



Date: _____

Series: Great Chapters of the Bible
Winter Year 2, Lesson 40

The Love Chapter: 1 Corinthians 13

Take Home Point: *Love is the most excellent way.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Corinthians 12:31b -13:13; 1 John 3:16

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13, "So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love."

We will help kids know:

- Love is more than a feeling; it is an unselfish action.
- The clearest example of love is God's love for us in Christ Jesus. He gives us the power to love others.
- The love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, describes poetically what love looks like.




We will help kids feel:

- Joy over the love that they experience from God and each other.
- A desire to better show love to others.

We will help kids do:

- Identify things and people that they love in their life, and clarify how they use the word "love."
- Make their own creative version of 1 Corinthians 13.
- Decorate their great chapter of the Bible page that will fit into their Great Chapters of the Bible folder.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids chew gum as they talk about love and make a picture with the word "love" with the chewed gum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chewing gum, not bubble gum—one piece per child an 8½" by 11" piece of card stock paper
Large Group 	4 7 8 11	Overview Gum Pull Game: Kids have a contest with their gum pictures illustrating how love viewed in this world can be gooey and sticky. Teaching: Kids help write a custom version of 1 Corinthians 13. Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8½" by 11" sheets of card stock paper, one for each group gum as prize for winning team mirror librarian costume for presenter Appendices A & B (cards cut out)
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a Great Chapters of the Bible Folder to keep in their Bibles and their own custom version of 1 Corinthians 13.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> markers, crayons, colored pencils Appendices C & D, one per person

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: Chewing gum for each child (chewing gum works better than bubble gum in this activity), one piece of 8½" by 11" card stock

How many of you love gum?

Pass out one piece of gum to each student. Ask them to chew it now instead of saving for later.

Sometimes we use the word "love" to describe food or toys that we really like. Share with us some of the things you love.

Let each kid talk about two or three things.

What people or who do you love?

Discuss. During this time encourage kids to include loving God.

What is the difference between the way we love chewing gum and the way we love a person, like a parent?

How do we love God different than our friend?

How would you define the word "love?"

As a group, we will make a beautiful picture using all of our gum. We are going to use our chewed gum to write the word LOVE on this piece of card stock. Roll your gum into a snake.

One by one, let kids put their gum "snakes" onto the paper until they spell the word LOVE. Encourage them to be creative in shaping the letters. They could be fancy with twirls, in a block style, or maybe slanted.

Today we will hear that **love is the most excellent way.* Let's take our LOVE artwork to Large Group and see what happens.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Gum Pull Game: Kids have a contest with their gum pictures illustrating how love viewed in this world, can be gooey and sticky.

Teaching: Kids help write a custom version of 1 Corinthians 13.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13.

According to 1 Corinthians 13:8, what is unique about love? *(It never comes to an end, meaning we will still love in heaven.)*

What do you think verse 10 refers to? When will all things be complete or when will there be completeness? *(In heaven.)*

According to verse 12, how is life here different than it will be in heaven? *(Life here is like a blurred image in a mirror. In heaven, we will see clearly. Now our knowledge is incomplete. In heaven, it will be complete.)*

What three things remain? *(Faith, hope, and love.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Read 1 John 3:16.

How does God show the most excellent way of love? *(Christ gave his life for us.)*

How do we give our lives for other believers? *(We may, in some instances, truly die for someone else, but more commonly we give to others unselfishly. We think of others first.)*

How can we define true love?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Supplies: a copy of Appendix D with Great Chapters of the Bible for each student, copy of Appendix C with their own custom version of 1 Corinthians 13, markers, colored pencils, crayons to decorate the page

Give each student the custom version of 1 Corinthians 13 sheet and say:

Each of you will write your own custom version of 1 Corinthians 13. Take time to write down how this kind of love can be a part of your life. When you are finished writing, decorate the page using markers, pencils, crayons, or what ever you would like.

When kids near completion, pass out the Great Chapters of the Bible paper and explain:

Fold the Great Chapters of the Bible page in half to make a folder. Keep this in your Bible for the next few weeks so we can continue to add more great chapters to the folder.

Today we have learned that God's **love is the most excellent way—1 Corinthians 13. I pray that God will give you the power to make love an action, not just a feeling, this week.*

Closing prayer:

Ask God to give power to live love as an action. Then pray 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 something like this:

Lord, help us to be patient and kind instead of jealous. Help us not to brag or be rude. Help us to think of others first and to be considerate instead of irritable. Let us not keep tally of the wrongs that have been done to us, but to forgive. Let us be happy in the truth and not celebrate others' misfortunes. Help us to put love into action by always being patient, always believing in others, and thinking the best. Let us always have hope and never give up. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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Large Group Presentation

Great Chapters of the Bible

The large group presenter will assume the role of a librarian. His/her name will be either Ms. Freda Rita or Mr. Gudenbuch. Costuming might include special reading glasses (if you wear your own, place a piece of tape on the bridge), bow tie or special librarian hat. The presenter should portray the caricature of a “bookworm.”

Ms. Freda Rita or Mr. Gudenbuch will introduce the favorite chapters in the best book in the library, the Bible. This librarian operates with a different set of rules than what is typical. Instead of the rule “no chewing gum,” now kids must chew gum and play with it. Every week, a new rule will be revealed.

The stage for large group should be set up to look like a library: a bookshelf with some books, maybe a desk, and an old computer. Make it as elaborate as you would like. A sign should be hung somewhere that says “RULES of the Library.” Each week a new rule will be revealed. Hopefully, the rules are so absurd that the kids think it is funny and not that we are advocating misbehavior.

Supplies: one piece of 8½ by 11” card stock paper for each group, ruler to measure distance in the game, gum as a prize, Appendix A (with nine “love is” blanks to fill in) and Appendix B (cards cut apart for custom version of 1 Corinthians 13), a hand mirror

Love is the Most Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 13

Audience Participation Teaching of the Love Chapter

Introduction of Ms. Freda Rita/ Mr. Gudenbuch

Hello, I am Mr. Gudenbuch (or Ms. Freda Rita) of the _____
(put in your church name) **Memorial Library. This is a very special and unique library. When I am in charge, the rules are a little different than what you would see at your school or city library. Today’s rule is: Everyone *MUST* chew gum *AND* play with it. Next week, we will find out another one of my “goofy” rules.**

How many of you are NOT chewing gum out there? I will NOT tolerate that in my library! Oh, at least you were chewing gum and playing with it earlier. That will be accepted. You are off the hook.

Gum Pull Game

Let me see your gum pictures. Please send two people up from your group to show everyone your masterpieces.

Two people from each group come up with the LOVE pictures.

It seems to me that everyone has the word “love” on his or her minds. This reminds me of one of our greatest books here in the library that says a lot about love.

We have many good books here, but there is one book that is checked out the most and is considered to be the best book of all. This book is the Bible. In the next few weeks, we will look at favorite chapters in this book.

Before we get into that, we need to decide what we are going to do with all this LOVE gum. (Pause.) I have just the idea. Here is another sheet of paper for you partners to hold.

Give a sheet of card stock paper to each group of two people up front.

We are going to have a contest to find out which one of these groups can make the longest string of gooey gum. Each of you needs to put the blank piece of paper on top of your love picture, stick it together, and gently pull it apart. Once your gum string breaks, you will stop moving backwards. When everyone’s string has broken, we will measure to see whose gum stretched the farthest.

Go ahead and press your papers together. Wait until I say “go” to gradually move backwards until your gooey gum string breaks.

Allow time for the teams to get their papers stuck together. Then say:

On your marks, get set, go!

Measure the distances to find a winner.

We have a winner. I have a special piece of gum for all the kids in your group.

Give the gum prizes.

Go back to your group and make sure everyone in your group is chewing gum! That is my rule!

Application to the Gum Pull

What was the point of this gum pull? Look what happened to your works of art. They have become gooey messes! In our world today, oftentimes love is nothing but a gooey mess!

Many people today think that love is just a gooey feeling. If you “feel” love, then you will like the other person. Unfortunately, when the other person does something that bothers you, the feeling of love can go away. Therefore, if the feeling is gone, then you must not love them any more.

Is this what love truly is? Is love just a feeling, or is it something more? Actually, love is an action. Let’s go to the library and see what great chapter we can find that might help us with this.

Have volunteers return to their seats.

Great Chapter of the Bible 1 Corinthians 13

I would like to introduce you to one of the great chapters of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13. Please say that with me, 1 Corinthians 13. This is also known as the love chapter. Say “love chapter.” *Love chapter.*

Before I read this, I would like to have nine volunteers come forward and help me come up with Mr. Gudenbuch’s (or Ms. Freda Rita) version of what the love chapter might sound like. You need to be quick thinking.

After kids comes forward, give each a card from the appendix.

When you get this card, think how you would fill in the blank. Tell us what first comes to mind. No answer is wrong. You have only a few seconds to read your card and think about it right now. I will read the chapter, and when I tap you on the shoulder, share your thoughts out loud.

Read the appendix page with the volunteer’s answers in the blanks.

Reading 1 Corinthians 13

I am going to read the Bible’s version of what love is according to 1 Corinthians 13. This chapter is poetically written, and it describes love as not just a feeling, but rather as an action.

When you hear this chapter on love, think about the perfect example of love. The perfect example of love is God's love for us in Christ. All these characteristics of love are best seen in how God loves us. Then, in turn, we can love others the same way.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Then take out the mirror and hold it up.

There are three things that are great, but only one of these is going to last. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, *"So these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the best one of these is love."*

Why is that? When we are in heaven will we need faith? No. We will believe for sure that Jesus is Lord. We will see him face to face.

Will we need hope to be confident of our future? No. We will know we have our future with God forever.

But, will we need love? Yes. We will see God face to face. When you look at Jesus in heaven, you will see completely how much he loves you, and you will see his hands and be reminded that he gave his life for you.

Verse 12 says, *"Now we see a blurred image in a mirror. Then we will see very clearly."* Now it is like looking through a cloudy mirror, but when we are in heaven, everything will be clear when we are face to face with God's love.

The Source of Our Power to Love

The only way we can have power to love like this and not let our love get all "gooey" or "sticky" like the world's love does, is to receive the love that God has for us.

I want you to imagine God saying to you right now, "I love you so much that I would trade anything for you. If I had to trade the whole world for you, or the whole universe, I would do it. Trading these for you still wouldn't be enough. The most valuable possession that I could trade for you is my Son Jesus, and I have already traded him for you. Jesus took the punishment for your sins on himself so you could be forgiven and free to be my special son and daughter."

1 John 3:16 says, *"We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave his life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers."*

Once we understand this action of love that God is talking about and put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we have the power within to

love the same way God does. **Love is the most excellent way—1 Corinthians 13.*

Conclusion

Dear God, thank you that you gave us the most excellent way of love through Jesus. Help us to make love an action the same way you did when you sent Jesus to die for our sins. Lord, that is true love. Give us the strength to choose to love others, especially those that are difficult to love. Help us now to give our lives to others. Help us do it in a way that is patient, kind, not jealous or boastful. Help us show love in ways that aren't arrogant or rude, and in ways that delight in what is right and not what is wrong. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

You will go back to your small groups and have the opportunity to fill in what love is as you make your own poetic adaptation and decorate it.

Mr. Gudenbuch (Ms. Freda Rita)
Custom Version of 1 Corinthians 13

Love is when _____ 1 _____. Love is when
_____ 2 _____.

Love is not jealous
when _____ 3 _____. It doesn't

say _____ 4 _____. It isn't arrogant. It doesn't
say _____ 5 _____.

It doesn't say _____ 6 _____. It isn't irritable
even if

_____ 7 _____. Love forgives when
_____ 8 _____ and doesn't bring it up again.

Love is when I _____ 9 _____. Love never
stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops
hoping, never gives up.

1) Think of an activity that takes patience. Example: I patiently waited for a friend after school.

2) I have showed kindness by... Example: taking my elderly neighbor her mail when it was very cold outside.

3) I was not jealous when... Example: I was not jealous when my friend got to sing the solo and I didn't.

4) "Did you hear what" Example: Did you hear what the coach said about how good I played in the basketball game?

5) I was mean or rude when I said... Example: "Your clothes look funny. What a dorky bike you have."

6) I ... Example of thinking of yourself would be: I am tired, so I am not going to help mom with the dishes.

7) It isn't irritable even if... Example: I was asked to watch my little brother again.

8) Forgives when... and doesn't bring it up again. Example: I forgive my friend for saying something bad behind my back.

9) Love is when I... (Think of a time you did something wrong and told the truth) Example: Threw a rock and dented my uncle's car, and told him I did it.

Examples:

**Cards for Custom Version of
1 Corinthians 13**

1) Think of an activity that takes patience. Example: I patiently waited for a friend after school.

2) I have showed kindness by...Example: Taking my elderly neighbor her mail when it was very cold outside.

**3) I was not jealous when...
Example: My friend got to sing the solo and I didn't.**

4) "Did you hear what..." Example: "...the coach (mom, dad, teacher) said about how well I played the basketball game?"

5) I was mean or rude when I said ...Example: "Your clothes look funny or your bike is really dorky looking."

6) I...An example of thinking of yourself would be: I am tired so I am not going to help mom with the dishes.

7) It isn't irritable even if...Example: I was asked to watch my little brother again.

8) Forgives when...and doesn't bring it up again. Example: I forgive my friend for saying something bad behind my back.

**9) Love is when I...(Think of a time you did something wrong and told the truth.)
Example: I threw a rock at my uncle's car and put a dent in it, and told him I did it.**

Appendix C-Copy this page twice. Then copy these two sheets to one, so that the *God's Word* translation is behind the kid's custom version. Cut in half. Distribute one per student.

My Custom Version of 1 Corinthians 13

I may speak in the languages of humans and of angels.

But if I don't have love, I am a loud gong or a clashing

1) _____. I may have the gift to speak
what God has revealed, and I may understand

2) _____. And have all knowledge.

I may even have enough faith to move mountains.

But if I don't have love, I am 3) _____

I may even give away 4) _____ and give
up my body to be burned. But if I don't have love, none
of these things will help me.

Love is when 5) _____. Love is when

6) _____. Love is not jealous when

7) _____. It doesn't say 8) _____.

It isn't arrogant. It doesn't say 9) _____.

It doesn't say 10) _____. It isn't irritable
even if 11) _____. Love forgives when

12) _____. Love is when I

13) _____. Love never stops being patient,
never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.

The Love Chapter **1 Corinthians 13: 1-7** **God's Word Translation**

I may speak in the languages of humans and of angels.

But if I don't have love, I am a loud gong or a clashing
cymbal. I may have the gift to speak what God has
revealed, and I may understand all mysteries and have
all knowledge. I may even have enough faith to move
mountains. But if I don't have love, I am nothing. I may
even give away all that I have and give up my body to be
burned. But if I don't have love, none of these things will
help me.

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is not jealous. It
doesn't sing its own praises. It isn't arrogant. It isn't rude.
It doesn't think about itself. It isn't irritable. It doesn't keep
track of wrongs. It isn't happy when injustice is done, but
it is happy with the truth. Love never stops being patient,
never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives
up.

Copy enough for a half sheet per student. They are to use it when creating their "Custom Version."

EXAMPLES:

- 1) What is something that makes a loud noise?
- 2) What is an area that you know a lot about? Example: History, math, music
- 3) What does it mean to be nothing? Example: a Zero
- 4) What is something hard to give up? Example: my Playstation, bedroom, etc.
- 5) Think of an activity that takes patience. Example: I patiently waited for a friend after school.
- 6) I have showed kindness by...Example: taking my elderly neighbor her mail when it was very cold outside.
- 7) I was not jealous when...Example: I was not jealous when my friend got to sing the solo and I didn't.
- 8) "Did you hear what..." Example: "Did you hear what the coach said about how good I played in the basketball game?"
- 9) I was mean or rude when I said... Example: "Your clothes look funny. What a dorky bike you have."
- 10) I...Example of thinking of yourself would be: I am tired, so I am not going to help mom with the dishes.
- 11) It isn't irritable even if...Example: I was asked to watch my little brother again.
- 12) Forgives when.. and doesn't bring it up again. Example: "my friend says something bad behind my back."
- 13) Love is when I... Think of a time you did something wrong and told the truth). Example: I threw a rock and dented my uncle's car, and told him I did it.

EXAMPLES:

- 1) What is something that makes a loud noise?
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Appendix D



GREAT CHAPTERS
OF THE
BIBLE

NAME: _____

RULES OF THE LIBRARY

CHEW GUM IN THE LIBRARY