

Love Machines

Matthew 22:36-38 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.

Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 30:6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

1 Samuel 20:17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

Ruth 1:16-17 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Nu 12:6-8 [God] said, “Listen to my words: “When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

Job 38:3 **Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.**

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Jesus said the greatest commandment was: _____
(Matthew 22:36-38)

When was this commandment first mentioned? _____
(Deuteronomy 6:5)

The word “LOVE” is in the Bible 505 times. The primary goal of the Christian’s life is not to be good, or be good at following all the rules. From cover to cover the Bible is a book about LOVE. God is crying out for YOU to love HIM.

Deuteronomy 30:6 says you were _____ (set apart, for a specific reason) so that you _____ (it’s your choice) _____.

In all of creation you were specifically designed to be able to Love...each of us in his or her own unique way.

The Bible has many examples of *love* relationships:

1 Samuel 20:17 is between: _____ & _____

Ruth 1:16-17 is between: _____ & _____

Numbers 12:6-8 is about whom: _____ & _____

Love relationships have some things in common: They involve more than one person; the people care about each other.

What other things do they have in common?

However, each relationship is different too:

In Job 38:3 God expected Job to act like a _____. He expects women to act like women. Men and women relate differently. People relate differently.

Your relationship with God is unique. Love Him in your own special way; the way He created you. Enjoy it!

Lesson Plan: Love Machines

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is get kids to realize:

1. The Bible is primarily a book about LOVE.
2. That they're relationship with God is as unique as they are.

However they relate to and worship God is OK. They do not need to fit into a "cookie-cutter" mold of what a "Christian" is supposed to look like. They were created especially like they are to have a special relationship with God unique to them.

Pre-Lesson Activity:

I usually do some "team-building" exercises like having the kids form a circle around one blindfolded teen. The teen then falls in any direction (keeping body stiff, hands crossed over chest). The other kids gently push the kid from side to side. Another activity is to have a pair of kids sit back to back with their knees pulled up to their chests and feet flat on the floor. They may link their arms. The pair attempts to stand up balancing against each other. Do this same thing multiple times adding more kids each time.

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you'd like to bring up.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Notes: When talking about Jonathan and David make a point of saying that guys can have strong friendships without being homosexual. Actually, most "love" relationships don't have a sexual component to them. Explain that it's more about trust, commitment, and putting the other person first. The verse about Job is to help guys realize that they do not have to worship or love God like girls do. Guys are masculine. God made them that way. They can relate to and "Love" God in many ways.

Summary:

End by discussing the differences between how a girl loves and a guy loves. How would this impact a worship service: songs we sing; sermon topics; how we pray and approach God?

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week.