

WEEK 3

GOD MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE GOD LOVES ME ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34

KEY IDEAS

1. God loves you.
2. God demonstrated His love for you.
3. God has commanded you to love others.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 2
Supporting: 1 John 4:7-19, Matthew 5:38-48, 1 Corinthians 13

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .
that God loves them.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .
amazed that God would love them even in their sin
and want to rescue them from it.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .
love others, even those who do not deserve it
because they have been loved by God when
they did not deserve it.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .
to tell others about the love God has for us.

INTRODUCTION

Love is in God's very nature. He is the definition of love, so when we want to understand what love is, we can look first to Him who has loved us perfectly. God created us out of love, demonstrated His love while we were still sinners by sending Jesus to die in our place for our sins (Romans 5:8), and has commanded us to love others because He has loved us first. It can be hard to love our enemies, but God commands us to love even our enemies. In doing so, we might just be able to lead them to the God who loves them and can change their hearts, too.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Use a compass to illustrate the following point:
What is something you might use if you were lost in the woods? A compass! A hiker or a sailor would use a compass to help them determine the right direction they need to go. A compass always points North because it is designed in a way that its magnets respond to the magnetic field in the earth's makeup. The compass responds to the nature of the earth. The nature of God is love, and as humans made in His image, we desire to know love. As believers, we respond to God's loving nature by loving Him in return and also by loving others. It is not a forced response to God's love, it's a natural response, just like the needle in the compass naturally follows the magnetic field of the earth.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis chapter 2 and supporting passages and use the following ideas for guided discussion.

- God loves you.
 - What is love? (1 Corinthians 13)
 - If God is love, can He ever be unloving? It would be against God's nature to be unloving. Everything God does is loving. Even for those who reject Him and spend eternity apart from Him in hell, He is loving them by giving them what they wanted...to follow their own way apart from Him. God does not force anyone to love Him because that would not be true love.
- God demonstrated His love for you.
 - How did God demonstrate His love for you? (Romans 5:8, John 3:16)
- God commands you to love others.
 - Why does it matter that we show love to our enemies? Before we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are considered enemies of God. When we show love to our enemies and those who have hurt us, we are showing them an example of how God loves. By doing this, they may come to know the love of God and be saved, too.
 - How can we show others love?

Activity

Divide the class into equal teams for a relay race. Set a timer for one minute. Taking turns, one member of each team will race to the whiteboard to write down one way we can love others as Christ has loved us. Once the member has written down an answer, they should return to their group and tag the next member to go. Each team member must write down a different answer. Start the timer. At the end of the race, the team with the most answers (excluding any duplicates) wins. Remind them that God commands us to love one another as He has loved us.

Prayer

Thank God for loving us even while we were still sinners. Ask God to help you love others, even those who are difficult to like.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse John 13:34.

Help your child write a letter to someone he or she loves, such as a friend or family member. In the letter, ask them to tell the person why they love them. Allow them to decorate the letter with markers or stickers and make it personal. Remind them that God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sin debt. There is no greater kind of love than that.

DISCUSSION

- **How is God's love different from the world's love?**
God's love is perfect. It is unchanging and is not dependent upon our response or actions. God loves even those who don't love Him back. When we have placed our faith in Jesus and have the Holy Spirit living within us, God gives us the ability to love others as He does. Apart from God love cannot be perfect. (Psalm 36:5, Romans 5:5, Romans 8:35, John 13:34-35)
- **What are some ways you can show the love of God to someone who is hard to love?**
(Luke 6:27-35)

PRAYER

Spend time in prayer with your child thanking God for His perfect love and for loving us when we don't deserve it. Ask God to help you love others as He has loved you.