

Lesson Outline

Lesson:	"Candy Love"		
Life Point:	<i>In this lesson children will learn that a heart filled with great knowledge, supernatural gifts, understanding, compassion and faith but with no love, is not true love.</i>		
Memory Verse:	1 John 4:7	Scripture Study:	1 Corinthians 13:1-3
	"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God."		
The Way: (5 to 10 minutes)	The point of this activity is to present the salvation message in brief at each lesson.	Visual Aid: Large tri-fold board with pictures of the Gospel message - follow the pictures on the board to tell the children about God's plan to restore our relationship with Him. Invite children who are familiar with the pictures to describe the images to the class. Always have someone ready in the classroom to pray with a child who desires to accept Jesus as his Savior or to be available to pray for any needs a child may have.	
Reeling them in: (5 to 10 minutes)	<p>Visual Aid: 'Matching Hearts' game</p> <p>You will need 16 sheets of red construction paper. Cut 16, 8x8 inches, squares.</p> <p>Using a marker draw 10 hearts. One heart per square. You will have 10 squares with a heart on each.</p> <p>Using a marker write the following words on the remaining 6 squares: Faith, Knowledge, Compassion, Prophecy, Tongues, Wisdom. (One word per square)</p> <p>Turn all the squares upside down and lay them down on the floor. Mix the 16 squares. Choose 2 children at a time to play the Matching Hearts game. The child that matches the most pair of hearts wins the game.</p> <p><i>The point of this game is to demonstrate to the children that love is more important than prophecy, speaking in tongues, wisdom, knowledge, faith and compassion. Without love you have nothing.</i></p>		

Visual Aid: Heart shaped lollipops. One for each child in the class.

Today our bible study comes from 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Read scripture.

Children do you see this heart shaped lollipop? (show lollipop) - Can you describe it for me? (heart shaped, it does not have anything inside, it is red and hard all around)

In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Paul tells us that even if we have faith to move a mountain but we do not have love, it means nothing. If we speak with the language of angels, but we do not have love, our heart is as hard as this lollipop. (hit lollipop on table)

If we understand God's secret plans but did not love, our great understanding is useless. It means nothing. This lollipop may taste sweet, but there is no life in it. It is heart shaped, but it does not have heart. So even though it may look like a heart it produces no life. In the same way, if we do not love, all of the good things we do may *look* like love, but it is not real love.

This piece of hard candy is stiff and rigid. When there is no love in our hearts, we may care for the needy and the poor and we can show pictures of ourselves serving them, but it does not mean we have love for them.

Love is very important to God. He is Love. If we do all these things, and even show off all of our goodness and greatness but do not truly love, it means nothing.

Eating a whole bag of heart shaped lollipops, will make your mouth sweet but it will not give you a loving heart. Or renew your heart. The only one that can do that is Jesus. If you desire to ask God to give you love, if you doubt you have true love I invite you to say a prayer with me.

Additional Activities for extra time: Be prepared with extra games and activities for any down time after the lesson.

**The WORD:
(20 to 30
minutes)**

**Memory Verse
Song Link:**

The Rizers- 1
John 4:7 (Let Us Love
One Another)

<https://youtu.be/8ealledf2dl>

Closing Prayer:

(Make an invitation for those children who can identify with today's message to join the teacher up front)

Father God, you are absolutely captivating and your love does not ever end. I am reminded continually of how much you love me. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for me is sometimes hard to understand. I pray that I spend my whole life pursuing your love, in being embraced by your love and truly loving all those who you have set around me. Let me not miss an opportunity to show others your love for them and for me. In Jesus name, amen.

ADDITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

BROKEN HEARTS GAME (from Children Ministry Deals)

Items needed: Ten construction paper hearts, all cut or torn in half.

Set up: Cut the hearts, mix up the pieces and spread out the broken hearts on the floor.

Instructions: There's nothing worse than a broken heart. The good thing is that what is impossible for men is possible for God, and Jesus is able to mend a broken heart and make it new. In this challenge your task is to mend ten broken hearts by finding the matching halves and putting them together. Complete this task in 60 seconds or less.

FOREVER LOVE (from Children Ministry Deals)

Items needed: Candy hearts and a vase. (note: the vase should have fairly thin neck)

Instructions: God's love is not temporary. He loves us the 12 months of the year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. In this challenge, you will toss candy hearts into the vase. You must get a dozen(12) hearts to land inside the vase in 60 seconds or less or you will lose the challenge.

SORT ME OUT (from Children Ministry Deals)

Items needed: A large box of conversation hearts

Instructions: Jesus is the only one who can sort out all of our problems with love. Each box of conversation hearts has a number of messages. Sort the candies in your box by message in 60 seconds or less, and you win this challenge.

BLOWN AWAY BY LOVE (from Children Ministry Deals)

Items needed: Four Valentine greeting cards

Set up: Set the four greeting cards on the floor, standing them up like tents.

Instructions: Have you ever been blown away by God's love? In this challenge, two children get to blow away two greeting cards across the room until one gets a card to the other side of the room. The first to get a card across the room wins.