

Love Is What Love Does

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Love others as Christ loved us.

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-18

Memory Verse: Dear children, let us not love 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.

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!

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.

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."

Bible Memory Verse

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. - 1 John 3:18

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or glitter

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, and decorations like stickers or glitter.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and ask them to think of someone they love or want to show love to.
2. Have them decorate their heart with markers, crayons, and stickers, writing a message or drawing something that shows love in action, not just words.
3. Encourage the children to give their heart to the person they thought of, as a way to show love through their actions.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large heart cut out of red construction paper
- Several smaller hearts cut from different colors of construction paper
- Markers or crayons

- Tape
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Write "Love others as Christ loved us" on the large red heart and tape it to the wall where all the children can see it.
- On each small heart, write simple acts of kindness or love, such as "Share a toy," "Help a friend," "Say kind words," etc.
- Spread out the small hearts and markers/crayons on a table accessible to the children.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading 1 John 3:16-18 to the children, explaining that this verse teaches us how important it is to show love through our actions, just like Jesus did.
2. Invite each child to come to the table and choose a small heart. Ask them to think of one way they can show love to others, inspired by the act of kindness written on their heart. They can then draw or write their idea on the back of the heart.
3. Once everyone has finished, allow the children to come up one by one and tape their hearts around the large heart on the wall. As they do, encourage them to share what they wrote or drew and how they plan to show love to others.
4. Conclude by reminding the children that loving others as Christ loves us means using our actions to show kindness and care, just like the hearts on the wall represent. Encourage them to take their heart at the end of the class as a reminder to act with love throughout the week.

Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Pops – Love in Action

You'll Need:

- Watermelon and other various fruits (like cantaloupe, honeydew, pineapple)
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Popsicle sticks
- A small Bible or a printed copy of 1 John 3:16-18

Get Ready: Read 1 John 3:16-18 together and talk about how Jesus showed his love by giving up His life for us. Discuss how we can show love to others by helping and caring for them.

Do this:

1. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out heart shapes from slices of watermelon and other fruits. This represents the love that Jesus has for us and the love we should have for others.
2. Carefully insert a popsicle stick into each fruit heart, making them into 'love pops'.
3. Share some of the fruit pops with friends, family, or neighbors. Explain that just like we are sharing these fruit pops, we should also share our love and kindness with others, just as Jesus did.

Game Activity: Heart Hopscotch of Love

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags

- A list of simple acts of kindness (e.g., share a toy, give a compliment, help with a chore)

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or any safe outdoor area. Instead of numbers in each square, write simple acts of kindness from the list. Make sure there's a heart drawn in the final square to represent the love of Christ.

Do this:

1. Players take turns tossing their stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid. They must skip the square their stone lands on as they hop through the grid.
2. When a player reaches the heart at the end, they pick a square of kindness to perform before their next turn. This act of kindness must be done sometime during the game.
3. The game continues until each child has had multiple turns and has performed at least one act of kindness. Remind the children that just as they are showing love through their actions, Jesus showed us the ultimate love and teaches us to love one another.

Craft Activity: Heartfelt Helping Hands

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue
- Yarn or ribbon

Get Ready: Before the activity, read 1 John 3:16-18 to understand how Jesus showed His love by helping others. Think of ways we can show love through actions.

Do this:

1. Ask each child to trace their hand on a piece of construction paper and cut it out. These hands represent our own hands that can show love through helping.
2. On one side of the hand, have them write or draw a way they can show love and help others, inspired by 1 John 3:16-18. It could be helping at home, sharing with a friend, or doing something kind for a neighbor.
3. Punch a hole at the top of each hand and thread yarn or ribbon through it. Hang these hands around the classroom or at home as a reminder to love others through our actions, just as Christ loves us.

Prayer Activity: Heartfelt Prayers of Love

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into heart shapes, one for each child plus a few extras.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading 1 John 3:16-18 to the children, explaining that loving others means showing kindness and caring actions, just like Jesus did.

2. Give each child a heart-shaped piece of construction paper and markers or crayons. Ask them to think of someone they want to show love to this week. It could be a family member, friend, or even someone they don't know well.

3. Have each child write a prayer on their heart for the person they chose. Encourage them to pray for that person's happiness, health, and that they can show them love in a special way. After they write their prayer, they can decorate their heart with drawings.

4. Once everyone is done, gather the hearts and offer to hang them in a visible area as a reminder to act with love throughout the week. Close with a group prayer, asking God to help each child show love to others as Christ loves us.