

# How Do We Show Love?

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Showing the love of Jesus

**Scripture:** John 14:15

**Memory Verse:** If you love me, keep my commands. - John 14:15

## The Children's Sermon

Jesus told Peter, "If you love me, feed my sheep." This might sound a bit funny at first. You might think, "Did Jesus have sheep that needed feeding?" Well, not exactly the kind you might be thinking of. Jesus wasn't just talking about fluffy, white animals that go "baa." He was talking about people, like you and me. When Jesus said "feed my sheep," He meant taking care of each other, especially those who need help.

I think what Jesus was saying was that we have to do more than say we love each other. We show love when we take care of each other. It's like when you help a friend who fell down, or when you share your toys. That's how you "feed my sheep." You're giving kindness and help, just like you'd give food to someone who was hungry.

When we provide food to people who do not have any, we show love. But "feed my sheep" doesn't only mean giving food. It can also mean listening to someone who is sad, helping with homework, or even just smiling and saying hello. All these things are ways to feed Jesus' sheep because you're taking care of the people around you.

Now, you might wonder, "How can I, a kid, feed Jesus' sheep?" It's simpler than you think. Every day, you meet people who need your help. Maybe there's a new kid in

school who doesn't have friends yet. You can be their friend. That's a way to feed Jesus' sheep. Or maybe you see someone who's sad or upset. Just asking them if they're okay or if they want to talk is another way to feed Jesus' sheep.

Remember, feeding Jesus' sheep isn't just a one-time thing. It's something we can do every day. It's in the small acts of kindness that we show Jesus' love to the world. It's in the way we treat our families, our friends, and even people we don't know very well.

Jesus' message to feed His sheep is really about showing love and care to everyone. It's about making sure no one feels left out, hungry, or alone. When we do these things, we are following Jesus' footsteps. We are being good friends, good siblings, and good people.

Sometimes, feeding Jesus' sheep might even mean standing up for someone who is being treated unfairly. It means being brave and saying, "Hey, that's not right," and helping them feel safe and loved. Jesus wants us to be kind and brave, just like He was.

And guess what? When we feed Jesus' sheep, we also make ourselves feel good. It's like when you share your favorite snack with a friend. You might have less for yourself, but you feel really happy inside because you made your friend happy. That's the magic of feeding Jesus' sheep. It fills our hearts with joy and love, just like it fills up the hearts of those we help.

So, let's think about ways we can feed Jesus' sheep every day. Maybe we can start by saying something nice to someone, helping out at home without being asked, or sharing something we really like. Every little bit of kindness helps, and it all adds up to a lot of love.

And don't forget, feeding Jesus' sheep isn't just for kids. It's for everyone. You can even remind the grown-ups in your life to feed Jesus' sheep, too. Maybe you can do something together, like making cards for people in the hospital or picking up trash in the park. There are so many ways to show love and care for each other.

In the end, what Jesus wants us to remember is that love is an action. We show love by what we do, not just by what we say. And when we feed His sheep, we are showing the world what Jesus' love looks like. It's kind, it's caring, and it's for everyone.

So, let's go out there and feed Jesus' sheep in any way we can. Let's spread kindness and love everywhere we go. And let's remember that even the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life. That's how we can be true followers of Jesus, by feeding His sheep and taking care of each other.

## Bible Memory Verse

### **If you love me, keep my commands. - John 14:15**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into heart shapes, one for each child.
- Write 'John 14:15' on each heart with a marker.

Do This:

1. Give each child a heart-shaped paper and markers or crayons. Explain that the heart represents love, and today we're learning about showing love for Jesus by following His commands.
2. Ask the children to decorate their hearts with drawings or stickers that represent different ways they can show love to Jesus, such as helping others, praying, or being kind.
3. Once everyone is done, gather the hearts and create a 'Wall of Love' by taping them to a wall or board. Discuss each heart briefly, highlighting the ways to show love for Jesus. This visual will help them remember John 14:15 and the importance of showing love through actions.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

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

Get Ready:

1. Write John 14:15 on the large red heart and place it at the front of the room where all the children can see it.
2. On the smaller heart cutouts, write simple acts of kindness or ways to show love (e.g., share a toy, help a friend, say kind words, listen when others are speaking).
3. Hide these smaller hearts around the room before the children arrive.

Do this:

1. Start by reading John 14:15 together: "If you love me, keep my commands." Explain that one way we show love for Jesus is by loving others and doing kind things.
2. Tell the children they are going on a heart hunt to find the hidden hearts around the room. Once they find a heart, they should bring it back to the group.
3. After all the hearts have been found, gather the children and read aloud the acts of kindness written on them. Discuss how each act can show love for Jesus by following His command to love others.
4. Encourage the children to choose one act of kindness to focus on for the week. They can write or draw that act on a new heart cutout and take it home as a reminder.
5. Close with a prayer, asking for God's help in showing love to others just as Jesus loves us.

## Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Pizzas

You'll Need:

- Watermelon slices (about 1/2 inch thick)
- A variety of other fruits (like grapes, blueberries, strawberries, and kiwi)
- Cookie cutters (heart-shaped)
- Vanilla yogurt
- Small plastic knives or spreaders

Get Ready: Cut the watermelon slices into large circles (big enough to use the cookie cutter on). Wash and prepare the other fruits by cutting them into small pieces.

Do this:

1. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out watermelon hearts. These will be the base of your fruit pizzas, representing the love of Jesus.
2. Spread a thin layer of vanilla yogurt on top of each watermelon heart. The yogurt is like the love Jesus spreads in our hearts when we follow His commandments, as mentioned in John 14:15.
3. Decorate the top of the yogurt with the small pieces of fruit to make a beautiful, edible creation. Each piece of fruit represents the different ways we can show Jesus' love to others, like being kind, helping friends, and sharing.

## Game Activity: Love Path Challenge

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Small stones or beanbags
- A list of simple acts of kindness (e.g., smile at someone, say thank you, help clean up)

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground. Each square will represent a step in showing love, similar to how Jesus loves us. Write a simple act of kindness in each square of the hopscotch grid.

Do this:

1. Have the children line up at the start of the Love Path (hopscotch grid). Explain that John 14:15 teaches us 'If you love me, keep my commands,' and one way we show love to Jesus is by loving others.
2. Each child takes a turn tossing a stone or beanbag onto the grid. They must hop through the grid, skipping the square with their stone or beanbag, to reach the end. Before they can hop, they must read aloud the act of kindness in their landing square and commit to doing it that day.

3. Once everyone has had a turn, gather the children and discuss how it felt to commit to showing love through their actions. Encourage them to follow through with their acts of kindness as a way of showing love for Jesus.

## Craft Activity: Love Bracelets for Jesus

You'll Need:

- Colorful beads
- Elastic string
- Heart-shaped beads
- Scissors

Get Ready: Cut the elastic string into 8-inch pieces, one for each child.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining John 14:15, 'If you love me, keep my commands.' Discuss how we can show love for Jesus by following His teachings and loving others.
2. Have each child pick out beads and at least one heart-shaped bead to represent their love for Jesus.
3. Thread the beads onto the elastic string, creating a pattern or design as they wish. The heart bead should be placed in the middle as a reminder to always keep Jesus' love at the center of their lives.
4. Once they are happy with their design, help them tie the ends of the string together securely, making a bracelet.
5. Encourage the children to wear their Love Bracelets as a daily reminder to show love for Jesus by obeying His commands and showing kindness to others.

# Prayer Activity: Love Notes to Jesus

You'll Need:

- Colorful paper or note cards
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- A 'Love Box' (any small box decorated with hearts and crosses)

Get Ready: Before the activity, decorate a small box with hearts and crosses to make it the 'Love Box.' Prepare a space where children can sit comfortably with their coloring materials and paper.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in John 14:15, Jesus tells us, 'If you love me, keep my commands.' Discuss what it means to show love to Jesus by following His teachings.
2. Ask the children to think of ways they can show love to Jesus through their actions towards others. Examples could be helping a friend, being kind to a sibling, or saying thank you.
3. Have each child write or draw a prayer on their piece of paper, showing how they will try to show love to Jesus by being loving towards others. They can write things like, 'Jesus, help me to be kind to my brother' or draw a picture of themselves sharing.
4. Once they have finished, let each child fold their prayer note and place it in the 'Love Box.' Pray together, asking God to help everyone show love to Jesus by keeping His commands and being kind to one another.