

# Christ Church Kid's Lesson

## John 15:9-17

**9** “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

What does it mean to love someone?

Let’s see what the Bible has to say about love. {read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7}

***4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.***

We know we know ways to love others. Like being kind to them, or forgiving them. But that doesn’t tell us everything about love.

Who are supposed to love? And how much? I think we need to look again. {read John 15:12}

***My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.***

Wow, so we learned two things there.

1. God commands us to love each other. And by each other, He means *everyone*.
2. God commands us to love *exactly* like He loves.

That's pretty big, don't you think? I mean, is that even possible?!?

Truthfully the answer is no. We are all sinners who mess up, but God is pure and never makes any mistakes. But, that doesn't mean we shouldn't be trying. This is what God asks us to do.

So let's try this out. I am going to ask a bunch of questions, so I hope you are ready.

I am going to give you a quick story, and I want you to tell me what you say or do.

*You are getting ready to go to a birthday party but your parents forgot and now you are going to be really late. What would you do or say?*

I think most people would be really upset. We might even yell or cry or stomp away. But is that what God asks us to do?

In 1 Corinthians it says love is patient. That means we should stay calm and wait without complaining or arguing. So now what you do or say?

*You see a new kid at school that no one will talk to or play with. What would you say or do?*

In 1 Corinthians it says that love is kind, so we should be nice, loving, and accepting to the new kid, even if other people aren't.

*You have awards at school and your best friend wins tons of awards, while you get none. What would you do?*

The Bible says that love does not envy. That means that instead of wanting those awards for ourselves, we should celebrate with our friend for all the great things they have.

*What if YOU were the one getting all of those awards while your best friend got none?*

I think this would be pretty difficult, but the Bible says love does not boast and is not proud. That means that you should be grateful for the things you do have, but never use them to make others feel bad or to show off.

*What would you do if you found out that someone in school had an embarrassing secret?*

Most people like to hear about embarrassing things because they think they are funny. But what about the person you are laughing at? The Bible says love does not dishonor others, which means we shouldn't make fun of people or make them look bad.

*What would you do if you got a HUGE candy bar and your brother/sister asked if you would share?*

It can be hard with brothers and sisters. Usually they are the ones that we have the hardest time with! But God says that love is not selfish, so you should think of others more than yourself.

*What would you do if someone pushed you?*

You may want to push them back and say something mean, but God says love is not easily angered.

*If someone stole your bike and then broke it, would you forgive them?*

Forgiveness is hard for everyone, but we are still called to be forgiving. The Bible says that love keeps no record of wrong.

*If you broke the TV, would you tell your parents it was you, or would you blame it on the dog?*

Who likes getting in trouble? Not me! But does that make it ok to tell a lie? Nope. The Bible tells us that love rejoices in truth.

The Bible has a whole lot to teach us about love. And it's not the mushy, gushy kind of love. **It's the love that makes others just as important as you.** It's the love that gives, serves, and spreads God's joy and hope.

And love never fails.