A whimsical winter scene with children sledding and a dog. The background is a teal sky with falling snow, a dark tree branch with red berries and yellow leaves at the top, and a sandy ground. Three children are sledding down a hill. One child wears a cat hat, another a yellow beanie, and the third a green hat with snowflakes. A fourth child, wearing glasses and a striped beanie, is pulling the sled. A black and white dog is running in the foreground. Small birds and butterflies are scattered throughout the scene.

JUNIOR Bible Class

WINTER

December 2018,
January, February 2019

"CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES"

UGP

UNITED GOSPEL PRESS

For Children
Ages 9 Through 11

Junior Bible Class

WINTER QUARTER

December 2018, January, February 2019

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JUST FOR JUNIORS

Winter 2018-19

The Incorporated Trustees of the
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Hi, Juniors,

This quarter we will be studying love, but not just any type of love—God’s love. It is very fitting that we study God’s love because, after all, God is the source of real love!

We will read the greatest thoughts about love ever written: chapter 13 of the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. The Old Testament prophet Nehemiah will show us that sometimes love does mean having to say you are sorry—to God. Then we will see how God’s love was shown at Christmas. God showed His love to everyone on earth when His Son, Jesus, was born for us. His earthly mother, Mary, rejoiced that God had so graciously sent the Messiah to save His people from their sins.

We will see other ways that God has displayed His love. For example, God showed His love to His people when He called Moses to lead Israel and rescue them from slavery in Egypt. We also will hear from the Lord Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, which teaches that we are to love our enemies. Jesus Himself showed love for His enemy in the Garden of Gethsemane by healing the severed ear of one who was sent to arrest Him. Next we will read the famous story of the Good Samaritan, who helped a man who had been attacked by robbers and left for dead. And we will learn that sometimes God’s love means that He has to discipline us, just as our parents do.

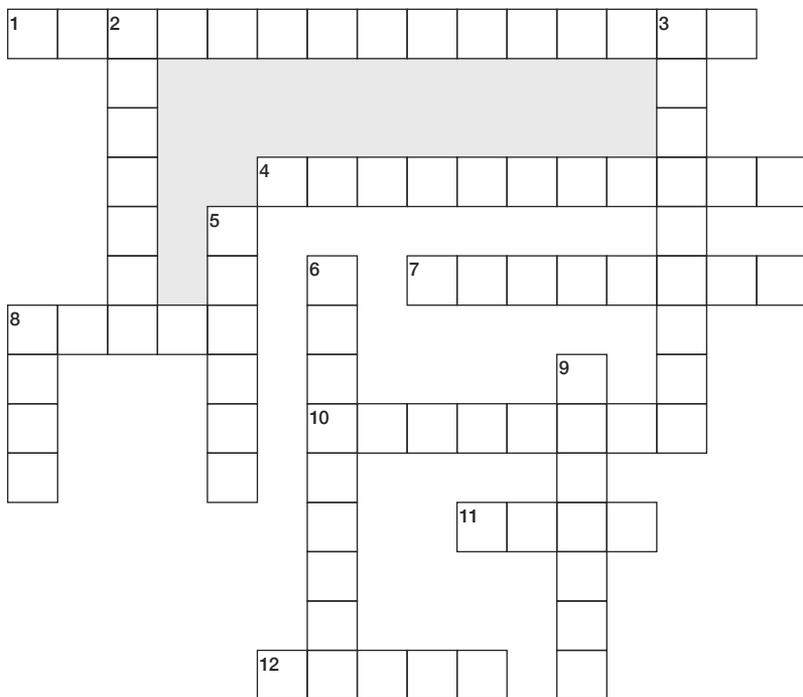
Last, we will see how Jesus showed us that He is God by the loving things that He did. We will read about the time He healed Peter’s mother-in-law and many other people who came to Him from her city. About that same time Jesus healed a man with leprosy, a highly contagious skin disease. Jesus was not afraid to touch the man, although no one else in Jesus’ time would have dared to touch a leper. Our next lesson tells how Jesus was even able to bring a widow’s son back to life from the dead. Finally, we will see how Jesus showed us God’s love by becoming our Great High Priest in heaven. He is the only one who can come to God the Father and intercede for us.

It has been said that love makes the world go round. This is really true because, as you have probably already realized, it is our loving God who created the world. Not only that, but He sent His Son to save us. We should thank Jesus, because He has shown us what God’s love for us is really like.

Your friend,

Todd Williams

God's Love



ACROSS

1. what Jesus is for us (see Hebrews 4:14—5:9)
4. Jesus raised her son from the dead (see Luke 7:11-22).
7. Old Testament prophet who showed us how to tell God we are sorry (see Nehemiah 9:25-31)
8. the person God chose to lead His people out of Egypt (see Exodus 2:23—3:10)
10. the love chapter in the Bible (see I Corinthians 13)
11. “God is _____” (see I John 4:8).
12. the man with a skin disease whom Jesus healed (see Mark 1:40-45)

DOWN

2. Jesus told us we are to love them (see Luke 6:27-36).
3. the person who helped a man who was beaten by robbers (see Luke 10:25-37)
5. An angel appeared to him in a dream to tell him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife (see Matthew 1:18-25).
6. Jesus fed this great number of people with seven loaves and a few fish (see Matthew 15:29-39).
8. the earthly mother of Jesus (see Luke 1:39-56)
9. the man whose ear Jesus healed (see Luke 22:47-51)

Kindness at Christmas

Have you ever had to go outside without shoes?

Maybe in the summertime you have gone barefoot, and it felt really good because the ground was warm and the grass was soft. But what if it were cold and wintry? Your feet would not be happy. They would complain with every step you took!

Not that long ago, war broke out in a country in central Europe. During the war people had little money to buy even the simplest things to meet their needs. A young girl—we will call her Anna—and her brother, both about your age, had to walk to school through the snow each day. Anna's shoes had huge holes in them and were ready to completely fall apart. They did almost nothing to protect her feet. Sadness crept into her heart as day after day she had to walk to school without good shoes in the bitter cold and snow and ice.

One day when Anna and her brother got to school, they discovered that a group of kind Christian people had come to their school with boxes full of Christmas gifts for the kids. All the children were gathered, and the boxes were distributed. Every boy and girl was given a Christmas box.

Happiness shone on each child's face, and shouts of joy were heard all around as the gifts were opened. The boxes had toys, such as balls, stuffed animals, dolls, play cars and trucks, and jump ropes. Besides those things there were pens and pencils, crayons, markers, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, flashlights, and other things that needy kids might be happy to have.

Anna felt a thrill of excitement when she was handed a box, and she hurriedly opened the lid. What do you think she found inside? If you guessed shoes, you are right! Although there were other gifts in the box, it was the brand-new pair of girls' white tennis shoes that filled her with delight. Not only were they bright and new, but the shoes were also exactly the right size for Anna! It was as if she had gone to the store herself and picked out exactly what she needed. It was the perfect gift!

If God were not the one who had worked out those wonderful details, it would be hard to imagine how things could have worked out so perfectly for Anna. But He used one of His people to bring joy to Anna.

The Bible tells us in I Corinthians 13:4 that love is kind. Because of a believer's act of kindness, Anna got exactly the right pair of shoes that she needed. Not only that, but she later became a Christian.

Think of a way *you* can show kindness to someone. God may use your act of kindness to make a big difference in that person's life. Never underestimate the effect that an act of kindness, or the sharing of the gospel, may have on another person's life. Even at your young age, God can use you as an important part of His perfect plan to help others.



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Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians to explain what God's kind of love really is like.

God's Kind of Love

LESSON TEXT: I Corinthians
13:1-13

GOLDEN TEXT—“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (I Corinthians 13:13).

Scripture Lesson Text

1 COR. 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Know Your Bible

Your mom is preparing a delicious homemade pizza. She has tomato sauce, pepperoni slices, and lots of yummy cheese.

But she forgot one thing—the crust! What would a pizza be without a crust?



You want to fly your kite. The wind is just right and you know the kite will soar, but then you realize you are missing something—string! Without string, your kite is useless!

ALL OR NOTHING— I Corinthians 13:1-3

The Apostle Paul wanted the Christians in Corinth to understand that no matter how many religious things they did, they would all become meaningless without one thing. God could have given Paul the ability to speak in languages he had never learned—even angel languages! Or God could have given him special understanding so that he could predict the future and understand even the deepest mysteries. Or Paul could have had so much faith that mountains would move when he prayed. Paul declared that they would all add up to a big fat zero if he did not have God's love (or charity) in his heart.

Love for God and others is so important that it is useless trying to please God without it. You cannot have pizza without a crust; you cannot fly a kite without a string; and you cannot truly do God's work without love!

Paul said that it would not matter a bit if he gave everything he owned to feed the poor or even

gave up his life as a sacrifice! If he had no love in his heart, it would all be a waste!

WHAT IS LOVE?— I Corinthians 13:4-7

So if love is so all-fired important, what does real love actually look like? That is what Paul explains next.

Having love, Paul says, means first that we are patient. In other words, a loving person does not get annoyed easily.

A truly loving person is not the kind of person who is envious.

Envy is craving and longing for something that another person is enjoying. Love does just the opposite.

What if you had an old beat-up bike with a torn seat and a bent wheel; then you see the school bully ride up on a brand-spanking new ten-speed? With God's love, you could be happy even for a bully!

Next, our Bibles tell us that a person with God's love is not proud and does not think too highly of himself. What if your dad were an architect and your family got to travel all over the world? If you came back to your little hometown of Podunk surrounded by farm fields, would you look down on the kids there who milk cows and shovel manure? If you have come to truly know God's love, you would be friendly and make the other kids feel important.

Love also causes us to behave properly. When you have love in your heart and care about the people around you, it is not hard to know



what is the right way to behave.

Selfishness is something that we avoid when God's love controls our thinking. When there is only one cookie left and your little brother wants it, do you take it? The more selfish you are, the less room there is in your heart for God's love.

Have you ever heard someone who is often angry described as having "a short fuse"? That phrase makes us think of dynamite. A long time ago, a friend of mine lit the fuse on a half stick of dynamite. Then, far away, we watched. We waited and waited. After what seemed like forever, BOOM! I am very glad the fuse was long. Otherwise my friend might have been seriously hurt—or worse! If you know God's love, show it by not being quickly angered.

Real love keeps a person from plotting ways to get back at people who have hurt him. In fact, loving people do not even want to think about times when others have hurt or offended them. Love causes a person to think of how to do good to others.

Paul says that loving people do not find joy in things that are evil or sinful. Instead, truth and good things make them happy.

A loving person also does not give up when dealing with troubling problems. The Bible says that we should bear one another's burdens (problems).

Not only that, but a person with godly love is trusting. In other words, he or she does not normally doubt others and think they are lying.

Imagine that you missed a day of school because you were sick. What if your teacher said, "I don't think you

were sick. You probably played at the park all day." That would certainly not be loving.

Love also makes a person hopeful. But what does love have to do with hope? They are connected because when you love people, you hope the best for them.

Finally, the love of God can give a person the strength to go through even the most difficult hardships. Sometimes people who say they love one another end up giving up on one another when trouble comes. But when you truly love someone, you will help him and never give up.

All these things we have talked about help to describe both the kind of love God has for us as well as the kind of love we should have for others.

LOVE NEVER FAILS— I Corinthians 13:8-13

Paul tells us how love is not only greater than anything else we can think of, but it also will outlast everything else.

Some Christians are kind of childish, thinking that certain unimportant things are actually very important. But believers who are "grown-up" in their faith know that love is the main thing. The greatest thing a Christian can do is show God's amazing love.

Right now it may not be easy to really understand life. But thankfully, when we get to heaven, we will be able to see why things are the way they are.

And although the most important things right now are faith, hope, and love, one day we will see that only one of these has always been more important than anything—love.





Growing in Love

If a panda bear has two cubs, the mother usually does something that appears very strange: she chooses to care only for the stronger of the two cubs. Thankfully abandoned cubs in a zoo can be nourished and cared for by the workers.

All three of my children were born early. Their lungs especially were not developed. After each child was born, we spent weeks at the hospital waiting until they were strong enough to come home.

We never seemed to feel we had given our baby enough hugs and loving. We were surprised to find out that volunteers came in to hold and cuddle some of the other babies. The mothers were usually so sick that they could not be with their babies.

It is hard to stay healthy without love! They told us that it is much

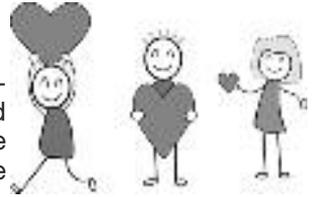
harder for babies to get stronger when they are not loved and cuddled.

The same thing is true with animals. Recently I learned about a baby elephant named Jotto, who lost its mother—it was an orphan. When it met an ostrich named Pea, who was also an orphan, the two became BFFs. They spent a lot of time with each other. The animal workers noticed that the lonely elephant became much healthier once he found someone who cared about him.

The Apostle Paul wrote about love in glowing terms—a believer should not do anything without it! Showing true godly love is the best thing we can do for others. Whether it makes them healthier or not, it surely helps them grow in the Lord. Take some time be a loving friend to someone today!

Love Scramble

What are some things Paul said would be meaningless without love? Unscramble the words and write the correct word in the blanks. Then use the circled letters to fill in the answer at the end of the exercise.



- Doing UGRILIESO deeds _____○_____
- Speaking unlearned SEALNUGGA ○_____○_____
- Understanding deep YETISERMS _____○_____
- HAFTI that moves mountains ○_____
- Giving to the ROPO ○_____
- GCRIFSCAIIN one's life _____○_____
- Love makes a person _____.