



Session Twenty-One: God Loved Us First

Today's Point:

God loved us before we loved Him.

Bible Verse: 1 John 4:19

CSB: "We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

KJV: "We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Today's Bible Skill:

- Begin to memorize 1 John 4:19
- Know that 1 John is in the New Testament
- Learn that 1 John is a letter written to believers

Bible Truth Activity:

Game: Heart Hunt

Object of the game:

Kids will discover reminders of God's love.

Materials:

- Paper hearts hidden around the room

Directions:

Hide paper hearts before class begins.

Allow children to search for the hearts. When a child finds one, they bring it back and share one thing God has done to show love.

Examples:

- God gave us family
- God gave us Jesus
- God answers prayer
- God takes care of us

Continue until all hearts are found.

When activity is over say: The Bible teaches us that God loved us first.

1 John 4:19 says:

“We love because he first loved us.”

Before we ever loved God, He already loved us. God showed His love by sending Jesus for us.

Ask:

- How does God show love to us?
- How can we show love back to God?

(Allow responses.)

Say:

God’s love is the reason we can love others.

Bible Verse Activity – Heart Motions

Help children find 1 John 4:19.

Read the verse together.

CSB:

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

KJV:

“We love him, because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Add motions:

- “We love” — form a heart with hands
- “because he first” — point upward
- “loved us” — hug self

Repeat the verse several times with motions.

Encourage children to say it from memory.

Bible Skills Activity: Finding Books with Numbers

Materials:

- Bible for each child

Instructions:

Explain that some Bible books begin with numbers:

- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John

Help children practice finding:

- John
- 1 John

Explain that 1 John comes near the back of the Bible.

Help children locate:

- Chapter 4
- Verse 19

Conclude by saying:

The Bible teaches us about God's amazing love.