with them. If you see someone who is sad, you can give them a hug or say something nice to make them smile. These are all ways to show love through what we do.

But Loving Actions aren't always easy. Sometimes, it means doing the right thing even when it's hard. Like if you see someone being picked on, you can stand up for them and tell a grown-up. It takes courage, but it's a powerful way to show love.

Remember, Loving Actions can be big or small. Even something as simple as saying "thank you" to the bus driver or helping your mom or dad with chores at home can make a big difference. It's about showing love in everything we do, every day.

Now, you might wonder, "Why are Loving Actions so important?" Well, when we do Loving Actions, we're not just making someone else's day better; we're also showing them what God's love looks like. We're like little lights shining bright in the world, showing everyone how wonderful it is to love and be loved.

And guess what? Loving Actions can be contagious. That means when you do something kind out of love, it can inspire others to do the same. Imagine if everyone did just one Loving Action every day. The world would be filled with so much love and happiness!

Let's pray together: "Dear God, thank you for showing us what love looks like through Jesus. Help us to be brave and kind, and to show Loving Actions to everyone we meet. Help us to make the world a brighter place with our love. Amen."

So, kids, I want to challenge you this week. Try to do at least one Loving Action every day. It could be helping out at home, being a good friend, or even making a card for someone to cheer them up. Let's fill our world with love, one action at a time.

Remember, it doesn't matter how small your Loving Action is; what matters is that it comes from your heart. When we all work together to show love through our actions, we can make a big difference in the world.

Bible Memory Verse

We should love not just with words or speech, but with actions and in truth. - 1 John 3:18

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a small table or area where children can comfortably sit and draw.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and some markers or crayons.
2. Ask the children to think of someone they love and want to show kindness to. It could be a family member, friend, or even a pet.
3. Encourage them to decorate their heart with drawings or stickers and on the back, help them write a simple message or just 'I love you' if they're too young to write more. Explain that doing kind things for others is one way we can show love, just like Jesus loves us.

4. Once everyone is done, have a small sharing circle where each child can talk about who they made their heart for and why. If possible, help them plan how they will give their heart to that person.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Heart-shaped cutouts (paper or felt)
- Markers or crayons
- A basket or container

Get Ready:

- Write simple acts of kindness on each heart-shaped cutout (e.g., "Share a toy," "Give a hug," "Say kind words," "Help a friend").
- Place all the heart-shaped cutouts in a basket or container.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle and explain that we can show love to others just like Jesus loves us.
2. Pass the basket around and let each child pick a heart-shaped cutout.
3. Encourage each child to share what their heart says and discuss simple ways they can show love to others by doing the act of kindness written on their heart.

Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Pops – Sharing Love

You'll Need:

- Watermelon slices (about 1/2 inch thick)
- Cookie cutters (heart-shaped)
- Popsicle sticks

Get Ready: Make sure the watermelon slices are ready on a clean surface, and the heart-shaped cookie cutters are washed.

Do this:

1. Help the children use the heart-shaped cookie cutters to cut out heart shapes from the watermelon slices. Explain that the heart shape reminds us of love, especially how Jesus loves us and how we should love others.
2. Insert a popsicle stick into the bottom of each watermelon heart to make it a 'pop'. This can be a fun way to talk about how we can 'stick' to loving others, just like the stick stays in the watermelon.
3. Encourage the children to share their heart-shaped fruit pops with a friend or another class member. As they do, discuss 1 John 3:16-18, explaining that loving others isn't just about saying kind words but also about doing kind things, like sharing what we have.

Game Activity: Heart Helpers Hop

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Sidewalk chalk (for outdoor) or masking tape (for indoor)
- Small heart-shaped tokens or stickers

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to create a simple hopscotch grid on the ground. At the end of each grid, place a heart token.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just as Jesus loves us and helps us, we can show love by helping others. Each heart token represents an act of love.
2. Have the children line up at the start of the hopscotch grid. One at a time, they hop on one foot or both feet (to make it easier for younger children) to the end of the grid to collect a heart token.
3. Once a child collects a token, they think of a way to show love or help someone in the class (e.g., sharing a toy, giving a compliment, helping to clean up). They perform this act of love before the next child starts hopping.
4. Continue until all children have had a turn and encourage them to keep showing love throughout the day.

Craft Activity: Heart of Love

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (red, pink, or white)
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Get Ready: Pre-cut heart shapes from the construction paper for younger children. Older children (4-5 years) can try cutting their own with supervision.

Do this:

1. Give each child a pre-cut heart shape. If they are older, guide them in cutting out their own heart from the construction paper.

2. Ask the children to think of someone they love or want to show kindness to. It could be a family member, friend, or even a pet.
3. Have them use the markers or crayons to draw or write a simple message on the heart, expressing their love or kindness. For younger children, drawing a picture or even just decorating the heart is enough.
4. Once they are done, help them use the glue stick to attach a smaller heart cutout on top if they wish, to add dimension.
5. Encourage them to give the heart to the person they thought of, explaining that just like they made this heart to show love, Jesus shows us His love every day and wants us to share love with others.

Prayer Activity: Loving Hands Prayer

You'll Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Safety scissors

Get Ready: Trace each child's hand on a piece of construction paper and cut out the hand shapes ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Give each child a hand cutout and ask them to think of someone they want to show love to, as Jesus loves us.
2. Have them draw or write the name of the person on the hand cutout. For younger children, they can simply draw a heart or you can help write the name for them.

3. Lead the children in a simple prayer, asking God to help them love others as Christ loves us. Encourage them to place the hand cutout somewhere they will see it daily as a reminder to pray for and show love to that person.