

LOVE



The following is an outline that is helpful for teaching the command of Jesus to love.

PART ONE Looking back



PRAYER



Begin the time in prayer together.

ACCOUNTABILITY



Ask questions about commitments that were made.
For example, ask:

- Did you share the gospel or the story from last time with anyone?
- Did you read or listen to the Bible daily?
- How did you obey what God taught you?
- Do you have any prayer requests or stories you would like to share?

PART TWO
Looking up



STUDY



Teach about the command of Jesus to love by studying the Bible together. First read a time when Jesus gave the command and discuss a true story which illustrates what obeying the command can be like.

Matthew 22:34-40:

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to love the Lord our God with our everything. We are also commanded to love our neighbor as ourself. The law of God is fulfilled in love.

Luke 10:25-37:

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him,

passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

After reading the story, review the story in one of these ways:

- Tell the story from memory.
- Talk about the story. What happened?
- Tell or read the story again.
- Do a drama illustrating the story.
- Draw pictures illustrating the story.

After reviewing the story, discuss the following questions based on the story:

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about man?
- What should we not do?
- What should we do?

After discussing these generic questions, the following may be helpful for this specific story.

Discuss the following:

- What is love?
Read John 15:13 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.
- Why do we love?
Read John 13:34-35. Because Jesus loved us first, we love. Love for others teaches all people about Jesus.
- Who do we love?
We are commanded to love God and to love our neighbor.
- How do we love?
Read John 14:15. If we love Jesus, we will obey him. If we love others, we will share about Jesus

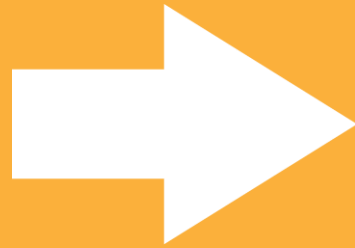
with them and follow the example of how Jesus loves people.

PRACTICE



Take steps to love God. Some steps could be to obey his commands or worship him together. Take steps to love your neighbors together.

PART THREE Looking ahead



COMMITMENT



Discuss what to obey from the story and the command of Jesus. Some ways to obey before meeting next are:

- Take time to intentionally show love by helping your neighbors.
- Share the story (Luke 10:25-37), your story, and God's story with other people.
- Study the Bible and pray every day.

PRAYER



Close the time in prayer together.

Pray for the commitments everyone made.

For Kingdom Growth

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