

# Fun Family Activities to reinforce the story

## Faith, Hope, Love 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### **Key Verse:**

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13

### **The Point:**

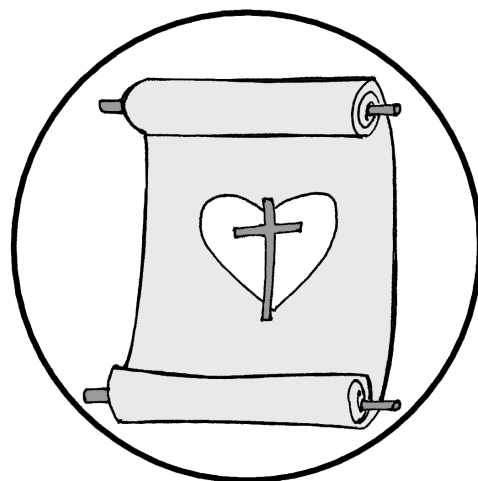
God's love is the greatest gift we can receive and share.

### **Making Connections:**

The Power of God's Love

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Fellowship



## Background for Adults and Older Kids:

### Making Connections

Last week, we were introduced to the Christian church in Corinth. In today's story, we will hear a portion of Paul's letter to the Corinthians, specifically calling on them to live lives of love.

### Story Summary:

#### *The Greatest of These Is Love*

The passage in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 is well known. Paul's writings about love are read at many weddings, though this passage has a bigger meaning to it. In this Letter to the Corinthians, Paul is doing more than telling people to love one another—he is inviting them to be in communion with one another through the Church.

The Corinthian church struggled in many of the same ways the Church struggles today: differences in thinking, desires for power, and conflicting attitudes toward one another bring division to the people of God. In this passage, Paul reminds the Corinthians (and us) that we are one Body of Christ and we should love God and other people equally, no matter who they are. He reminds us that the greatest of the gifts God has given us is love, and we must share that love with everyone that we meet.

### The Point

**God's love is the greatest gift we can receive and share.**

We are called to love God and others. The challenge in this passage still rings true to us today. As Christians, we are invited to show that the greatest of all things is love. We are invited to love God through worship and prayer and to love others through service and fellowship. By doing these things, we can preach the good news of God's love and break down the barriers that divide our world today.

### Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

Fellowship is an essential ingredient of our story, just as it is an essential ingredient of our lives. Paul demonstrated the spiritual practice of fellowship over and over as he traveled across many lands, bringing people together by sharing

## Read the Bible Story: Preschool—2nd Grade

Open your Spark Story Bible to Love Is on pages 546-549 . If you don't have a Spark Story Bible, please read the story from the pages attached.

3rd grade and older: Open your Adventure Bible to the book of 1 Corinthians. Read what it says at on the title page- who wrote this book? Why was it written? Find Chapter 13 and read verses 1-13. Have you ever heard these verses before? Sometimes they are read at weddings.

If you have an Adventure Bible, there are several extra pages that give information throughout the Bible. These pages are a little thicker than the other pages. There should be a page called "Love Passages for Kids" which has these 1 Corinthian verses in language kids can understand. This page may be in either the Old or New Testament sections. If you cannot find it, or don't have an Adventure Bible, see the attached page in this lesson.

**God's love is all around us! In our story we heard that Love is kind, love is not rude or selfish. Everything else we have will go away someday, but God's love will be with us forever. Paul wanted the people to know that love was the most important thing they have.**

Faith, Hope and Love- the greatest of these is love! Let's look at each one of these briefly- what are they?

### *Faith*

Provide craft sticks and craft glue. Kids and family members decorate craft sticks and use them to make crosses. What do you think of when you see a cross? In our church building, do you remember where we have crosses? Have you ever noticed the cross on the very top of the roof of our Worship Center? What things can we do to help our faith in God to grow? It's tricky right now when we cannot meet in church together, but there are other ways to grow in our faith! We can talk to God in prayer, we can read stories in the Bible, we can talk with each other about Jesus and how He helped people.

### *Hope*

Provide copies of the dove picture attached and crayons. Color a dove, an image of hope. Read the verse at the bottom of the sheet as kids color. What do you think of when someone says the word hope? What do you hope for? What gives you hope? Jesus is the one constant that can give us hope in a challenging time. Jesus loves us no matter what and ensures us that God is with us ALL THE TIME!

### *Love*

Make hearts out of play dough or construction paper. Like last week, make them in different sizes. How do you show your love for someone? How does your family show their love to you? Turn to the people with you today and say "I love you!" What things do you love? What things do you love to do? What food do you love? Love is all around us!

## What I Love

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Talk about what you love.

*You will need:*

- † Photos of people, places, or things that you love. Have family members look through photo albums or on your phone for things they love.

**We are going to tell each other about some of the things we love. First, I am going to share with you some of the things that I love.**

1. Show kids the photos you have collected. Share with them each thing, and why you love it.
2. **These are some of the things I love. Now tell me, what are some things that you love?**
3. **Many of you probably love family, friends, or other people. How do you show these people how much you love them?** [*Answers will vary, but may include: telling them, being kind to them, helping them when they need it, etc.*]
4. **Today's story tells us all about love and reminds us about how we can love other people.**

## The Greatest of These Is Love

**Paul once wrote a letter to the Corinthian church. He talked about love.**

(Act like you are writing a letter to someone.)

**He wrote about how love is powerful, and it makes our lives important.**

(Cross your arms over your chest.)

**Anything we say to people, even things we tell them about God, does not mean anything unless we say it with love!**

(Cup your hands around your mouth and shout "Love is important!")

**What is love? It is being patient, kind, and polite to other people.**

(Turn to the person standing next to you, shake their hand, and say "hello.")

**Love protects and helps us.**

(Hold your hands in front of you, with your palms facing away from you. Then, clasp your hands together.)

**Love also lasts forever. God's love will never go away!**

(Open your arms wide, and turn around in a circle.)

**Faith, hope, and love are important. But the most important of these things is love.**

(Cross your arms over your chest.)

**We should always love God and love other people, no matter what.**

(Turn to a friend, give them a hug or a high five, and say "I love you!")

## Jesus Loves Me, so I can love others!

You will need:

Attached paper with Jesus Loves Me in the middle of a flower shape

Stickers of hearts or small hearts cut out of paper

Marker or pen

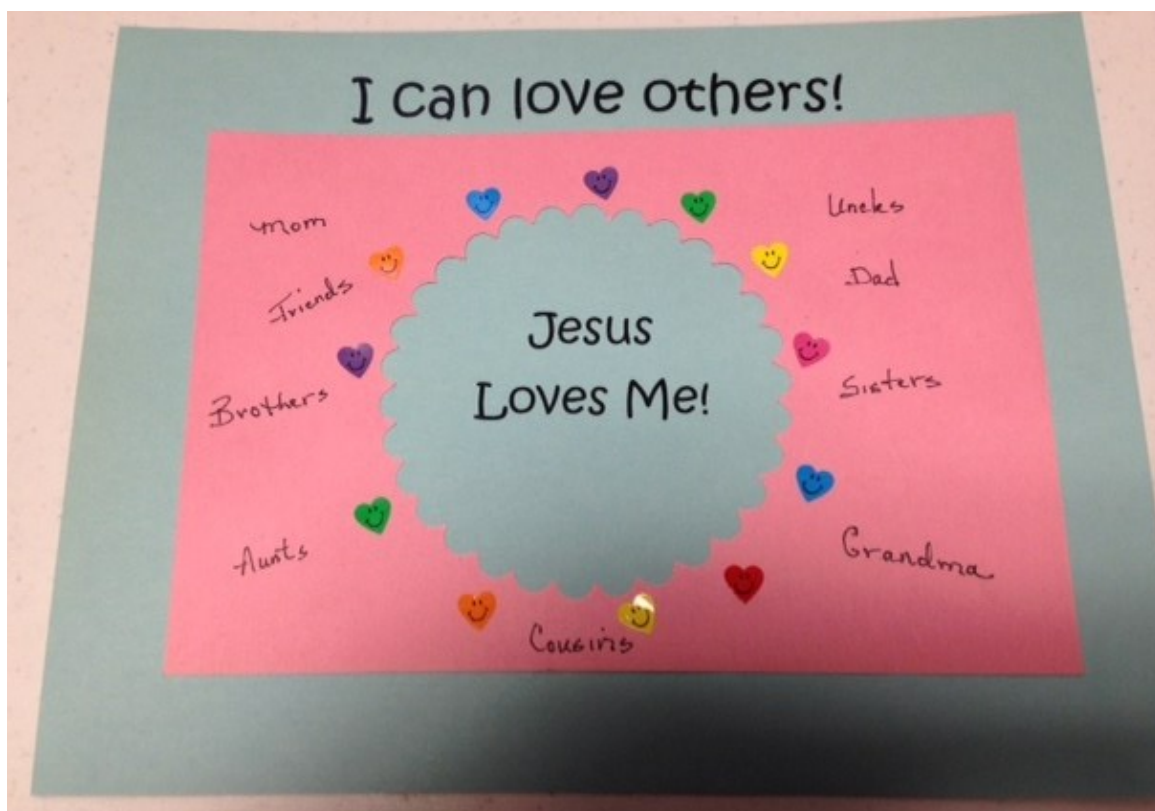
Glue sticks

To help us remember that Jesus loves us, and because of that love, we can love others, we are going to make a pretty picture with those words on it.

Give each person a piece of paper that says Jesus loves me in the middle. Have the kids decorate their picture using heart and love stickers. Have them write the names of people they love or tell you the names of people that they love, and you can write these names or people around the open space as in the example. Just like this flower in the middle of our picture, Jesus love grows the more we share it!

Who can you share Jesus love with?

This sample picture is one we did in Cornerstone.



## **Closing Prayer**

Let's pray before we get on with our day!

Dear God,

Thank you for your son Jesus! Thank you for people like Paul who can tell others about Jesus and his love! Help us to be strong and tell others about Jesus' love too! Help us to show Jesus' love every day in our words and actions!

Help us to know that God's love will be with us forever!

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

## Love Passage for Kids

(Based on 1 Corinthians 13)

If I can speak beautifully and sing like an angel, but don't love others, I sound like a child banging on a piano or a screeching radio. If I'm very smart—almost a genius—but don't love others, I am nothing.

Love will stand in line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn't always want what others have,  
and it doesn't brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn't have to be first.

Love doesn't get angry over small things,  
and it doesn't remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn't happy when someone else fails but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others,  
especially those who are often picked on or teased.

Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

Love never gives up.

*The three most important things to have  
are faith, hope, and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.*



# Hope

*Color a symbol of hope.*

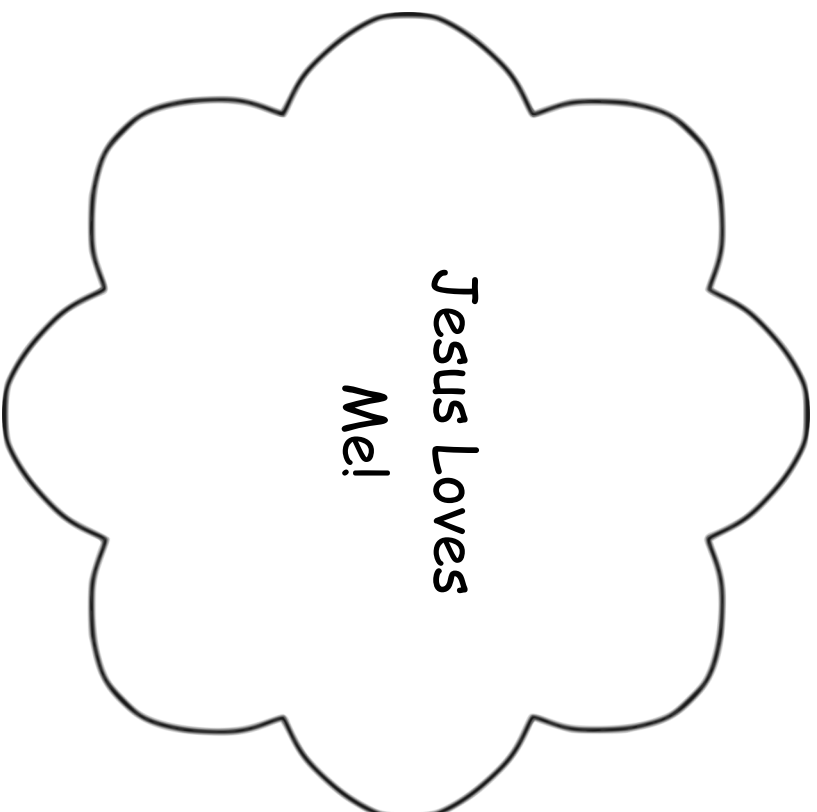


And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13



**I can love others!**





**Jesus Loves  
Me!**

# Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



K Y D S N G E G I P B E E E H  
U P A E M L G A A V E A B O N  
W R T V Q F P R R J A T P W E  
U E I E Z J R B R Z R E O P Z  
U N R I G H T E O U S N E S S  
N E B L B Q P P G F M H C J K  
N S Q E K E R S A V P P R P X  
E J E B C O P T N C M L C X Q  
R N S C V O N E T N X J J T C  
D P D O I E M D E R E F F U S  
Y N K U I O R I J E A L O U S  
R E I T R D J O N F L C G V K  
D R A K F E Z E A G X M K O F  
Z P Y Z D A S R R R L S R A W  
Q T K X B W R E V E N Y Y C N

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A  
Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In  
**UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

**REJOICES** With The Truth

**BEARS** All Things

**BELIEVES** All Things

**HOPES** All Things

**ENDURES** All Things