

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

SUMMER 2021

Unit 1, Session 1

CONNECTION POINT:

Ground everything you do in love for Christ.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Work is important. Unfortunately, some people give their work too much importance, and that work becomes an end in itself. Christians are susceptible to a similar problem. We gladly serve Christ and His kingdom, but if we're not careful, our focus shifts to the work itself and not on the One we are serving. This was true in the first-century church at Ephesus. They were doing the right things, but they had lost their love for Christ.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Let your child pretend to doctor a doll or toy pet. Explain that Jesus showed God's love by helping others. We can do the same.

Jesus traveled to Capernaum. Many people came to hear Jesus teach in a house.

Four men brought a friend who could not walk. The house was crowded; they could not carry him inside to see Jesus. The men carried the friend on his mat up the steps to the flat roof. They made a hole in the roof. They lowered their friend through the hole and right in front of Jesus.

Jesus saw their belief that He could help the man. He said to him, "Get up. Take your mat and go home."

The man stood up, picked up his mat, and went home, thanking God.

Jesus had made the man well. The people were so surprised. They thanked God and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

KIDS

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Together read Acts 2:22 and Matthew 10:1. Talk about how these verses show that Jesus works through the power of God.

Many people gathered in a house to hear Jesus speak. Religious leaders were there, also.

Four men carried a paralyzed friend on a mat to the house to see Jesus. The house was crowded and they could not get in the door.

The men climbed to the roof and dug a hole. They lowered their friend down to Jesus.

Jesus saw that they believed in Him. Jesus looked at the paralyzed man and said, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus knew that the leaders were angry. He wanted them to know that He could forgive sins and heal people. Jesus said: "I say to you, get up, take your mat, and go home."

Immediately the man got up and went home. The people praised God and said: "We have never seen anything like this!"

STUDENTS

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

- When have others acknowledged the good works you do for Jesus?
- How can we keep love for Christ as our highest priority?
- What practices have helped you hear and follow the Holy Spirit?

Live It Out: The church in Ephesus didn't tolerate evil, and this is certainly a good thing. However, their actions weren't driven by love, and the church is to be characterized, above all, by love for one another and for Jesus. The church is a family, and we are to love each other in real ways.

With your student, consider a few ways God has shown love to you and your family. And since we are to share God's love with others, consider how you can love and encourage your friends and neighbors. List three specific ideas of how you can improve in showing love to your friends and neighbors and put it into action this week.