

**Best Friends Forever
Grades 5 & 6
Lesson 1
Love Matters Most**

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. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and is not proud. Love is not rude. (Love) 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 13:1-7 (ICB)

Prepare It!

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

“All About Love”

By Rick Muchow

<http://www.encouragingmusic.com/cart.asp?action=add&ProdID=827>

“How Do You Know”

By Third Day

<http://www.musicnotes.com/download/scorch/default.asp?ppn=SC0025672>

“Love the Lord Your God”

By Lincoln Brewster

<http://www.praisecharts.com/index.php?ID=2115&action=search&module=shopping&what=details>

- For Start It, cue the movie *Surf's Up* to the scene where Lani the lifeguard penguin picks up her rescue squid and runs into the shallow water to save a young penguin who's calling “help me, I'm drowning!” and bobbing in and out of the water. As they watch, Cody, also a penguin, confides to his friend, a chicken, that he has fallen in love with Lani, but doesn't have the guts to tell her. The friend encourages him. “Go talk to her, man!” and literally pushes him to Lani's side. Cody and Lani share a few words as Cody's friend again steps in to chide Cody, and teases him by telling Lani “he likes you!”
- For Play It, make die-cut paper heart shapes, or photocopy shapes of hearts, (enough for each student to fill out 2 or 3 hearts), markers for each group, 1 roll of masking tape for each group.

Start It!



Slides 1-5,



Movie Clip

- **Welcome**
 - MC introduces him/herself and leaders
- **Let's Start It!**

Object Needed: Clip from *Surf's Up*

- **MC:** When we hear the word “LOVE” we all think of different things. Check this clip out. (Show clip from *Surf's Up*.)
- In the clip we just saw, Cody, is talking to his friend about how much he is in love with Lani, the lifeguard, but doesn't have the guts to talk to her. After she saves someone's life, the chicken forces Cody to tell her how he feels.
- Love can mean lots of different things to different people. During this series we are going to learn all about what love is and what love isn't. God has called each of us to love those around us and hopefully that will be easier for us after we have learned more in this series!
- **Word of the Day: Love Matters Most!**

Mix It Up!



Slides 6-8

Tell two people your first name and what you LOVE about the weekend.

Play It!



Slides 9-11

Game: Heart “Attach”

Materials Needed

- Die-cut shapes of paper hearts or photocopied shapes of hearts
- Markers
- Rolls of masking tape

How to Play

- Divide the group into as many teams as you have teachers or leaders.
- Each team receives a set of paper hearts (all groups should have the same number of hearts, around 2-3 per student), markers and a roll of masking tape.
- On MC's “GO”, students go in pairs up to the stage, pick up a paper heart and write down an action that shows love on the heart, attach tape to it and stick the heart to the leader. Students go back to team and tag the next two people and play continues.

- First team to fill out all of their hearts and stick them to their leader wins points for their team.

Sing It!



Slides 12-13

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

“All About Love”

“How Do You Know”

“Love the Lord Your God”

Watch It!



Play DVD

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

Word of the Day: Love Matters Most

Memory 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 that 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.

Quiz It Up!



Slides 14-25

Divide the group into teams and choose two students to represent each team (teams could be the same as for Play It). Gather the teams into circles, and give the two leaders a whiteboard and marker. The leaders write down the team's answers to the following questions. Award points for every correct answer.

Memory Mania:

- 1) How long did the ministry of Jesus last? 3 ½ years
- 2) True or False: The Fair-i-c's & Sad-u-c's were x-perts in THE LAW. TRUE
- 3) Name the first 5 books of the Bible, known as THE LAW.
Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, & Dueteronomy
- 4) The greatest commandment is to Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul, and Mind.
- 5) Also, we should <3 who? We should <3 other people!

Huddle Up!



Slides 26-27

Students get into huddles of 8-12 and have an activity or discussion to do based on the day's lesson.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Take-home papers and pens

INTRODUCTIONS:

Have everyone say their **name** and what grade they are in.

DISCUSS:

Pass out take-home papers and pens.

- **Ask:** What does it mean to be someone's "Best Friend"?
- **Ask:** Describe a time when you needed to TELL your friend that you loved them/cared about them.
- **Ask:** Describe a time when you did something to SHOW your friend that you loved them.
- **Say:** Today we are talking about our actions and our words matching when it comes to loving those around us. Write down one way you will SHOW love to your friends this week and share it with the Huddle.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Give time for each student to write down their prayer requests on the flap of their take-home papers and turn them in to you.
- When you have collected them,
 - Adult leaders: keep prayer requests, turn in comments and questions.
 - Student/Youth leaders: turn prayer requests in to your coach or coordinator. We will sort through them and redistribute to you.

Live It Up!



Slides 28-33

- **MC leads two minute debrief from Huddles**
 - This should be short and fun. You can ask a couple of questions pertinent to the subject matter.
- **Announcements!**
- **Announce the winners.** *Have a 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.) Next, announce the Team Competition winner.*
- **Prayer time**
- **Dismiss**

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