

# EARLY CHILD - LESSON 1

DEVOTED LOVE

## WHAT WE ARE TEACHING:

How to show love to others

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES – The Book of Ruth

- ◆ WORSHIP
- ◆ MISSIONS
- ◆ RULES

## BIBLE STORY - tell the story of Ruth and Naomi

Before starting today's lesson, discuss what devoted love means with the class. Some simple definitions are "being fond of someone, a devotion to someone, a strong feeling towards someone or something." Tell them a good example of devoted love would be the love they have for their mommy or daddy.

### Optional Storytime: Ruth Honors Naomi (TCDB p.128-131)

- ◆ Ruth had married Naomi's son long before this part of the story, and her husband had died.
- ◆ Ruth never had any children, so when her husband died, she could have stayed with her own family and left Naomi alone.
- ◆ Since all of her children and her husband had died, Naomi was headed back to her other relatives far away so they could help provide and care for her as she grew older.

## LG GROUP ACTIVITY- obstacle course

### Items Needed: Materials to create and obstacle course

Setting: One of the best ways to show love to someone else is by sticking with them. Your teachers are going to climb over, under, and through lots of stuff and try to stay with each other and help each other get through.

Instructions: Have the volunteers pair up. The challenge is to go through the entire obstacle course with the pair holding hands. This is not a race it is a challenge to see if the volunteers can get through the course without separating hands. (Optional: Increase it to three or more people holding hands at once for a challenge)

Unit topic: Love

Verse: 1 John 4:19

"We love because he loved us first."

Main point: God is love



## SMALL GROUP

- How many of you love to give your mommy or daddy a big hug, even for no reason at all?
- Our story today was about a love like the love you have for your mommy or daddy. Ruth really loved Naomi. Even though Ruth didn't have to go with Naomi, she did because she loved her.
- Ruth took very good care of Naomi, even though she didn't have to. Why?
- There were two ladies without anyone to provide for them. They didn't have any money. What did Ruth do to get food for her and Naomi?
- What can you do to show someone how much you love them? Help the kids with ideas to show love.
- God was good to Ruth, wasn't He? He gave her a new family because of her unconditional love for Naomi. I want all of you to give an example of a time you showed a love like that. (Give the children your own example first).
- Ruth loved Naomi because God loves her. He loves you too.
- Let's all pray and ask God to help us love like he helped Ruth love.

## SNACKS



# EARLY CHILD - LESSON 2

A MOTHER'S LOVE

## WHAT WE ARE TEACHING:

All about a mother's love

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES** – Exodus 1:1 to 2:10

- ◆ **WORSHIP**
- ◆ **MISSIONS**
- ◆ **RULES**

## BIBLE STORY – tell the story of Miriam

“Before starting today’s lesson, let’s review what we learned last week. Who can tell me what the story was about? (Devoted love) Who were the 3 people in the story? (Ruth, Naomi and Boaz) What did Ruth do for Naomi that showed how much she loved her? (She left her family and went far away to take care of her aging mother-in-law.) What did God give Ruth in the end for her love for Naomi? (A new husband, a baby and a new family.)”

-Tell the children that today’s story is about another kind of love: the love a mother has for her child. There is a story in our Bibles about a mother who loved her son so much she gave him away.

-Tell the children that the story goes on to say that Moses was able to be raised in a way that allowed him to be strong and lead his people later in life.

Optional Storytime: Miriam Does Her Part (TCDB p.74-77)

- ◆ More details about the story
- ◆ Even more
- ◆ Discussion

Unit topic: Love

Verse: 1 John 4:19

“We love because he loved us first.”

Main point: God is love

# LG GROUP ACTIVITY- baby Moses

## Items Needed: Gator Balls

Setting: Baby Moses is floating in his basket. There's an alligator trying to push him out of the water. We want to help him stay in the water so Pharaoh's daughter will find him!

Instructions: This preschool ball game works best with a large group of children. Have the children stand in a circle, holding hands. Place one leader (optional: once the children understand the game you can try putting a child in the middle) in the middle of the circle along with one ball. The leader in the middle is the "alligator" and should try to kick the ball out of the circle, using only their feet. The goal of the rest of the children is to keep the ball in the circle. When the children in the circle succeed in keeping the ball in the circle have someone continue to add more balls into the circle. Note: Ensure the leader tries to include all the children as they attempt to kick the balls out of the circle. Be sure the leader understands that they should act like they are trying hard and even act a little frustrated but don't try too hard where the children are afraid.

## SMALL GROUP

- The King wasn't comfortable about there being so many Hebrew people in his land. What did he do?
- Miriam was a Hebrew girl who had a baby brother. Do you think she was afraid? Do any of you have baby brothers or sisters that you love a lot? Would you be afraid if someone wanted to hurt your brother or sister?
- Miriam was willing to help her mother to save her brother. Miriam's mother must have really loved her son to be willing to put him in a basket and send him off to be raised by someone else.
- Do you think it was hard for Moses' mother to give him up like that? If she hadn't, God wouldn't have been able to raise Moses up to be a leader of His people.
- Do you think you would have been able to send your brother away like Miriam did?
- Have you ever had a favorite doll, toy or teddy bear that you had to give up? Well, imagine how Miriam must have felt.
- Sometimes when you love someone you do something that is hard for you but good for them. Can you think of something that would be hard for you but good for someone else?
- Let's pray and ask God to help us have that kind of love for others. A love that will help us do what we have to. Remember that God will always take care of you.

## SNACKS



# EARLY CHILD - LESSON 3

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OF GOD

## WHAT WE ARE TEACHING:

God's love is unconditional

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES** — Luke 2:1-20

Unit topic: Love

Verse: 1 John 4:19

“We love because he loved us first.”

Main point: God is love

- ◆ **WORSHIP**
- ◆ **MISSIONS**
- ◆ **RULES**

## BIBLE STORY – tell the story of the Shepherds

Review the last couple of lessons with the kids. Let them know there are many kinds of love. There's love that Ruth had for Naomi, devoted love; and, love that Moses' mother had, the loving heart of a mother. Then we have a special kind of love that we will be talking about today; this is the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE of our Father in heaven. Explain that UNCONDITIONAL LOVE means “no matter what.” Give some outrageous examples.

Optional Storytime: The Shepherds News (TCDB p.260-263)

- ◆ Give more details
- ◆ And more details
- ◆ Discuss story with kids

Allow more small group time because of craft

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you think God must really think we are special for sending His son to earth for us?
- How many of you know why God sent His son? (Let the children respond with a few answers).
- Let's read another short story and see exactly why God sent His son. Read "Jesus Died For Us" (TCDB p. 376-379)
- This story tells us why God send His son. God has a special kind of love for us, doesn't He? He loves us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to earth to live as an example for us and then to die for our sins. That is a love we call UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. Unconditional love would be a love that someone has for us no matter what we do to them. Their love doesn't depend on what we do right or wrong. They love us anyway.
- Do you have an UNCONDITIONAL LOVE for anyone? Who and why? (Let the children respond. Maybe give them a few examples to get them started).
- No matter what we say or do, no matter how good or bad we act, we need to always remember that even though God always loves us, He doesn't like the bad things we do.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us have that same kind of love for those around us. We need to have a special heart to love that much and God can help us.

## CRAFT-heart magnet

### Items Needed:

Card stock paper

Popsicle sticks

Glue

Crayons

Magnet strips

Instructions: Cut the magnet strip into 3 inch pieces. Cut sheets of card stock paper into the shape of a heart.

Glue two popsicle sticks together in the shape of a cross. Color the heart and glue cross onto the front. Color the popsicle sticks (optional). Glue magnet onto the back of the heart.

## SNACKS



# EARLY CHILD - LESSON 4

A WIFE FOR ISAAC

## WHAT WE ARE TEACHING:

Family love

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES – Genesis 24

- ◆ WORSHIP
- ◆ MISSIONS
- ◆ RULES

## BIBLE STORY – tell the story of Isaac and Rebekah

Review the last couple of lessons with the children. Let them know there are many kinds of love. There's love that Ruth had for Naomi, devoted love; and, love that Moses' mother had, the loving heart of a mother, and the UNCONDITIONAL LOVE of our Father in heaven. Then we have the love of family. Give some outrageous examples.

Optional Storytime: A Wife for Isaac (TCDB p.50-53)

- ◆ Talk about story
- ◆ This will be scripted
- ◆ Details will be provided

Allow more small group time because of craft

Unit topic: Love

Verse: 1 John 4:19

“We love because he loved us first.”

Main point: God is love

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- God wants families to love each other. How did Isaac's Dad show love to him? (By sending someone to find a wife for Isaac-wanted someone very special)
- Moms and Dads first love each other and then they love each of their children, too. God knew that we would need families to help us grow up.
- How do you show your mom and dad you love them?
- How do your mom and dad show you that they love you?
- Do you think God is happy when we show our love to each other, especially to our families?

## CRAFT Camel

Brown construction paper

Yarn

2 toilet paper rolls per child

Glue

Black sharpie



## SNACKS