

“Crazy Little Thing Called Love” - LESSON 4

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

Main Focus:

All followers of Jesus Christ must have love evident in their lives



Power Verse:

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- 1 John 4:8



Watt’s Up:

“If I Love God, Then I’ll Love You!”

LEADER’S INFO

It’s easy to love those we enjoy being around. Our friends, our family, and those who make us happy are easy to show and demonstrate God’s love to. However, those who are different than us, irritate us, or are mean to us - it is often difficult for us to show love to them.

The problem is, those who claim to be followers of Jesus don’t have the right to pick and choose who they love. Instead, we must show God’s love to EVERYONE! It is to be THE defining element of our lives. Jesus said, “They will know you are my disciples by your love for one another.”

In this lesson, the children will learn from the story of Zaccheaus how Jesus demonstrated love to someone that many others refused to love. Each one of us - if we love God, then we MUST love others.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Featuring Max & Ruby”



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Susanna Q. Whistlefeathers”



Offering Time



Game On!

“The Ultimate Shoe Scramble”



Bible Story

“Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree”



Power Verse Video

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” - 1 John 4:8



Call To Action

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

All followers of Jesus Christ must have love evident in their lives



Power Verse:

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- I John 4:8



Watt’s Up:

“If I Love God, Then I’ll Love You!”

ORDER OF SERVICE

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PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Susanna Q. Whistlefeathers**” (*Susanna is an eccentric bird watcher who is constantly in pursuit of “love birds.” She has extensive knowledge of bird facts...none of which are true. She never goes anywhere without her binoculars and field notebook.*)

SUSANNA: (*comes out with a large fun noodle and WHACKS the leader with it*) That’ll teach you, you no good...no good....NO GOOD PERSON-TYPE THING, YOU!

Leader: (*wincing, rubbing the spot where they’ve been hit*) Owwww! What’d you do THAT for?

SUSANNA: (*gasps, embarrassed*) Oh good GRACIOUS. I’m so sorry! I thought you were somebody else. I guess in this instance, you ARE somebody else – that is to say, you’re not the person I thought you were. (*chuckles to herself*)

Leader: (*just stares at her for a moment*) Say what?

SUSANNA: Never mind, Old Bean. Susanna Q. Whistlefeathers, birdwatcher at large! (*shakes the leader’s hand enthusiastically*)

Leader: (*wrestles their hand away*) We all know your name by now. And the “Q” stands for something crazy, right?

SUSANNA: “Something Crazy?” What a ridiculous middle name! “Susanna Something Crazy Whistlefeathers!” Why, there isn’t even a “Q” in that! No, ninny-head, it stands for (*hisses like a cat*). The “Q” is silent.

Leader: (*pauses, confused*) Whatever. Susanna, why on EARTH did you think it was okay to BOP me with that THING you have in your hands?

SUSANNA: Oh, you mean my Whizbopper! It’s a tool used by birdwatchers, such as myself, for dealing with rather dangerous birds. (*becomes angry*) It also comes in handy when dealing with ninny-heads like Professor Gretchen Snortbeak!

Leader: Who?

SUSANNA: (*yells*) GRETCHEN SNORTBEAK! (*clears her throat, embarrassed*) You see, we are both birdwatchers in pursuit of the rare and elusive LOVE BIRDS. She is my most bitter rival! She’s always bragging! (*imitates a “snobbish” voice*) I’m sure to catch those LOVE BIRDS before you! Do you like my PLATINUM binoculars? They’re from France. Love Birds LOVE French Binoculars! (*back to normal voice*) She drives me INSANE!

Leader: Susanna, that does sound annoying, but this is silly! Are you sure Love Birds even exist??

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

SUSANNA: Of course they do! I’m an expert! I know ALL about birds! For instance, do you know why ducks sip their tea with their pinkies out? *(imitates slurping a cup of tea)*

Leader: *(confused)* I didn’t think ducks even had fingers.

SUSANNA: PRECISELY! I am an EXPERT - a better expert than *(mocking tone)* Gretchen Snortbeak. Oh I just HATE HER, HATE HER, HATE-HATE- HATE HER!

Leader: Hold on, Susanna! You know, for someone who knows a lot about being a Christian, you sure aren’t acting like one right now. You love God, right?

SUSANNA: Yes! More than anything!

Leader: I’m not seeing any proof of that right now. You see, if you love God that means you should also love others. You see, we all have something in common -

SUSANNA: We all had a pet microwave as a child!

Leader: No. We did not.

SUSANNA: Oh, perhaps that’s just me. My father was cheap.

Leader: Anyway, what I was GOING to say is we should all PROVE we love God by LOVING OTHERS! If you DON’T love others, then that PROVES that you DON’T love God!

SUSANNA: Oh my goodness...then that means if I claim to love God but I don’t love people then *(gasps)* that makes me a liar! Oh, I’ve been nothing but a silly NINNY-HEAD! Even though Gretchen gets on my nerves, I should love her anyway, because God does – and I love God! Thank you so much for helping me today, I’m going to – *(stops, cupping her hand to her ear)* Do you hear that?

Leader: No...what is it?

SUSANNA: It’s the call of the rare Grape-Bellied Giggle Goose! *(belts out a weird “bird call” that sounds NOTHING like a bird)* I’m coming, you purple beauty!! I wonder if Gretchen would want to see it as well? I’ll go get her right now! Bye-bye, Ninny-head! See you later, little birdies! Tweedle-dee-deet! Time to move my feet! Bye! *(waves goodbye and exits while “Susanna’s Theme” video plays)*



GAME ON!
“The Ultimate Shoe Scramble”

Items Needed For Game:

none

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Preparation:

none

.....

How To Play:

Choose five boys and five girls to compete in this crazy game. Have them all take off their shoes and place them in a pile in the middle of the room. Mix up the shoes very well.

When you say, “Go!” the music begins and the children must dive into the pile to retrieve their shoes. The first team to find their shoes, put them on (*laced up*) and stand to their feet wins.



Bible Story

“Zacchaeus Climbs A Tree”

Materials Needed:

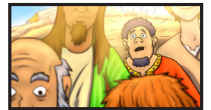
The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 4; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 19:1-10; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Luke chapter 19. It’s a story about a young man with a very different sort of name - Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, that meant that he took part of everyone’s money and gave it to the Roman government. People didn’t like Zacchaeus very much because he was known to be very dishonest.



One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was nearby teaching. He wanted to get a good look at this man he had heard about. He had heard all about how Jesus heals, loves, and told people all about God. When he arrived, he saw a huge crowd surrounding Jesus. (*show pic*) You see, Zacchaeus had a “little” problem: he was very short. He couldn’t see Jesus over all the people.



So, Zacchaeus had an idea. He found a tree that was nearby (*show pic*) and began to climb it so he could get a better view of Jesus. Pretty smart idea, huh? Don’t you love climbing trees? Well, while he was in the tree, Jesus saw him. Jesus called him by name, “Zacchaeus, come on down from there. I must come to your house as a guest today.”



The religious people that were there couldn’t believe that Jesus would actually go to Zacchaeus’ house. They didn’t like Zacchaeus at all because he was a tax collector. (*show pic*) They saw Jesus at Zacchaeus’ house and said, “How could Jesus possibly hang out with THAT man? He’s a big sinner!”



Jesus was not impressed with the religious people. They were supposed to be the ones sharing the love of God, yet they were treating Zacchaeus as if he didn’t even matter. (*show pic*) Jesus said, “I have come to save lost people like Zacchaeus!” He was teaching the religious people that if they really wanted to do God’s will, then they would show love to people like Zacchaeus instead of ignoring them and treating them like they didn’t even matter.

In your lesson today, you are going to learn that showing God’s love to others is THE way that others will know you belong to God. If you don’t show love to others, then you are definitely NOT doing God’s will.



Call To Action

“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a piece of candy; a tall glass; an egg; an apple; an orange

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Four;” begin with the slide titled “What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we continue talking about this “Crazy Little Thing Called Love.” The Book of First John has so much to teach us about Love. Our lesson today is called, “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” That’s a great question. When it comes to being a Christian, “What’s Love Got To Do With It?”

(invite a kid to come onstage and help you with an illustration) I’ve got some choices I want you to help me with. First of all, *(hold your hand up for a high-five)* I would love a high-five right now. Now, you don’t HAVE to give me a high-five, I want to give you the choice. *(allow the kid to give you a high-five - or not if they choose not to)* Now, I have another choice for you. *(pull out the piece of candy)* I have an awesome piece of candy here. I would love for you to take it and eat it. Now, you don’t HAVE to. I want to give you the choice. *(allow them to choose)* OK, one final choice. *(hold up the egg, crack it on the side of the glass, then pour the egg into the glass)* I would like for you to drink this raw egg. Now, you don’t HAVE to. I will give you the choice. *(most likely they will choose NOT to, that’s ok; have the audience give them a hand as they sit down)*

Did you notice something? On each occasion, they had a choice as to whether or not they did what I asked, right? They had a choice whether or not to give me a high-five, or to eat the candy, or to drink the egg. They had a choice!

Well, when it comes to loving others, as a Christian we do NOT have a choice. It is a command that God has given to us. He said, “I command you to love one another.” The book of First John speaks about this as well. Verse 7 of chapter 4 says, “Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” So...

Q. What Proves I Love God? A. My Love For Others *(slide)*



Your love for others is what is going to prove that you love God. People notice when you act, and live, and serve in love. It’s not normal. It’s not human nature. But, when we accepted Jesus as our Savior, we traded our human nature for His nature. And so, we love. Love proves to others that we belong to God.

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Call To Action (CONTINUED)

It’s kind of like a fruit tree. When you walk up to a fruit tree, how do you know what kind of fruit tree it is? (*allow response*) Exactly! You can tell what kind of fruit tree it is by the fruit that is hanging on it. How do I know it is an apple tree? (*hold up the apple*) If it has apples hanging on it, it is an apple tree. How do I know if it is an orange tree? (*hold up the orange*) If it has oranges hanging on it, then it is an orange tree.

Jesus said that LOVE for others will be the FRUIT that will show that we are His disciples. Just like the APPLE proves that it is an APPLE tree, LOVE for others will prove that you love God and belong to Him. The next verse in First John 4, our Power Verse, says this, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” - *1 John 4:8* So...

Q. What Proves I Don’t Love God? A. My Lack Of Love For Others (*slide*)

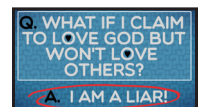


It’s true. When you don’t love others, when you don’t treat them with love and care, that proves that you don’t love God. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” Jesus clearly told us that we must show love to others - even if they get on our nerves, are smelly, or are mean. It doesn’t matter who they are or what they have done, we must show love to them every time. If we don’t show love to others, then First John 4:8 teaches us that proves we don’t love God. “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” - *1 John 4:8*

You might say, “That just doesn’t seem fair. I can’t help it. That’s just my personality. I don’t mean to say hateful things to others, it just comes out.” Or, “They hated me first. I’m just responding to what they did. They deserve it. They’ve got it coming after what they did to me. They hurt me. They talked about me. They left me out. They attacked me. They gossiped about me.”

There is one more verse in chapter 4 that I want you to understand. This is probably one of the hardest verses of all. *1 John 4:20*, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates [someone else], that person is a liar.” WOW!

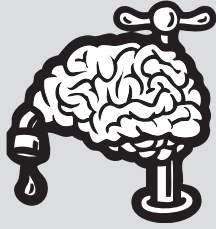
**Q. What If I Claim To Love God, But I Won’t Love Others?
A. I Am A LIAR!** (*slide*)



You can’t claim to love God and then choose to NOT love others. It is not an option. If you say you love God, but don’t love others, the Bible says you are a liar. That’s pretty strong. That’s how strongly God feels about us showing love to others. So, every chance we get, we must speak kindly, show mercy, and be gracious to those around us. That will be what shows that we REALLY love God.

ALTAR REPSONSE: (*play soft music*)

Pray with the children that they will always show love to others. Lead them in a prayer of repentance if they realize they have become a “liar” as discussed in our lesson.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Four;” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “If I Love God, Then I’ll Love You!”

2. What was the name of the person Max interviewed today?

Answer: Ruby Rude

3. What line of work was Zacchaeus in?

Answer: tax collector

4. Why couldn’t Zacchaeus see Jesus over the crowd?

Answer: he was too short

5. How did Zacchaeus end up being able to see Jesus?

Answer: he climbed a tree

6. Did the religious people like the fact that Jesus went to Zacchaeus’ house?

Answer: no

7. According to our lesson today, “What Proves I Love God?”

Answer: My Love For Others

8. According to our lesson today, “What Proves I Don’t Love God?”

Answer: My Lack Of Love For Others

9. According to our lesson today, “If I Claim To Love God, But I Won’t Love Others, I Am A _____.”

Answer: Liar

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: I John 4:8

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