

LOVING KINDNESS (2 Lessons)

Please note that all parts in red are rhythmic or singing or other similar parts.

Learning about the words LOVING KINDNESS:

Definition: 1. Kindness coming from love, good, gentle, caring

Opposite: Meanness, sternness, unkind, uncaring

Bible memory verse for both lessons:

Jeremiah 31:3: "The LORD has appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved you with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn you."

Other Memory Verses that could be assigned for extra credit if desired:

Titus 3:4-6: "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Jonah 4: 2b "I knew that you are a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..."

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Jeremiah 9:24: "But let him that glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the Lord."

Two Bible Stories on Loving Kindness:

1. God promises a Savior for our sin
Genesis 3:1-21, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6
2. An angel tells Joseph of Jesus' coming birth
Matthew 1:18-25

Unit Aim: At the conclusion of these lessons, the student will understand that God is love. God's heart is full of love toward him, and that God loves him so much that He sent a Savior to pay for his sins. As a result of this understanding, the Christian child will thank God for His love and show love to others.

Lesson 1

GOD SHOWED HIS LOVE BY PROMISING THE SAVIOR

Beginning the Lesson:

Suppose you had worked hard to help another child, and then he was mean to you. No matter what you did or said, he kept trying to hurt you. How would you feel? (Let the children respond briefly.) Would you feel like loving that child?

Transition to the Lesson--The Bible tells us about someone who was hurt because we did wrong. That someone was God. We hurt Him when we sinned, but still He loved us.

Main Teaching--God promised a Saviour for our sin

Lesson Scripture--Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17, 3:1-21, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, John 3:16

A very short lesson (not over 6 verses) may be read by a very competent reader or a small group of previously-selected and practiced competent readers (helpers, teachers, or students). This lesson, consisting of 28 verses, is far too long to be read in a single setting. Point by point, it should be summarized by the teacher. A few important verses may be read by a very competent reader. Student participation & teacher explanation should come in between the verses that are read.

Notes on the Lesson Scripture for the teacher's understanding: Genesis 3:15
Many commentators have called this verse the "First Gospel." Here we learn of a continuing spiritual battle. The serpent will do his worst to destroy the seed of the woman, but all it will amount to is a bruising of the heel. We also learn of the ultimate defeat of Satan, when the seed of woman will crush his head. Further, the Savior through whom this will take place will be an unusual individual--the seed of woman only, that is, one born of a virgin without the intervention of a male partner.

Ideas to Emphasize, with suggested student participation:

- God had made the first man and woman, and placed them in a perfect home, the garden of Eden. There was no pain, suffering, or sin, or death in their beautiful home. (Genesis 2:8-9 & 15)

Student Participation--Song: (To the tune of "Soon and Very Soon" by Andrae Crouch)
There was no paa-aain there in the home that Go—od made
Sing it Al-le-lu-ya, al-le-lu-ya, In the home that Goo—ood made.

There was no suffering there
There was no sin there

There was no death there

- God had given them one simple command to obey. (Genesis 2:17)

Student participation--(Ask a competent reader to read the verse & have someone tell what they were not to do. Have everyone repeat: "You shall NOOOOOOOT eat!" The teacher says, "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," then point to the students, who say, "You shall NOOOOOOOT eat!"

- Satan tempted Eve, causing her to question God's command and God's goodness. (Genesis 3:1-5)

The teacher and helper may prepare to read the dialogue of this section, or if they are not fluent and expressive readers, they may ask two others to help. Each reader takes one of the parts (the woman and the serpent). The woman's voice should sound soft and innocent. The serpent's voice should sound tricky, arrogant and evil. He should seem to be mocking God. Practice reading this portion several times until the proper voices are achieved. The narrative parts may be read in a more objective, factual voice by one of the readers.

*Student participation—Repeat several times with expression:
"Wicked serpent—You dare to question God?"*

- Both Adam & Eve disobeyed God's command. (Genesis 3:6)

Student participation—As a fluent and expressive reader reads the verse slowly, the students should listen. As soon as Eve sins, all the girls should say, "Oh no!!! She did it!". As soon as Adam sins, all the boys should say, "Oh no!!! He did it, too!"

- After our first parents' sin, they felt ashamed. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. (Genesis 3:7)

Student participation—As the students to show you how they act when they feel ashamed. (They may bow their head, slump, etc.)

Then, ask them to bow their heads & slowly shake them, saying, 'Ashamed, ashamed, ashamed, ashamed.'

- After their sin, their fellowship with God was broken. When they heard God coming to walk with them, they hid from Him in fear. (Genesis 3:8)

*Student participation--Make up a simple tune for this song & sing it with the students:
Soooo sad! They no longer walked with God.*

- God asked them about their sin, not to find out about it, but to give them a chance to confess it. (Genesis 3:9-13)

Student participation—Choose four students to act out this part of the story in front of the

class. The parts are God, Adam, Eve, and the serpent. Then, have the student representing God stand aside, and the other three form a circle. God asks, "Have you done what I told you not to do?" All at once, all three in the circle point to the next one, saying, "It's his fault!" That's what they did. They all blamed one another. Then have each one point to himself & say, "It's my fault. I disobeyed God." That's the truth of what happened.

- God punished them for their sin, but before He did, He promised that a Savior would come "of the seed of the woman," that is, born only of a woman and not a man. (Genesis 3:15)

*Student participation—Students chant rhythmically:
"The seed of the woman would become their Savior!
The seed of the woman would become **our** Savior!"*

- Satan would hurt the Savior a little (bruise His heel), but the Savior would destroy the serpent (crush his head). (More explanation of Genesis 3:15)

Student participation—Ask the students if someone hits them hard on the heel, if it will hurt a lot. (Yes.) Ask if it will kill them. (No.) The serpent would try to kill the seed of the woman, and would hurt Him, but it would be liking bruising a heel. The serpent would not destroy the Savior. The Savior, the seed of the woman, would crush the head of the serpent, and would destroy him.

*Students sing & dance—The serpent will be crushed & will be **DESTROYED!***

- God promised to send the Savior because of His great loving kindness for the people He made. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, John 3:16) The Savior He promised was His own precious Son from heaven.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Here the promise of Genesis 3:15 becomes even clearer. The seed of the woman will be born of a virgin. That is how He can be called Immanuel, God with us.

Isaiah 9:6

5 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Such a virgin birth is possible only because God did something very unusual. This verse makes clear that the Son to be born is truly Deity.

*Student participation:
The teacher says the first part rhythmically, the students the second:
God promised a Savior **THAT'S** loving kindness!*

The seed of the woman THAT'S loving kindness!
His own Son from heaven THAT'S loving kindness!

Participation—Rhythmic Repetition for Review:

To review the main idea of the lesson, have the students repeat several times, speaking with a rhythmic cadence:

God (x Clap hands) pro-mised us a **Saaaa**-vior.
 X (Clap!) x x x x XXXX-x

Explanation & Discussion:

Help the children understand the Gospel promise of Genesis 3:15 by asking them what would happen if they stepped on a snake's tail? Would that hurt the snake? (Maybe--but it would NOT KILL IT. What would happen if they stepped on a snake's head--so hard that they CRUSHED it? That would kill the snake. It might flop around for awhile, but it would definitely die. Even small children can probably understand it. Older ones can also appreciate the difference in the two verbs used. Satan would BRUISE the seed of the woman. Discuss what a bruise it. It hurts but it's not that serious. The seed of the woman, the Savior, would CRUSH the serpent's head. Bring in a small soft fruit and ask someone to demonstrate crushing it. (You need to have wet wipes and paper towels for clean up.) Discuss how serious it would be if one's head was crushed, emphasizing that crushing utterly destroys the thing crushed.

Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:

God loves us, so He wants us to love one another. Is there someone you have not shown much love to? Would you ask God to help you show love to that person this week?

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ

God loves you very much. He loves you so much that He sent His unique Son to be your Savior. Let's say John 3:16 together, but instead of "the world", let's put our own names in. After all, we are part of the world! ("For God so loved LORELLA that he gave his only begotten Son, that if LORELLA believes in him, LORELLA should not perish, but have everlasting life." God sent Jesus for YOU. Have you received Him as your Savior, or are you still thinking about it? Don't turn away from God's love. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found at the end of these lessons. Then ask those who came to Christ to write their name and "I took Jesus" on a paper and give it to you next time. Finish by praying for God's blessing on them.)

Lesson 2 GOD SHOWED HIS LOVE BY SENDING THE SAVIOR

Teacher, as you come into class, be alert for any students who may want to give you're their papers saying they received Christ last week. Show your joy and promise prayer if anyone does give you their paper.

Review for Older Students:

Why was God's one command important?

How did Satan lie to them directly?

How did Adam and Eve feel after they disobeyed?

What shows that their fellowship with God was ruined?

How did they try to take care of the problem themselves?

God showed His love by promising them a Savior. What was to be unusual about this Savior?

For Younger Students:

Who tempted Eve in the garden?

What was the one thing God told Adam and Eve not to do?

How did they disobey God?

How did they feel after they disobeyed?

Who did God promise to send to take away their sin?

How did that show God's love?

Beginning the Lesson:

The last time I saw you, we talked about a big promise God made to the first people. Do you remember what it was? (Yes, He promised that He would send a Savior.) People waited a long time, but God did not forget His promise. God loved the people He made, and He loved their children, and their children, and their children, and He loves us today.

Transition to the Lesson--At last the time came for God to send the Savior He had promised. This is how it happened.

Main teaching--An angel tells Joseph of Jesus' coming birth

Lesson Scripture--Matthew 1:18-25

Teacher's notes on the lesson Scripture: (These notes are for the teacher's understanding, & to help him in case questions arise. Ordinarily, they are not intended to be read to the class.)

This passage emphasizes the virgin birth and deity of Christ. Even in the background preceding it, the genealogy of Joseph, this is emphasized. Throughout the genealogy there is a repeated pattern of "the father of" until we get to Joseph and his relation to Jesus. Here and here only is the pattern broken. "and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called the Christ." (vs. 16). Joseph is not listed as the father of Jesus, but only as the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born. Matthew includes Joseph's genealogy as a legal matter since Joseph acted as the legal, though not the natural or birth father of Jesus. (Luke's genealogy, on the other hand, traces Jesus' origin through Mary his mother.)

According to study notes from the life application study Bible, Jewish marriage consisted of three steps. 1) Agreement between the families of husband and wife-to-be, 2) Betrothing or pledging, similar to our engagement, consisting of a public announcement. This did not allow them to become intimate, but it was so binding that it could be broken only by death or divorce, and 3) The coming together, when the wife went to live with the husband. They then had full sexual rights and were fully recognized as married. Mary and Joseph were at the second point of their relationship, but not the third. African students are more likely than Americans to understand this process, for though the actual succession may be somewhat different, African marriage also involves a similar process.

Joseph intended to divorce Mary under the rules of the second, or betrothal, stage of marriage, since he knew the child was not his. His is not a wicked, but a human reaction to a difficult and embarrassing problem.

When Joseph became aware of Mary's pregnancy, he saw only one course--divorce, but God shows Him another. The solution God proposes demands that Joseph swallow his pride. There is often another option when we seek God's wisdom and are willing to deny our pride.

The name the angel instructed Joseph to name the baby Jesus means literally, "the LORD saves". This is a powerful name because it is showing that Jesus is the promised Savior and it is also clearly implying His deity. If the Lord saves, and Jesus saves, then it is evident that Jesus is the Lord.

Matthew is clearly saying that the virgin birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecies like Isaiah 7:14. The virgin birth was the sign that this child was the one promised in Genesis 3:15. Because such a birth required the direct intervention of God, the child was truly God--God with us.

Joseph took Mary into his home as his wife, but the Scripture is very clear that they had no intimate relations until after the birth of Jesus. Jesus is called Mary's firstborn son. The word "till" in verse 25 implies that other children followed after the birth of Jesus, the natural children of Mary and Joseph (Matthew 13:55-56). (This is contrary to Catholic teaching, which says that although Mary and Joseph lived together, Mary always remained a virgin.)

Main Ideas to Emphasize:

- God promised the Savior soon after the first people sinned (review of Genesis 3:15).

Student participation:

God pro-mised **Jeee-sus** to be our **Saaa-** vior.
X x x XXXX-x x x x XXXX-x

- After Joseph & Mary had planned to be married, Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, so he planned to quietly stop their marriage plans. (Matthew 1:18-19).

Student Participation: Let all the boys act out Joseph's part together, acting very worried & saying over & over, "Mary is pregnant, and the baby's not mine!"

Then they say over & over, “What a disgrace! She can never be my wife!”

- God sent an angel to Joseph to tell him that his fiancé Mary was expecting a baby by God's power. (Matthew 1:20-21.)

Student participation: Let all the boys pretend to be Joseph sleeping. Let all the girls pretend they are the angel coming to Joseph. They flap their wings, then say to Joseph, “Joseph, son of Mary/ do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife/ for that which is conceived in her/ is of the Holy Spirit.”

- The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus, because He would be the promised Savior. (Matthew 1:21)

Student participation: Choose a good reader to read this important verse to the group. Then ask these questions, asking all the students to answer together in unison when you point to them:

Was the baby going to be a boy or a girl? (A boy)

What did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby? (Jesus)

What was Jesus going to do? (Save his people from their sins)

- The baby would be born of a virgin--of the seed of the woman and not a man. (Matthew 1:23, quoting Isaiah 7:14)

Continue to ask questions for the students to answer together in unison.

*Mary was pregnant. Did the angel say she was a virgin, or not a virgin?
(A virgin)*

What was another name the baby was to be called? (Emmanuel)

What does Emmanuel mean? (God with us)

Then use rhythmic repetition to review the main ideas of who Jesus was:

*The **seed** of the **woooo**-man! **God** with **us**! Our **Saaaaa**-vior!*

x X x x XXXX-x X x X x XXXX-x

(repeat several times, dancing)

- Joseph listened to the angel and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)

Student participation: Rhythmic repetition—

***Jo**-seph **li**-stened and took his **wife**.*

Xx Xx x x x X

(Repeat several times)

- He did not sleep with her until after Jesus was born. (Matthew 1:25)

Student Participation: Let an older student play the part of Joseph. Pretending Mary is there, he tells her, “You sleep over there. I’ll sleep here.”

The teacher asks Joseph, "How long?" and he responds, "Until after Jesus is born."

- (Summary) God loved us so much that He sent His own special Son to become our Savior.

Student Participation: Rhythmic Repetition:

God looo-ved us sooo much!

X XXXX x XXXX x

God sent Jeee-sus to be our Saaa- vior.

X x XXXX-x x x x XXXX-x

Explanation for Older Children (5th grade and up):

Try to find separate pictures of a Bible man and of a woman (Joseph and Mary), and a third showing Jesus as a baby, a child, and a man. Ask two children to hold them in front of the class. In Genesis 3:15, God called the Savior the seed of the woman (the child holding the picture of the woman should hold it high). The child holding the picture of the man should turn it around backwards. Turn both pictures around again. Ask children how babies are usually born--do they have a father and a mother? Yes, they always do, even if those parents are not living together.

But the Savior was to be a very special baby. Ask for a volunteer to read Isaiah 7:14 slowly. When he reads "a virgin shall conceive," again have the child holding the picture of Mary hold it high, and the child having the picture of Joseph turn it around.

Finally, ask the children when the angel came to Joseph, what he said. He said that Mary was expecting a baby by God's power. The baby Jesus was born of a woman, not of a man (Have the one child hold the picture of Mary up again, the second one turn the picture of Joseph around again.) Mary and Joseph never slept together until after Jesus was born. God formed the baby Jesus in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God did not sleep with Mary. He did not have sex with her. He caused that baby to grow in her in some unusual way that we do not understand. That's why the baby Jesus was so special. (Have a third child come up and hold the picture of Jesus high over both Mary and Joseph.) That's why He is called the Son of God.

(Teacher note: This last paragraph is very important, & should not be excluded, because many Muslims think Christians are saying that God had sex with Mary. It is important that we help the children to understand that this is not what the Bible says and not what Christians believe.)

Application--Step of Growth for the Saved Child:

Follow up--Ask who tried to show love to someone this week. Let the children share their experiences.

Because you know that God loves you, you can share His love with others. Let's think of some kind, loving things you could do for your family this week. (Let the children share ideas, then encourage them to choose one and do it.)

Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ

God loves you so much. He has done everything He can to provide for your salvation. He wants you to be saved. The Bible says "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9b). God would love to have you as His child in His family forever. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found below. Then ask those who prayed to write their name & "I took Jesus" on a piece of paper and give it to you next time. End by praying for God's blessing on them.)