

Loving Others — Day 1



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#151) — KJV

John 13:34–35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Apply the Promise!

Jesus commands us to love each other exactly the way He loved us! Our love for one another is the greatest proof to the entire world that we are His disciples.

Bible Story (Acts 9 & 11)

After Saul became a believer in Jesus, many Christians in Jerusalem were afraid of him. They remembered how he had once treated the followers of Jesus, and they were not sure they could trust him. Saul may have felt lonely and rejected.

But one man chose to love him. His name was Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement." While others stepped back in fear, Barnabas stepped forward in kindness. He listened to Saul's story and believed that God had truly changed his heart.

Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles and spoke up for him. He told them how Saul had seen the Lord and had boldly preached in the name of Jesus. Because of Barnabas's encouragement, Saul was received by the believers.

Barnabas did not stop there. Later, when the church in Antioch was growing, Barnabas remembered Saul. He traveled to Tarsus to find him and brought him back to Antioch.

For a whole year, Barnabas and Saul worked together, teaching the believers and helping the church grow strong. Barnabas did not try to keep all the important work for himself. He loved Saul enough to make room for him.

Barnabas's story reminds us that loving others means more than being friendly. It means encouraging people, believing God can change them, and helping them do the work God has given them. When we love like Jesus, our kindness can help someone else grow strong in the Lord.

True Story

In 2011, two young brothers named Conner and Cayden Long showed the world a beautiful picture of love. Cayden was born with a condition called cerebral palsy. Because of this, he could not walk or talk on his own.

Many children with this condition might be left behind during fun sports. But Conner refused to let his little brother sit on the sidelines alone. He wanted Cayden to experience the deep joy of racing together.

Conner decided they would compete in youth triathlons together. A triathlon is a long, tiring race with swimming, biking, and running. Doing this long race alone is hard, but Conner chose to do it while carrying Cayden.

During the swimming part, Conner swam through the water while pulling Cayden safely in a raft. Next, Conner rode his bicycle, pulling Cayden behind him in a special trailer. Finally, Conner ran toward the finish line while pushing Cayden in a stroller.

Conner could have raced by himself. He could have run much faster and maybe even won a first place gold medal. Instead, his love for his brother was stronger than his desire to win.

Seeing Cayden smile and laugh during the long race brought Conner his very greatest joy in life. In 2012, they were named Sports Illustrated Kids of the Year for their beautiful teamwork. Their wonderful story reminds us that true love means sharing your happiness with others. When we love other people well each day, we make sure they are never left behind.

Discussion Questions:

- Why were the Christians in Jerusalem so terrified of Saul?
- How did Conner make sure his brother Cayden was not left behind during the triathlon?
- Who is someone you can show kindness to this week so they feel included and not left behind?

Activity:

Cut small strips of colorful paper. Have the children write or draw a specific way they can show love to a family member or friend on each strip. Link the strips together with tape or glue to create a paper chain. Hang the chain in a visible spot to remind everyone that our love and encouragement connects us together just like Barnabas connected Saul to the church!

Loving Others — Day 2



Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#152) — KJV

John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

♥ Apply the Promise!

Jesus showed us that the greatest way to love someone is by making sacrifices for them. He proved this by giving His own life so that we could be forgiven and live with Him forever.

📖 Bible Story (Matt. 27 & Luke 23)

Jesus is the rightful King of the universe. He had power to calm storms, heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise the dead with a word.

When soldiers came to arrest Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus could have called angels to rescue Him. No one could have taken His life from Him unless He chose to give it. But Jesus did not run away.

He knew the suffering that was ahead. He knew He would be mocked, beaten, and nailed to a cross. Still, He chose to stay because He loved us.

While Jesus hung on the cross, people mocked Him and told Him to save Himself. But if Jesus had saved Himself, He could not have saved us. He stayed on the cross so that sinners could be forgiven and brought back to God.

Jesus was not thinking of His own comfort or safety. He was thinking of the people He came to save. He carried the heavy burden of the world's sin because His love was stronger than the pain.

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Then He showed that love by giving His own life for us.

His sacrifice teaches us what true love is. Real love is not selfish. It gives, serves, and thinks of others. Jesus laid down His life so we could be forgiven, set free, and live with Him forever.

☀ True Story

In 1912, a pastor named John Harper sailed across the ocean on the Titanic. He was traveling with his little daughter, Nana, to preach in America.

One cold night, the great ship struck an iceberg and began to sink. People were frightened, and there were not enough lifeboats for everyone. John quickly made sure his little girl was placed safely in a lifeboat.

Then John stayed behind.

He could have spent those last moments thinking only about himself. He could have pushed toward a lifeboat or tried to find some way to save his own life. But John's heart was fixed on helping others before it was too late.

As the ship sank lower, he moved among the passengers and pointed them to Jesus. He knew many people were afraid and unprepared to die. Instead of becoming silent with fear, he used his last strength to speak words of hope.

When the ship went down, John was thrown into the icy water. Even there, he kept thinking of others. As people struggled in the dark sea, he called out to them and urged them to turn their hearts to Christ.

John Harper's story reminds us that love is not selfish. True love does not ask, "How can I protect myself first?" It asks, "How can I help someone else?" Most of us will never face a night like the Titanic, but every day we can practice Christlike love by giving our time, comfort, attention, and help to the people around us.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus choose to stay on the cross instead of saving Himself?
- How did John Harper demonstrate the kind of self-sacrificing love that Jesus talked about?
- What is one practical way you can show unselfish love to a friend or family member today?

🎭 Activity:

Scatter a few small rugs, or couch cushions around the room to represent "lifeboats." Play some ocean-sounding music and have the children "swim" around the room. When the music stops, everyone must get inside a lifeboat—but make sure there is one less spot than there are people! Teach the children that instead of fighting for the last spot, someone must bravely step out of the lifeboat and offer their spot to a sibling, saying: "You need this more than I do!"

Loving Others — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#153) — KJV

Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

Galatians 5:14–15 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God says that the only thing we should ever "owe" anyone is love! When we generously choose to love and help other people, we are perfectly obeying all of God's rules.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 10)

Jesus told a story to show what it really means to love our neighbor. A man was traveling down the steep road from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him. They hurt him badly, took his things, and left him lying beside the road.

After a while, a priest came down the same road. He saw the injured man, but he passed by on the other side. Then a Levite came along. He also saw the man, but he did not stop to help. Both men knew God's law, but they did not show God's love.

Then a Samaritan came down the road. The Jews and Samaritans were not friendly with each other, so he could have said, "This man is not my people. This is not my problem." But when he saw the wounded man, his heart was moved with compassion.

The Samaritan stopped. He went close to the man, cleaned and bandaged his wounds, and gently placed him on his own animal. Then he brought him to an inn where he could rest and be cared for.

The next day, the Samaritan paid the innkeeper and promised to give more if the man needed extra care. He did not only feel sorry for the hurting man. He gave his time, his money, and his strength to help him.

Jesus' story teaches us that loving others means more than kind feelings or nice words. Our neighbor is anyone God places near us who needs help. When we love like Jesus, we notice hurting people, come close instead of passing by, and do what we can to show mercy.

☀️ True Story

In 2015, a six-year-old boy named Christian McPhilamy saw a television commercial that touched his heart. It showed children with cancer who had lost their hair during treatment. Christian felt sad for them and wanted to do something kind.

He learned that people could donate long hair to help make wigs for children who were sick. So Christian made a decision. He would grow his hair long and give it away.

For two and a half years, Christian let his blond hair grow until it reached far down his back. Some children teased him. Sometimes adults thought he was a girl or told him he should get a haircut. Their words were not easy to hear.

But Christian remembered why he was doing it. He was not growing his hair to get attention. He was preparing a gift for children who needed comfort. Each day he kept growing his hair was another quiet way of saying, "I care about you." His love for them helped him keep going when people did not understand.

When his hair was finally long enough, Christian had it cut into several ponytails and sent it away to be made into wigs. What had taken him years to grow became a gift for someone else.

Christian's story reminds us that love is more than feeling sorry for someone. Love is willing to give, wait, endure discomfort, and think about another person's needs. When we love like Jesus, we look for practical ways to bring comfort and kindness to others.

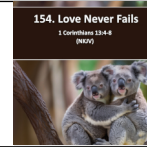
💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did the priest and the Levite cross the road instead of helping the injured man?
- What incredibly generous thing did Oseola do with all of her hard-earned money?
- How is arguing with a sibling the exact opposite of being a Good Samaritan?

🎬 Activity:

Give your children a roll of toilet paper to act as bandages. Have someone sit across the room as the "injured traveler." Say "Go!" and have the children run across the room to quickly and gently wrap "bandages" around the traveler's arms or legs. Discuss how the Good Samaritan didn't just feel bad for the hurt man; he took immediate action to carefully bandage his wounds and show him true love!

Loving Others — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#154) — KJV

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that true love never gives up! When we love others the way Jesus loves us, our love will be patient, kind, and strong enough to endure absolutely anything without failing.

📖 Bible Story (Hosea 1 & 3)

God gave the prophet Hosea a difficult assignment. He told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer, even though she would not always be faithful to him. Hosea obeyed God and loved her.

For a while, they had a home and family together. But Gomer turned away from Hosea and chose a different path. Her choices brought sorrow to Hosea's heart.

Later, Gomer's life became broken and painful. She could not rescue herself. It would have been easy for Hosea to say, "She hurt me. I will not help her." But God told Hosea to go and love her again.

So Hosea went to find Gomer. He paid a price of silver and barley to bring her back. Hosea's love was not only a feeling in his heart; it became an action that cost him something. He went after the one who had hurt him because God wanted His people to understand how faithful His own love is.

Hosea's love for Gomer was a picture of God's love for His people. Again and again, they had turned away from Him, but God still called them back. His love was not weak or careless; it was strong enough to keep reaching for the ones He longed to save. He wanted to forgive them, heal them, and bring them home.

Hosea's story reminds us that love does not give up quickly. Loving others does not mean sin is good or that wrong choices do not hurt. But God's kind of love is patient, faithful, and willing to forgive. When we love like God loves us, we seek to restore instead of only pushing people away.

☀️ True Story

In 1956, Elisabeth Elliot's husband, Jim, traveled with four other missionaries into the jungles of Ecuador. They wanted to share God's love with the Waodani people, a tribe that had very little contact with the outside world.

The missionaries hoped to come in peace, but the meeting ended in tragedy. Waodani warriors attacked, and Jim Elliot and the other four men were killed.

Elisabeth was left alone with her little daughter. Her heart was deeply wounded. It would have been easy for her to hate the people who had caused so much pain.

But Elisabeth chose a different way. She prayed, learned more of their language, and kept asking God to help her love as Jesus loved. Later, she and her young daughter went to live among the same people who had killed her husband. That choice was not easy, and it did not mean her sorrow disappeared. But Elisabeth kept giving her pain to God and asking Him to make His love stronger than bitterness in her heart.

Elisabeth cared for them, learned from them, and shared the love of Jesus with them. Her forgiving love helped the Waodani see a different kind of life. Some of the very men involved in the attack later gave their hearts to Christ.

This story shows that love is stronger than revenge. Loving others does not mean hurt is not real. It means we give our pain to God and ask Him to fill our hearts with His love. When we choose forgiveness, kindness, and mercy, God can use even deep sorrow to show others what Jesus is like.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did Gomer do to break Hosea's heart after they built a family together?
- Instead of hating the men who hurt her family, what incredible thing did Elisabeth Elliot do?
- First Corinthians 13 says love is "patient and kind." When is it the hardest for you to show patient, kind love to someone else?

🎨 Activity:

Write 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 on a whiteboard, drawing a blank line instead of the word "love." Have the children write their names on sticky notes. Let them take turns placing their name in the blanks and reading the sentence aloud (e.g., "Sarah suffers long"). Ask the group which phrase was hardest to say about themselves, then pray together for Jesus to help them practice that specific love.

Loving Others — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#155) — KJV

1 John 4:7–8 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God promises that He is pure, perfect love! When we choose to show deep, caring love to people who are usually ignored or left out, it proves to the world that we truly know Him.

📖 Bible Story (Mark 1)

In Bible times, having leprosy was very painful and lonely. People with leprosy had to leave their homes and live outside the city. When others came near, they had to warn them to stay away.

Many lepers went for years without feeling the touch of a friend. People were afraid of them, and they often felt forgotten and unwanted.

One day, a man with leprosy saw Jesus coming. Hope rose in his heart. He fell down before Jesus and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

The people nearby may have stepped back, expecting Jesus to stay away. But Jesus did not look at the man with disgust. He did not treat him as if he were too dirty or too broken to love.

Jesus reached out His hand and touched him.

Then Jesus said, "I am willing. Be clean." Immediately, the leprosy left the man, and he was healed.

Jesus could have healed him from far away with only a word. But He chose to come close and touch the man no one else wanted to touch. His love brought healing not only to the man's body, but also to his lonely heart.

This story reminds us that loving others means noticing people who feel left out, unwanted, or alone. We may not be able to heal sickness like Jesus did, but we can show His love by coming close, speaking kindly, and treating hurting people as precious.

☀️ True Story

In the 1800s, many people were terribly afraid of a sickness called leprosy. In the islands of Hawaii, anyone who caught this disease was sent away to a rocky island called Molokai. It was a sad, lonely place where sick people were separated from their families and left with very little comfort or help.

In 1873, a missionary named Damien De Veuster realized these forgotten people desperately needed care. He volunteered to move to the isolated island, knowing he might never be allowed to leave. He wanted them to know they were not forgotten by God.

When Damien arrived, he did not stand far away and wave. He chose to live right in the middle of their camp! He helped build wooden houses, planted beautiful gardens, and carefully bandaged their sore skin with his own hands. He ate meals with them, sang songs, and treated them like true friends instead of outcasts. To people who had been pushed away by almost everyone, Damien's nearness felt like a message that they still mattered.

After many years of faithful service, Damien also caught the disease. Still, he continued loving and serving the people until the very end, giving his entire life to bring joy back to the island.

Damien's story demonstrates that true love does not turn away from people who are hurting. We can love others by stepping closer instead of avoiding them, helping with real needs, and treating lonely people with kindness. When we love like Jesus, we show people that they are never forgotten.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Instead of backing away from the leper, what incredible thing did Jesus do before He healed him?
- What did Damien do to show the sick people that God still loved them?
- First John 4 says that "God is love." Who is someone at your school or in your neighborhood who seems lonely or ignored that you can show God's love to today?

🎨 Activity:

Sit together in a circle and grab a soft beanbag or a small pillow. The person holding the beanbag chooses someone across the circle and shares one specific, kind thing they deeply appreciate about them. Explain that kind words are like a "healing touch" to someone's heart! After sharing, carefully toss or pass the beanbag to that person. Continue passing and sharing until every single person has had a turn to feel loved and hear a compliment!