



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Shows Us How to Love

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

“Can’t Buy Me Love” by the Beatles was a crazy popular song back in the 1960s. Its message is clear: You can’t buy love.

So how do we find love? And maybe more importantly, how do we share love?

In 1 Corinthians 13:1–8, Paul writes that we can have many spiritual gifts, knowledge, and money, but if we lack God’s love, we truly have nothing. To make matters more challenging, he writes in verse 12, “For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror” (NIV). Our knowledge, our hope, even our understanding of God’s love are not yet complete—they are like looking in a fogged-up mirror. We can wipe it, but our reflection remains hazy.

So if the mirror is fogged up, how can we understand what God’s love is all about?

We will only know it by entering into a sweet relationship with Jesus. He’s the only one who can fully wipe away the fog. He’s the one who knows us and understands how to love us.

Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 13:1–8, 12–13.

As you consider these words of Paul, what could you do to get a clearer vision of God’s love for you? Have you let yourself be fully embraced by Him, or are there parts of you that you hold back? What might it look like to share this kind of love with those around you?

Sit back and lean into Jesus, who knows you and wants you to fully know Him.

—Tom Bump

Children’s Ministry Leader, Author, and Coach

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Christians of Corinth were part of a church planted by Paul on his second missionary journey. Reflecting their culture, the Corinthians were highly conscious of social class and speaking skill. Paul addresses their tendency to divide into factions and fan clubs.

WHAT?

Paul treats a mirror as an object that obscures ([1 Corinthians 13:12](#)). Ancient mirrors were made of bronze and had none of the clarity of glass. An imperfect image from a dark mirror illustrates the way we presently “see” and “know.”

WHERE?

Corinth, the capital of Achaia, was a city with a blended Greek and Roman culture. Because of its important role in trade—Paul himself worked as a tentmaker in Corinth ([Acts 18:3](#))—there existed a great divide between rich and poor.

WHEN?

In [Acts 18:11](#), Luke notes Paul’s residence in Corinth for 18 months. Paul and the Corinthians exchanged letters over what were probably several years. Paul requests their financial support and mentions his plan to return in person ([2 Corinthians 8:8–12](#); [10:2](#)).

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

Jesus commands us to love our “enemies,” including those outside the community of faith ([Matthew 5:44](#)). In [1 Corinthians 13](#), Paul describes patient love within the church—the body of Christ. If Jesus’ followers can’t patiently bear with one another, they can’t possibly love their enemies.



Curiosity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: red, pink, and purple play dough; various heart-shaped cookie cutters; red, pink, and purple cardstock (1 sheet of each color); scissors (prep only); coloring utensils; butcher paper (optional); large foam hearts (3, various colors; optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Heart Sheet](#), [Love Never Fails Coloring Sheet](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Play Dough Hearts

Set-up: Set play dough and heart-shaped cookie cutters out on tables.

Play: Encourage kids to make hearts out of the play dough using the cookie cutters or shape the play dough into hearts with their hands. Show kids how to make the hearts while talking about what hearts remind us of—love.

Play Station: Love Never Fails Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. Encourage kids to also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone or something they love.



Belief

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, thank You for every kid and leader here today. Help us learn from You and show us how to love others like You do. We thank You for Your love, which never fails. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Note to leaders: There is no story in our picture Bibles for today's lesson. You can read the verses and use the summary below to tell the Bible story.

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from the passage below, 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8, 12
Love Never Fails

1 Suppose I speak in the languages of human beings or of angels. If I don't have love, I am only a loud gong or a noisy cymbal. **2** Suppose I have the gift of prophecy. Suppose I can understand all the secret things of God and know everything about him. And suppose I have enough faith to move mountains. If I don't have love, I am nothing at all. **3** Suppose I give everything I have to poor people. And suppose I give myself over to a difficult life so I can brag. If I don't have love, I get nothing at all.

4 Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep

9:00 Service

track of other people's wrongs. ⁶ Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. ⁷ It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.

⁸ Love never fails. But prophecy will pass away. Speaking in languages that had not been known before will end. And knowledge will pass away.

¹² Now we see only a dim likeness of things. It is as if we were seeing them in a foggy mirror. But someday we will see clearly. We will see face to face. What I know now is not complete. But someday I will know completely, just as God knows me completely.

Leaders: As you read the verses and summary, have the kids make a heart with their hands each time you say the word "love".

The Apostle Paul followed Jesus and wanted others to follow Jesus too! Paul became a missionary. A missionary's job is to visit different towns and tell others about Jesus. Paul wrote lots of letters. You might even call Paul's letters **love** letters because Paul wanted to teach people how God wants us to **love** each other. Paul wrote a letter to a group of Christians who lived in a city called Corinth. In this letter Paul told them the most important thing. Can you guess what it is?

Allow kids to try and guess the most important thing.

Is anyone else curious about the most important thing for followers of Jesus? Let's do a drumroll. **Show kids how to do a drumroll by patting your legs quickly with your hands.** The answer is **love**.

The word **love** can mean a lot of things, but Paul means the kind of **love** that makes us patient and kind to one another. **Love** makes us able to forgive when someone treats us badly, and **love** keeps us from being angry. **Love** means we stand up for others. **Love** is not happy with evil. **Love** is full of joy! **Love** is the most important thing because it always protects, trusts, and hopes. Paul says that "**love** never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8), and he's right!

Above all, **love** makes us like Jesus. It was Jesus' **love** that made Him give up His life so we can be forgiven. What makes us most like Jesus is showing others the same **love**. God shows us how to **love**.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love.

—1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

Our Word of Wonder comes from a book in our Bible called 1 Corinthians. It's a letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of Corinth to tell them what God says about love. Let's say our Word of Wonder together.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

Can you name someone who has a lot of faith and hope?

• **Share about someone in your life who is very loving. What does that person do that is loving?**

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Faith

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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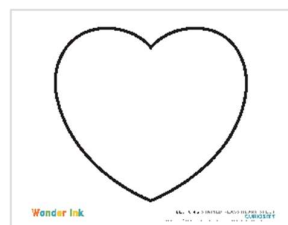
WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIRV)

Craft: Stained Glass Heart

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet per kid), multiple colors of tissue paper, scissors (prep only), glue, marker

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Stained Glass Heart Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print one [Stained Glass Heart Sheet](#) onto cardstock per kid. Cut tissue paper into 1" squares.



We've been learning that God shows us how to love. Loving others isn't always easy, but it is the most important thing, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do it! Let's make something to take home as a reminder that God shows us how to love!

Before kids begin working with glue, write their names on the back of each sheet.

Give each kid a [Stained Glass Heart Sheet](#). Set out the tissue paper squares and glue. Show the kids how to place dabs of glue on the heart and cover those spots with tissue paper pieces.

Take your hearts home to help you remember that God shows us true love and we can share that love with others!



LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Responding in Worship: Response Stations

SUPPLIES: butcher paper, marker (prep only), coloring utensils

Before the kids arrive, prepare three large pieces of butcher paper. Use a marker to label one piece with *Forgiveness*, another one with *Patience* and the last piece with the word *Kindness*.

What have we been learning about today? Allow kids to respond. **God loves us and shows us how to love others!** **What are some of the ways God loves us?** Pause for kids to answer. **How can we show love to others?** Allow kids to respond.

There are different stations you can visit to respond to God while you think about what He is speaking to you about today. The first station is *Forgiveness*. Walk to the *Forgiveness* area or point to the station. Love allows us to forgive people who hurt us or make us sad. At this station, you can talk about or act out a scenario that makes you think of forgiveness, like someone giving a heart or a flower to a friend. There could also be two sad friends next to two friends smiling.

The next station is about *Patience*. When we love someone, we are patient with that person. We don't get angry easily, we share, and we wait for others to have a turn. You can talk about or act out a scenario (or draw a picture) that reminds you of patience. For example, kids waiting in line or taking turns playing a game.

Our last station is the *Kindness* station. At this station you can talk about, act out, or draw examples of kindness. It could be something kind that someone else has done for you or something kind that you can do for others.

Allow kids time to move from station to station. If needed, prompt kids with drawing suggestions. Reassure kids and affirm that it's OK if they don't know exactly what to draw.

9:00 Service

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for helping us to be like Jesus and showing us how to love.

God, thank You for all of our friends here today. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us how to love and be more like You. May Your Spirit guide us in love every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: The God of the universe sees you and loves you! May you experience His goodness every day. Taste and see that the Lord is good! His love for you never ends. Go in joy, sharing His unfailing love with others.