



Attributes of God

God is Love

1 John 4 : 7 - 21

Teaching Aim

To show that God is love and to explain that this does not mean He can ignore sin.

Setting the Scene

John wants everyone to know what real love is. So he reminds them that God is love and that God's love is seen in the practical action of giving up His son Jesus.

Where Love comes from

Read 1 John 4 : 7 - 12

Q. Why should we love each other? - *Because love comes from God and you can test your faith by how much you love Christians.*

God is love and people who know Jesus show God's love to others. If people do not show love to others, they are not born again no matter what they say.

Q. How did God show that He is love? - *He sent His Son Jesus into the world to give us eternal life?*

This is the Good News of the Gospel. God loved us so much that He gave His Son to die for us so that we might be saved.

Q. Did we deserve the gift of Jesus? - *No, we did not love God, we were not good but God loved us anyway and gave His Son.*

In spite of our badness, God gave us His Son as an atoning sacrifice. i.e. a sacrifice which actually paid the price demanded for our sin. He took our punishment so that we would never need to.

What Love does in you

Read 1 John 4 : 13 – 16.

Q. How do you know that you belong to God? - *He has given you His Spirit.*

When you trust in Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to live in your heart.

Q. What does the Holy Spirit enable you to do? - *Know and proclaim who Jesus is.*

The Holy Spirit living in your heart keeps you in touch with Jesus and helps you to tell others all about His love.

What Love does for you

Read 1 John 4 : 16 - 21

Q. If God is love and is living in us what kind of life will we live? - *A life filled with love.*

Really saved people love others with the love of Jesus.

Q. If we live a life of love, will we be afraid? - *No, we have confidence instead of fear.*

When we live lives full of God's love, we know that He will never send us to hell and so we will be brave in standing up for him and doing what He wants.

Q. Can you love God and hate other Christians. - *No, you must love, if you are saved.*

As Christians we are not free to pick and choose who we love. We must love all saved people because that reflects God's love.

Summing Up

God is love. God loves us even though we are imperfect. He gave his Son to die to save us. We must love others even if they are imperfect and hurt us.

Resources

Memory Verse

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" 1 John 4 : 10

Activities

Activity Sheet "GodisLove -1"

Prayer Points

Pray:

- For people who have no one to love them.
- For people who know nothing about God's love.
- For help to love other people.

God is Love

True or False

Tick the box below with  if true and with  if false.

- Your mum loves you.
- Your mum loves you because she likes you.
- You love your mum.
- You love your mum because she is good to you.
- God loves you.
- God loves you because you are good.
- God loves you because you have always loved Him.
- God loves you in spite of all the bad in your life.
- God ignores sin.
- God has dealt with sin through Jesus' death.
- Because of Jesus and His death you can love God.
- If you are a Christian you should love other Christians.

Memory Verse

Fill in the blanks in the memory verse with words from the list below.

This is _____: not that we loved _____, but that He loved _____ and sent His _____ as an atoning _____ for our _____. 1 John 4 : 10

God us sins Son love sacrifice