

# What Is Love?



**Theme:** Jesus showed us what true love is.

**Object:** A large heart. It could be made from poster board.

**Scripture:** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:7-8 (NIV)

I don't know about you, but when I see a heart, the first thing I think of is love. We think and talk a lot about love, don't we? We often say things such as, "I love ice cream" or "I love to play baseball." We also say to our parents or special friends, "I love you."

A group of professionals asked some children from age four to eight, "What does love mean?" Here are some of the answers the children gave.

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." -Kari, age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." -Chrissy, age 6

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day." -Noelle, age 7

"Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." -Elaine, age 5

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." -Mary Ann, age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

If I were to ask you to tell me what love is, what would your answer be? (Give time for responses from the children if time permits.) I think if we really want to know what love is, the best place to find the answer is in the Bible. God not only told us what love is, he showed us.

The Bible says, "God showed how much he loved us by sending Jesus to die for us, even though we were sinful." Wow! That's real love! God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us even though we did not deserve it.

You know that list of answers that children gave to the question, "What is love?" Well, here is one more.

"God could have said magic words to make the nails fall off the cross, but He didn't. That's love." I think that really says it all, don't you?

Dear Father, we thank you for loving us even when we did not deserve it. Help us to love others in the same way. Amen.

# Object Lesson with Money

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This Christian object lesson using a twenty-dollar bill (or any value money) is an excellent Bible study lesson to demonstrate how much God values us!

**TOPIC:** Sin is damaging, but it does not change our worth to God; His grace continues to pursue us.

**MATERIALS:** A twenty dollar bill or any paper money

**FOCAL BIBLE VERSE:** Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrated His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

## **DEMONSTRATE:**

Begin this object lesson by holding up a new twenty dollar bill.

Ask how much it is worth and would anyone like to have it. Allow a few minutes for students to tell how they would use it and what it could purchase for them.

Take the bill and crumple it into a tiny ball. Ask if anyone would still like to have the twenty dollar bill. After they all say "me!", remind them that it is now crushed and wrinkled. Ask - "Does it still have value?" "How much is it worth now?" ...."The same as before?!"

Ask if anyone has ever found money just lying on the ground. Give them a moment for them to tell where and what value money they found. Ask.."Was it clean?" Ask.."Was it still worth the value that was printed on it when it was made?"

## **TEACH:**

In the beginning God created us in His Own image.

Genesis 1:27 - "So God **created** man **in** His own **image**; He **created** him **in** the **image** of God; He **created** them male and female."

God created us...

In His image...

But...

Sin (our disobedience, our not believing & trusting what God said and Who He is) caused us to become damaged and His image in us distorted. We became crumpled just like the money. We became dirty like the money you found.

Romans 3:23 - *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

And although sin made us no longer look like God, and it caused us to be separated from God because He is Holy, it never changed our worth and value to Him.

Romans 5:8 reminds us that *"But God demonstrated His own love towards us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."*

God does not just throw us away because we are no longer perfect like Him. We matter so much to Him that Jesus came and died to provide a way back to God for us!

He offers us the gift of His grace! The gift of His image in us again through Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 2:8-10

*"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them."*

So when Satan tries to tell you that you messed up too bad for God to every forgive you much less love you...remember the crumpled money. It never lost its value or worth and neither have you to God. He is our loving Father waiting with open arms for us to return to Him for forgiveness and to be made new!

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## SUMMARY:

You know how sometimes there's a little voice telling you to do something you *KNOW* you shouldn't do? That's the Devil trying to do his work.

When the Devil tries to tell you that you messed up too bad for God to *EVER* forgive you, much less love you...remember the object lesson from the crumpled money in this video!

***It never lost its value or worth and neither have you to God!***  
He is our loving Father waiting with open arms for us to return to Him for forgiveness and to be made new! **That's LOVE.**