

Lesson 1

Loving the Lord from the Heart



Theme: Obedience – Doing God’s will out of love for Him

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts (See page 7 of this Guide)

Memory Verse: Make or purchase heavy card stock footprints, both right and left. Print each word of the memory verse on a footprint, alternating right and left. Arrange the footprints in order to make a trail, so that a student can step on the words and say them. Have students walk the trail and say the Memory Verse. Since you are introducing a new Memory Verse, have them walk the trail and say the verse a few times. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk about Who? What? When? and Where? in connection with the verse.

Prayer

Teaching Today’s Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Have reading students find and mark Deuteronomy 6:4 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible Story Bunker.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today’s events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students find Moab and Mount Nebo on the Table Top Map.
5. Introduce *Lesson Graphics* using the Lord’s Army Ammo Box as described on page 8 of this Guide. These *Lesson Graphics*, as described on page 2, are purchased separately.
6. Tell the story using the *I’m in the Lord’s Army Lesson Graphics*, and other props such a huge heart made from poster board and smaller hearts for each student.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students’ ages:
 - Moses led the people of Israel in good and bad times for many years.
 - It was time for the people to go into the land of Canaan, but Moses would not go with them.

- Moses had many things to say to the people about living in the land, but most of all he talked to them about loving and obeying God.
 - Parents were to teach their children to love and obey God.
 - Other people lived in the land of Canaan, and God would remove them because they were wicked. God would give the land to His people. They must be careful not to be wicked like the Canaanites.
8. Review the story of Israel as a nation from Mount Sinai to the Plains of Moab, where they were about to enter the land. God gave them His law. He provided sacrifices, priests and the tabernacle. The people believed the bad report of the spies and a generation died in the Wilderness. A new generation was about to enter the land of Canaan. This was a wonderful and exciting time for God's people, but they must love the Lord with all their hearts. Allow students to trace with their finger on a map Israel's history from Mount Sinai to the Plains of Moab. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Have students say or read these verses with you several times. Jesus says this is the first and greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37-38). As you make this point use the big heart graphic. Pass out the smaller hearts to the students. On small round stickers, print ways children can love God. Allow each student to choose two stickers to put on his or her heart. Talk about loving God with all our hearts.
-  9. Reinforce the students' knowledge about the lesson by giving a character quiz. Give the students a character and have each student respond with an attribute or part of the story that tells about that particular character. Characters for this lesson are: Moses, Joshua, Israelites, Canaanites, God. You may print these names on cards ahead of time to use in the character quiz.

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

-
-
-
-
-

Lesson 1

Loving the Lord from the Heart



Theme: Obedience – Doing God’s will out of love for Him

Wednesday Evening Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the footprints from Sunday, place them in a trail but pull out several key words, scattering the missing words around on the floor. Have students work together to place the footprints in the correct order to complete the trail. Have students walk the trail and say the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse.

Prayer

Starter

What do these words mean to you?

*I have a broken heart - The girl stole his heart - I mean this from the bottom of my heart
She put her heart into it - He had a change of heart*

The English language contains wonderful expressions about the heart. To say my heart is broken means I am sorry and sad about what has happened. Saying that a girl stole his heart means she has his love and affection. When you do or say something from the bottom of your heart, you act sincerely. To put your heart in it or do something with all your heart is to do something you want to do and to try hard at it. When someone has a change of heart, he really changes his mind about something. These expressions use the word *heart* to describe what we are inside. Your heart is what you think with your mind and what you feel inside. When you do something from the heart, it is what you really want to do; therefore, you will do your best.

God wants His people to love Him with their hearts. God said to His people, “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). God doesn’t want people to just say they love Him or to pretend. He wants them to know and follow Him because they love Him from their hearts.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and allow students to show you the location of these events on the Table Top Map.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Demonstrate the difference between obeying out of love and obeying out of fear.*

On 3 x 5 cards have the students write “rules” that everyone in their house must follow. On the back of the card, students are to write the punishment for disobeying the rule. Collect the cards and go through them one by one asking if it is a rule they always obey. If so, do they obey because they fear the punishment or because they think the rule is good for everyone? Discuss the difference between obeying out of fear and obeying out of love. Both are needed, but when do we do our best?

2. **Objective:** *Help students know the difference between the heart that pumps blood and the heart that has feelings and determines actions.*

Print a picture of a heart that pumps blood through our bodies. Also print a picture of a heart as we usually depict it. Talk about what a heart that pumps blood does – beats to move blood through our arteries and veins. Our heart is important. If it does not beat, we will not live. The heart that pumps blood is central to our life. If it doesn’t work right, we won’t be healthy. Because of the central place this heart has in our lives, we use the word heart to describe how we feel and what we think. Make a poster with two hearts. List the words below on the left side of the poster. Allow the students to match the words to the proper heart. Words: *thoughts, decisions, beats, pumps, blood, feelings, faith.*

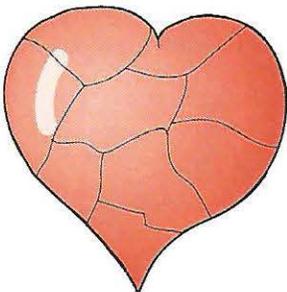
3. **Objective:** *Show that all areas of life shape a heart that is loving and obedient to God.*

Cut two large hearts of equal shape and size out of two pieces of poster board. Cut each puzzle into nine pieces, with each one having the same shaped pieces. With one heart puzzle, trim all the inner sides of the pieces about a fourth of an inch so they will not fit properly.

On the *untrimmed* heart pieces, write things that show we are loving God with our whole heart. Examples: Decide to love and obey God, Go to Bible Class, Read the Bible, Work hard, Worship God only, Be thankful, Pray, Be kind to others, Obey and respect parents.

On the *trimmed* heart pieces, write things that show we are not trying hard to love God with our whole heart. Examples: Put off to another day to love and obey God; Go to Bible Class when there’s nothing better to do; Not getting your Bible Lesson; Do just enough to get by; Pray only when bad things happen; Be nice to others only when you can get something out of it; Talk back to parents and whine when you don’t get your way; When worship is boring, it’s OK to talk, sleep and write notes; and Always ask for more or grumble about what you have.

Scramble the two puzzles together and have them put together the “Whole Heart for God.” Ask the students what happens when they try to put a trimmed piece in the “Heart for God.” It takes away from the “Whole Heart” and does not fit.



Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

-
-
-
-
-