

TRUE LOVE

LESSON 1: LOVE IS PATIENT

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In this first lesson, children will discover that godly love means we can wait patiently until His blessings are revealed to us.

TOPICS

Jacob, Love, Patience

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

How many hours would you be willing to study to get an "A" on a test? How many years would you be willing to practice to become a professional athlete? Some things in life take a lot of patience. But if you are doing them out of love, the wait is not difficult at all. Today our story is about a man who had great love and great patience.

Genesis 29:1-30 (Jacob Marries Rachel)

Read the entire passage to the children with feeling and using different voices. If reading from the "NIV" version, you may want to change the word "lay" in verses 23 and 30 to "joined" for the younger children.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Laban? (*verse 10, He was Jacob's mother's brother, or his uncle*)
2. What did Jacob do after he saw Rachel for the first time? (*verse 10, He rolled away the stones from the well to water Laban's sheep.*)
3. Why did Jacob weep after he kissed Rachel? (*He had tears of joy because he found a woman he loved.*)
4. What was Jacob willing to do to earn the hand of Rachel in marriage? (*Work seven years for Laban.*)
5. After Jacob worked seven years, what did Laban do? (*He gave Leah to Jacob instead of Rachel*)
6. Why did Laban give Leah to Jacob first? (*It was custom for the older daughter to marry first.*)
7. Since Jacob really loved Rachel, how many years in all did he work for her? (*14 years*)
8. Why was Jacob able to show such patience in waiting for Rachel? (*Because of his love for her.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (20 minutes)

LOVE WITHOUT END (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

Love, Love, Love (Activity – See Page 2 and 3)

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

When the Apostle Paul described love to the Corinthians, the first thing he said was, "Love is patient." We don't usually think of patience as describing love, but it does. With true love, we will have the ability to wait for whatever it is we hope for. Athletes love sports, but to excel they must patiently practice for many years. Do you think Michael Jordan just woke up one day and was a professional in the NBA? Of course not, he had to practice from the time he was a small child. He didn't even make the cut for his high school basketball team. But because he loved basketball, he kept with it. If we truly love something, we will be willing to wait for it. Like a mother patiently teaches her children, or a man waits patiently to win the heart of his future bride. But most of all, because we love Jesus, we will wait patiently to be with Him in Heaven, all the while staying obedient to His word.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

TRUE LOVE

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

An activity to show how we use the word LOVE in many different ways. Some have much more meaning than others.

TOPICS:

Emotions, Love

MATERIALS:

Copies of worksheet (See page 3)

Pencils



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION

Before class, print enough worksheets so you have one for each child.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a worksheet and time to complete the project. After all the kids have finished, discuss their answers and the different meanings of love. Depending on individual perceptions, each situation may have more than one correct answer.

The Bible uses the word Love many times, but rarely when referring to things that are not alive. Although, we do know from the Bible that Isaac loved stew. (Genesis 27: 14 KJV) Most of the time, when we find the word love in the Bible it is about a person. God loves us, Jacob loved Rachel, love one another, and so on. Today, however, we use love much too freely. We love anything and everything. We love going to the beach, we love pretzels, and some of us even love to do nothing. When we use the word love like that, what we are really saying is that these things make us feel good. But God's love is much different. It is an unselfish love. We should love others even when it doesn't make us feel good right away. We should love even those who hurt us, like when your brother or sister breaks one of your toys. Love like that is from God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the differences between the three types of love used in this exercise?
2. Why is Godly love so important?
3. Is it possible to show all three kinds of love for someone?

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

There are three kinds of LOVE used in the Bible.

Passion



Friendship



Genuine Godly Love



I love my best friend.



I love pepperoni pizza.



For God so loved the world...



I love my brother and sister.



I love playing with my classmates.



A new command I give you, love one another.



I love going to the movies.



Love your neighbor as yourself.



I love my pet hamster.



My mom is always telling me she loves me.



I just met the boy down the street, we're in love.



I love all sports, but especially soccer.

