

## God Is Love

**Theme:** God — Perfect Love

### Sunday Morning Lesson

**Pre-Class Activity:** Make a fill-in-the-blank worksheet with lots of blanks. A sample is on page 65 of this Guide, but omit the word “New” in the title and omit the printed verse. This will help the students be prepared for reciting the Memory Verse in class.

**Bible Facts:** Special Delivery: Bible Facts

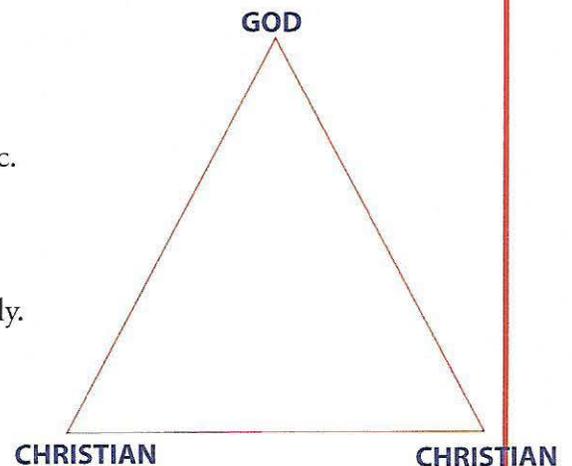
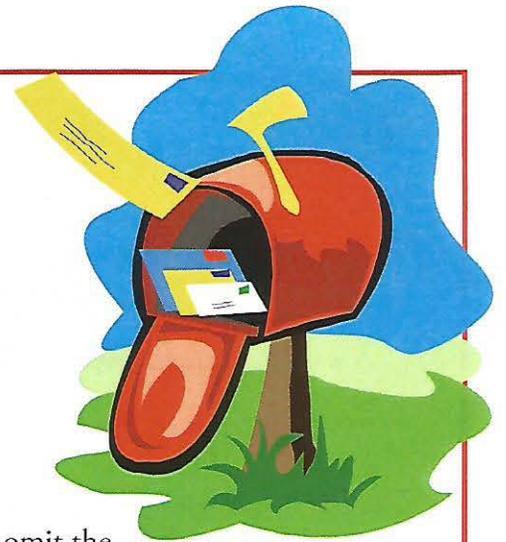
**Memory Verse:** Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each student says the verse from memory, the other students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Complete the wall display that features all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a card for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to add to the display.

**Prayer**

**Lesson of the Day**

**Ideas for Teaching the Lesson**

1. In the classroom Bibles, have the students find and mark 1 John 4:9-10.
2. Using red masking tape or red duct tape, outline a big heart on the floor — big enough for all students to sit inside the outline during this lesson.
3. Have items in the Letters From Heaven Package that you will take out at the appropriate times in teaching the lesson – a diagram of the “fellowship triangle,” a flashlight, a heart graphic.
4. Move any furniture to the sides of the room and have students sit together in the big heart outline. Teach the lesson of John’s letters. Pick out some of the points that kids can grasp and apply. Some of these points are as follows:
  - John’s knowledge of Jesus – he heard Jesus speak, and saw Him with his own eyes; John looked at Jesus and touched



Him with his hands (1 John 1:1-3). Listen carefully to John describe this: "We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14).

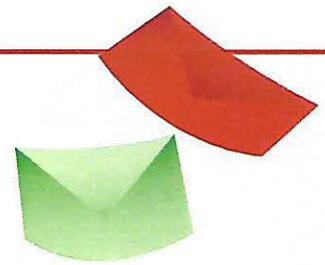
- Each Christian has fellowship with God through Jesus; we have fellowship with each other because we each have fellowship with God.
  - God is light. We must walk in the light.
  - God is love. We must love as He loved.
5. Prepare a short version of 1 John featuring verses you emphasized in class. In this short version, put in some mistakes. Read the letter to the students and let them detect and correct the mistakes.
  6. Put the key verse scroll on the Letters from Heaven Wall.

#### Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- God Is Love
- 1 John 3:1
- Love
- God Loves You

#### Things to Get or Do for Sunday Morning

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## Wednesday Night Lesson

**Pre-Class Activity:** Provide red paper, kid-friendly scissors, and instructions for students to cut out a heart. Have students write on the heart something they love about God.

**Bible Facts:** Special Delivery: Bible Facts

**Memory Verse:** Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about Jesus or following Jesus.

**Prayer**

**Starter**

Have you ever been afraid of the dark? People are usually afraid of the dark because they can't see through it and don't know what's there. We can't see where to go in the dark. What is the first thing we do when we go into a dark room? We turn on the light. When the light comes on, the darkness goes away. Now we can see. We know what and who is in the room. We can see how to move around. We aren't scared anymore. The apostle John used light to teach us about God.

**Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning**

**Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Lesson**

1. *Objective: Illustrate the fellowship triangle*

☀ Create a fellowship triangle using students. Arrange three students standing in a triangle. Designate one student as The Friend. Have a sign with this designation that he or she can hold. The Friend is a friend to Student #1 and to Student #2, both of whom are standing in the triangle. Student #1 and Student #2 do not know each other, but they are brought together as friends because they each know The Friend. Make another triangle with a Parent and a Brother and Sister. Demonstrate that the boy and girl are brother and sister because they are each related to the same parent. Apply this to our relationship with God. Make another triangle with God and Christian #1 and Christian #2. Talk about how the Christians may never know or love each other except for their mutual relationship with God.

2. *Objective: Illustrate John's personal knowledge of Jesus and how he told others about Him*

☀ Shield one student from the other students. Give the shielded student an object to see, smell, and touch. Have this student describe the object to the other students so they can understand what it is. Repeat this activity with a few students and objects. Read 1 John 1:1-3 and make application to how John heard, saw, and touched Jesus and then explained Him to others in his letter. We know Jesus more and better because of what John writes.

3. *Objective: Illustrate being an advocate*

Role play being an advocate. Select two students to demonstrate the function of an advocate. Have one student think of something he needs or wants. For example, a computer, a basketball goal, or a special book. The other student will be an advocate. Student #1 makes his or her desire known. The advocate will plead the case to you because he understands the need or want. Read 1 John 1:1-2 and make application to Jesus being our advocate with the Father.

4. *Objective: Demonstrate walking in the light*

☀ Prepare a path for students to follow with tape on the floor and walls that is close to the same color; that is, if the floor is brown, use brown tape and if the wall is blue, use blue tape. The objective is to make the path as inconspicuous as possible. Turn out the lights so that the "path" is impossible to see. Have a flashlight for a student to use to find the path and then to follow it. Talk about how the light is necessary to do this. Read 1 John 1:7-9 and make application to walking in the Light. God is light. He shows us the way through Jesus.

5. *Objective: Illustrate walking in the light*

☀ Write words like "love," "forgiveness," "confess our sins," and "Jesus" on small separate pieces of paper. Put them on the wall in a corner where they won't be easily noticed. Talk about walking in the light versus walking in the darkness. As you do this, shine a flashlight on the corner. Have each student get in the corner and shine the light on him or her. Allow the student to read the words on the wall. If we want to walk in the light, we will be doing these things.

**Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson**

- God Is Love
- 1 John 3:1
- Love
- God Loves You

**Things to Get or Do  
for Wednesday Night**

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