

Best Friends Forever

Grades 1 & 2

LESSON 1

Love Matters Most

Series Memory Verse:

I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I do not have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal.. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. Love is not happy with evil, but is happy with truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always continues strong.

1 Corinthians 13:2b; 4 – 7 (ICB)

Prepare It

- Select and prepare songs for worship time, such as:

“All of My Life”

By Jana Alyra

From the *Jump Into the Light* CD and song book

<http://www.janaalayra.com/viewitem.aspx?i=39&c=3>

“How Much Do I Love You?”

By Jana Alyra

From the *Jump Into the Light* CD and song book

<http://www.janaalayra.com/viewitem.aspx?i=39&c=3>

- For the Picture It object lesson, insert pictures from the internet of a local amusement park and a Nintendo Wii game into the PowerPoint presentation, Slides 12-13. You could also replace the provided photos of kids having fun together on Slide 14 with photos of your kids.
- For Store It, hide pieces of paper with different verses written on them around the room. One of the papers has the text of today's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 13:1.
- For Play It, have several jars of play dough

Start It



Slides 1-4

Welcome

- MC introduces him/herself and other leaders

Share our three words for our classroom

This is a fun way for the kids to learn the rules of the classroom. Ask them if they know the three “L” words. They can win points!

- Listen... to the MC and leaders.
- Learn... the lesson of the day.
- Love... others in the class.

Chat It



Slides 5-7

Ask the whole group for responses, or in larger classes, turn to the person beside you and share your answer.

Would you rather be able to know the future or be able to read minds?

Sing It



Slides 8-11

MC prays, preparing our hearts for a time of worship through singing and music.

“All Of My Life”

“How Much Do I Love You”

Picture It



Slides 12-17

Object Lesson: What matters most?

- Show the three pictures: an amusement park, a Nintendo Wii, and a group of loving friends
- Ask the kids, which matters most to them? Then ask them, which do you think matters most to God?

MC Transition: That's right! God wants us to LOVE others. This matters most to him! He asks us to love others and to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. In fact, it is the most important thing we could ever do! **That's why our Word of the Day is, Love Matters Most.**

Watch It



Play DVD

The following material is covered in the Teaching Video, Lesson 1.

Word of the Day: Love matters most.

Definition: Matters most – the most important thing in life

This week's Bible Verse: *I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I don't have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal.* 1 Corinthians 13:1 (ICB)

Bible Lesson: The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:35–40 (ICB)

Jesus' ministry or work lasted only 3½ years. During this time He was popular with His followers, but many who didn't follow Jesus doubted Him and were against His teachings. Two groups of people who doubted Jesus' teachings were the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were big rule-followers. The problem was that they followed the religious rules and laws so closely that they forgot the *most* important law, the law about love. They didn't always care about others; only about making sure everyone followed the rules. For the Pharisees, it was all about how they looked on the outside and not the inside. This bothered Jesus. He thought they were hypocrites. A hypocrite is someone who says one thing and does something different. There were also these guys called the Sadducees. They were priests who only believed in written law and didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

One particular Pharisee was an expert at the Law. (The Law is taught in the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.) This Pharisee asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know which commandment from the Law was the greatest and most important. Jesus answered him by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second command is like the first: love your neighbor as you love yourself. All of the other Laws written by prophets depend on these two commands." After listening to Jesus that day, these religious leaders didn't dare ask Him another question. They were astonished by His wisdom and knowledge.

Big Idea: Love matters most. The religious Pharisee knew all of the laws, but had forgotten how to show love to others. He wanted to trick Jesus to see if He would say anything against the Law. Jesus knew the man was trying to trick Him. Jesus challenged him with the greatest commandment, which was to do two things: to love God and to love others. Jesus knew the religious leader was an expert at rules, but Jesus wanted him to be an expert at loving others! Jesus is the ultimate example of a BFF because He always did everything in the most loving way.

Application: How can we love like Jesus? It is not easy to do. Love is a feeling *and* an action. The key to being a BFF is not just telling someone you love them but *showing* them as well. Remember Jesus said we need to love others just as much as we love ourselves. How can we show love to others? That is a challenge that we get to live out daily! Being loving is more important than being popular, famous, smart or the best athlete. God wants you to love Him with all of your heart, soul and mind, and to love others. A BFF knows that love matters most.

Show It



Slides 18-35

Divide the group in half and have a team competition. Award points for correct answers, and announce the team winner at the end.

Memory Mania:

- 1) What does BFF stand for?
 - a. Big Fat Frankenstein

- b. Burnt French Fry
- c. Best Friends Forever

- 2) How long did the ministry of Jesus last? 3 ½ years
- 3) True or False: The Fair-i-c's & Sad-u-c's were x-perts in THE LAW. TRUE
- 4) Name the first 5 books of the Bible, known as THE LAW.
- 5) Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Dueteronomy
- 6) True or False: The biggest deal to the fair-i-c's & sad-u-c's was to show love to others. FALSE
- 7) Jesus doesn't look on the outside of people, He looks on the inside.
- 8) The greatest commandment is to Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul, and Mind.
- 8) Also, we should <3 who? We should <3 other people!

Live It



Slides 36-40

Read the following key Live It questions aloud and see if any of the children know the answer. If they are stumped on an answer, encourage the leaders to help the kids out.

- 1) What was the Religious Leader an expert at?
- 2) What are the two greatest commandments?
- 3) How can I love others?

Live it Out Challenge: Jesus says that LOVE MATTERS MOST! He says it is the greatest commandment. This week think about how you can love God and others better. Write down how you showed God that you loved him and how you showed others that you loved them. How did it feel to show others that LOVE MATTERS MOST? Bring it back to church next week and share it with a leader.

Store It



Slides 41-42

Materials Needed: Various verses written out on pieces of paper, including one with today's verse.

Preparation: Hide the verses around the room before the children enter.

Instructions: Tell the kids that they must find today's memory verse somewhere in the room. The team that finds the correct verse first wins points!

I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I do not have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13: 1 (ICB)

After the activity, have all of the kids stand and say the verse as loud as they can.

Play It



Slides 43-45

Game: Who is Your BFF? (best friend forever)

Overview: Children will make play dough figures of what their BFF looks like.

Materials Needed: Several jars of play dough

Instructions:

- Have a leader pick 10 children from each team. (There can be more leaders with kids than number of teams.)
- They will then form a line behind that leader and take turns making a play dough BFF.
- Each child will have 30 seconds to work with the play dough.
- After the first child goes, each child will then build onto it.
- The team that makes the best BFF according to the MC, leaders and other kids wins!

Leader: That was a fun way to create BFF's out of play dough. Now remember, God is our BFF. If you ever feel alone or in need of a friend, God is there and He will always love you to be your BFF!

Leader Share Time & Winners



Slides 46-48

Bring up an adult or student leader to share a little testimony on how this week's lesson affected their life recently. (This should be 30 seconds to a minute.)

Example: Last week I showed that love matters most by...

Have that leader pick the "live it winner." (Draw a name from the returned take-home papers brought back from last week, and award a small prize.)

Announce the team competition winners.

Memory Madness!!!

Review the memory verse using a creative way that the leader chooses. **Example:** Erase one word at a time on the white board and have the children say it until they are all erased.

Prayer Time



Slides 49-52

Distribute take-home papers. Take prayer requests and have prayer time. Collect prayer requests written on the flap of the take-home paper.

Dismiss