

# Year 6

## God is Love 5 Weeks



### **Outcomes:**

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- God is a loving Father
- We can have a loving relationship with God our Father
- We can express our love to God through prayer and praise
- We can show God's love by demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy and peace
- We can share God's love by taking the Gospel to people who do not know Him.

### **Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:**

Pacific Island History & geography: God's love shown to the Pacific Islands through the sending of missionaries

### **Link between "God is Love" and classroom topics:**

The Great Commission: taking God's love to those who do not know Him

### **Values**

compassion; cultural understanding, empathy and tolerance; appreciation of family and community; the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace

### **Biographies**

James Chalmers, John Paton, Ratu Cakobau, Taufa

# God is Love

## Week 1

### God is a loving Father

#### Bible references

Matthew 26:6-13 The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume.

John 12:1-8 Mary who poured perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped it with her hair

Psalm 141:2 Our prayer to God is as incense.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense

#### Discussion

Which of these points would show a parent's love for a child? (Go through the list and students can answer 'yes' or 'no'.)

- giving the child things to make him/her happy
- providing good food
- providing lots of junk food
- providing clothes, shelter and other needs
- hugging
- saying "I love you"
- punishing
- forgiving
- protecting
- giving-in to everything the child wants
- having fun with the child
- talking to the child

Now think about God as a Father. Which of these points would best show us the kind of father God is?

Because God shows His love to us in so many ways, it pleases Him greatly when we show our love to Him. Just as parents like to know that their children love them, God wants to know that we love Him. He wants us to tell Him that we love Him. We can do this through praying, praising and worshipping.

#### Bible research

Read about these women who showed their love for Jesus:

1. Mary who poured perfume on the feet of Jesus and wiped it with her hair – John 12:1-8
2. The woman with the alabaster jar of perfume – Matthew 26: 6-13

#### Discussion

In the first Bible passage, Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet. This was the Mary, who loved to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn about the things of God. Her sister was Martha and her brother was Lazarus. Her willingness to sit at Jesus' feet was an expression of her love, and so was the act of pouring expensive perfume called nard, on Jesus' feet. Who did not like what she did? Why?

In the second Bible passage, the woman gave something very precious to Jesus. We do not know the name of the woman, but we do know that she had much to be forgiven. How did she express her love

and appreciation? We can also give something precious to Jesus. We do this when we tell Jesus that we love Him.

In both accounts perfume was used. Why do you think the most expensive perfume was used? (Jesus deserves the best.)

Our praise and prayers to God can be like precious perfume.  
Read Psalm 141:2

# God is Love

## Week 2

### The Fruit of love

#### Bible references

Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8 Bearing fruit when our roots are deeply planted in the good soil, and being fed and watered by the spiritual food that God provides

John 15:5 Jesus is the vine; stay connected to Him and bear good fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit

John 13:34-35 A new commandment – love one another as I have loved you

Luke 10:27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

1 Cor 13: 4 Love is patient and kind

#### Introduction

Ask the students to think of a tree. What makes the tree grow well, with beautiful green leaves and strong roots?

Read Psalm 1:1-3

How can people be like trees?

Read John 15:5

What is a vine? What do grapes taste like? (Explain that grapes grow well in the country where Jesus lived. Like any other fruit they need rain and sunshine.)

Who is the Vine?

How can we stay connected to the Vine? (Ans: prayer; learning from the Bible; fellowship with other Christians; obedience to God's commands; serving Jesus)

What are the fruits that will be produced in our lives when we do this?

#### Bible lesson: The Fruit of love

Read Galatians 5:22. Explain that this week we are going to think about fruit of love.

**Definition:** Have the students refer to the following in their workbooks, or have it written out on a large sheet of paper.

Love is:

- A special feeling that fills your heart
- A smile and a pleasant way of speaking

- A thoughtful act or a hug
- Being accepted and respected
- Feeling important to somebody
- Contagious. It keeps spreading

### **Bible Study**

- 1 Read and learn John 13:34-35
2. What is the difference between a commandment and a request?
3. Was Jesus requesting the disciples to love each other, or commanding it?
5. How much does Jesus love us?
5. How much should we love each other?
6. What is the best way to show others that we belong to Jesus?

### **Without Love:**

- People feel alone
- People don't feel that they matter to anyone
- People become unhappy, or angry

### **With Love:**

- People feel important
- People become gentler and kinder

### **Practicing love is:**

- Treating people and things with special care because they mean a lot to you
- Treating other people just as you would like them to treat you, with care and respect
- Putting yourself 'in someone else's shoes' and caring about what they feel
- Accepting people just as they are
- Loving people we don't even know by caring what happens to them and sending them loving thoughts and prayers
- Sharing our belongings, our time and ourselves

### **Activities:**

Students can work in groups, pairs or individually.

1. Invite the students to share with the class about something or someone they love. Ask them to explain how they treat this special object or person lovingly.
2. Ask the students to write a sentence describing three ways they can show love for people.
3. Ask the students to write a sentence describing three ways they can show love for animals.
4. Thinking only...

Ask the children to think of a person who they feel does not treat them nicely, (no names mentioned!)

Ask students to think how they would like that person to treat them. Read Luke 10:27. How does Jesus want us to treat others?

5. What does God's love look like?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4.

Ask the class to make their own suggestions for what God's love is, based on 1 Corinthians 13:4.

Start by having some of the following written up on a sheet of paper.

Ask students to add two more suggestions in their books. Ask them to share their ideas.

Love is...

- taking turns patiently without getting upset
- Not getting jealous of a friend's new clothes
- not show off or act as if others don't matter
- being polite and respectful to parents and teachers
- letting someone else have the biggest piece of cake
- not calling someone names to get back at him/ her
- not staying angry at someone for what he/ she did
- looking for good in someone that others say is bad
- standing up for someone whom others pick on
- believing that God can change difficult people
- encouraging others to do and be their best
- choosing to love others even when they disappoint
- refusing to give up on someone, no matter what

# God is Love

## Week 3

### The Fruit of joy

#### Bible references

Galatians 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit

Psalms 100:1-2 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

John 15:10-11 If you obey God's commands you will remain in God's love, and your joy will be full.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.

Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of a Godly son has cause for joy. What pleasure a wise son is!

#### Definition:

Joy is:

- Being filled with happiness.
- Trusting in God even when things are not going well for us.
- An inner belief that we can get through hard times even when we are feeling very sad
- Joy is what we receive, (or feel) when we have a right relationship with God.

#### Discussion

What makes you feel joyful?

Do you have joy when you've just had a big fight with your friend?

Do your parents have joy when you've done something bad? (Prov 23:24-25)

What things can bring joy to your parents?

What things do you do that bring joy to God?

#### Bible study

Psalms 100:1-2 Joy comes from an appreciation for the gifts each day brings. Enjoy your life; thank God for all the beautiful gifts He gives you. (Name some of them).

John 15:11 For true joy we need to have the joy of Jesus inside us. This can be passed on to others.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 How can we be joyful when things are not going the right way for us?

#### Without Joy:

- We only feel happy when we are having fun.
- We might feel worried about the future.
- We think that there is no answer for our problem.

#### With joy:

- In the hard times we stay calm, knowing that God is in control of a Christian's life.
- We have a positive attitude to life and do whatever we have to do with a joyful heart.

- We enjoy good times with others.
- We give the bad times to God and do not let them hold us back.

### **Activity**

Work in pairs to answer the question: “What gives you joy?”

1. Name three activities you enjoy. How can you practice joyfulness when things are not going so well, (i.e. it is a sport and your team is losing?)
2. What cheers you up when you feel down?
3. What can you do to bring joy into a boring task?

### **Bringing joy to others**

We can bring joy to people, or take it away, by the things we say and by the words we use. We should always say good things about people, never bad things. Never put anyone down.

What would your family be like if each one always remembered to do this?

What would your school be like if everyone said only good things about everyone else?

What can we do to make it happen?

### **Activity**

Get the students to work in pairs. Give each student a piece of card. Tell the students that they will be making a card for their partner. They will be writing positive words about their partner’s character.

First make a list of ideas.

- Good character qualities: gentle, kind, obedient, fair, brave, truthful, friendly, gentle. (These are qualities that are a result of making positive choices.)
- Qualities that would *not* be mentioned: cute, smart, pretty, cool, clever, nice. (These are nothing to do with a person’s character.)

Now ask the students to write their partner’s name on one side of the card. Turn it over and write some positive character qualities on the back. They might like to complete the activity at home, decorating the card with colour. When finished, they can give it to their partner.

Next session ask: How did you feel when you received your card?

# God is Love

## Week 4

### The Fruit of peace

#### **Bible references:**

Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit

John 14:18 and 27-28 Jesus told His disciples that He would be going away, but He would leave His peace with them.

Matthew 5:9 Happy are those who work for peace. God will call them His children. (GNB)

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! (NLT)

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus said 'peace' to the storm.

#### **Definition**

Peace is:

- Being calm and quiet, free from struggles in mind and heart.
- Being fair to others and yourself
- A calm feeling that comes from doing what is right.

#### **Bible Study**

1. Read John 14:18 and 27-28

2. Do you think the disciples felt upset when Jesus said He was going away from them? Have you ever felt upset if your mother or father has had to be away from home for a week or more?

3. What three things did Jesus tell us not to do if we want to have His peace? (not to be worried, upset, or afraid).

4. Read Matthew 5:9. This verse tells us that peace may not come automatically. What do we have to do to get it?

5. Read Isaiah 26:3. How can we get peace?

6. Read Mark 4:35-41. What did Jesus say to the storm? What are some of the storms of life that might come our way? We can trust that Jesus will take us through the storm and give us peace.

#### **Without Peace:**

- people are in conflict with others (at war with others)
- people are worried and anxious
- people become frightened
- people make fights easily

#### **With Peace:**

- arguments are settled by everyone winning
- everyone feels that they have been fairly treated



- people listen to each other
- the world is a happier place to be in

### **Discussion**

Do you feel calmer inside when you are angry or when you are showing love towards others?

Why can't we feel peace inside when we are angry, selfish or upset? *(We are not doing the right action or having the right attitude that brings peace. Peace is a result of doing right.)*

### **How to practice peace:**

- By not reacting in anger when someone does something to you that you are not happy with
- Using peaceful language instead of name-calling, yelling or gossiping
- Talking things out with the person you are angry with, listening to their side of the story and looking together for a peaceful solution
- Making some time each day to be by yourself to pray quietly to God for all the things that worry you, and for problems you or your friends have

### **Further Discussion**

- What gives you a sense of peace?
- When do you find yourself feeling most angry (the opposite of peace)?
- How can you handle your anger peacefully?
- Name three things you can do if you see a fight starting?
- How can you become peaceful when you are worried?

### **What would you do if:**

1. Your brother runs into your room, steps on a piece of craft-work or a drawing you just finished and spoils it?
2. There are students of another race and religion in your class and some of your classmates are making fun of them?
3. You start to worry about a problem and find it is on your mind all the time?
4. You feel really angry because someone has treated you unfairly?
5. Some children start to tease you and ask you to fight?

# God is Love

## Week 5

### Sharing God's love

#### **Bible references**

Mark 16:15-18 The Great Commission

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

#### **Introduction**

Look at a globe or world map.

Find Israel. Trace the spread of the gospel from this point: first to near-by countries such as Greece and Italy; later to more distant places.

The spread of the Gospel to all parts of the world has been dependent upon advances in transport and technology.

How was the Gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?

Has it changed? What types of technology are used now to spread the Gospel?

#### **Bible research**

What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)

#### **Discussion**

We don't have to go to a faraway place to tell others about Jesus. How can we show Christian love in the place where we live?

Some people, however, do go to faraway places. It is important for Christians who go to foreign lands, to try and understand the people in that place. Here is a story about the first Christian missionaries to Korea. Find Korea on the map.

#### **True Story: Korea's First Missionaries**

In the 1880's the first Christian missionaries came to Korea. The Korean people accepted the missionaries because they showed the love of God. The missionaries did not come with a proud attitude. They did not say to the people, "You know nothing about God." Instead, they found out about the Korean's belief in God. To their surprise, they found that the Koreans actually knew something about the true and living God, even though no Christian missionary had ever been there before! The Koreans knew that there was one true God who had created the universe. They called Him by the name 'Hananim'.

The missionaries explained to the Koreans that Hananim had sent His Son to forgive all those who wanted to be forgiven. Hananim's son was born into the Jewish people, not because they were better than any other peoples, but simply because God needed to choose one group. Hananim then asked messengers to go into all the world to call all people to Jesus, the Son of Hananim.

Koreans by the thousands listened to the missionaries with awe.

"Here are men and women who know so much more about the true God than even our own king," they thought. "Here are people who pray freely to Hananim in the name of His Son, and get answers!"

Soon there were hundreds of Korean churches being run by their own people. Today, Koreans are still becoming Christians at an amazing rate.

*from Eternity in their Hearts by Don Richardson. Used by permission.*

### **Questions:**

1. How was the gospel spread in the days of the early Christians?
2. Has it changed?
3. If you were a missionary going into a country where the gospel had never been preached, how would you tell the people about Jesus?
4. Why do you think the Korean people listened to the first missionaries?
5. Describe the Christian church in Korea today.
6. What does Jesus command all Christians to do? (Mark 16:15-18)
7. Read about Paul's call to go to Macedonia, from Acts 16:6-15.
8. How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)
9. How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

### **God is love**

Jesus has told us that we must be willing to give everything we have to follow Him. He has also told us to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. Going to other places to share God's love may mean that we have to give up certain things. Why would we want to do that? Loving God is obeying His call. When He calls us, then we must be willing to go.

**Think:** How can I share God's love with people who do not know Him?

### **Bible study: A Call From Macedonia**

Read the account from Acts 16:6-15.

Where is Macedonia? (Greece)

How did Paul hear God speak?

How obedient was Paul in obeying God's call? (verse 10)

How did the Lord help Paul? (verse 14)

How did Paul help Lydia and her household?

### **Class Activity**

Make a display of world flags. Make a colourful sign: Jesus said, "Go into all the world."