

Lesson 45



7-11-2021

LEADER GUIDE

LOVE IS

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

GOAL

To teach children that, while God gives us many wonderful and powerful gifts to help us share our faith and the Word of God, the greatest gift is love. If we use the gifts God has given us, but we don't use them with love, our actions are meaningless.

WORDS TO KNOW

Agape Love: The Greek word used in 1 Corinthians 13 that describes a different notion of love than that felt between family, friends, or romantic partners. Agape love is selfless, charitable, sacrificing, and unconditional for the benefit of the object of love. Agape love is used to describe the love God has for us as well as to describe God, who Himself is love.

MEMORY VERSE

1Corinthians 16:14: Do everything in love.

OVERVIEW

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13: The people of the church in Corinth were arguing about which of the spiritual gifts God gives us is the best. The Apostle Paul heard about this bickering and wrote to them to settle the matter. In his letter, Paul explained that the greatest gift God gives us is love—a gift that is given to everyone. Each of the other spiritual gifts, while powerful in their ability to help us advance the kingdom of God on Earth, is worthless if our actions are done without love.



SUGGESTIONS

God gives us gifts that will help us through life and to help advance the kingdom of God by sharing the story of Jesus' ultimate act of love and sacrifice to save us from our sins. Spreading this good news is obeying Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. The goal of this commandment isn't so God will have the most followers, but so that His love will be spread to every corner of the Earth and that every person will experience His love. God gives us spiritual gifts out of love so that we can share His love. Using these gifts without love makes our actions meaningless. With love we can hope to accomplish the following:

- 1. Unity:** People we've never met, people from different countries, and even people who speak different languages are our brothers and sisters because we share something that forms the foundations of our lives: Jesus and His love.
- 2. Purpose:** God created each of us each as unique individuals and granted each of us spiritual gifts with the common purpose of spreading the good news of Jesus by showing our love for everyone.
- 3. Transformation:** The more we come to know and understand God, the more we understand the power of love. Love can change who we are and those with whom we interact. Love can change the world.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What were the people in the church in Corinth arguing about?

A1: The people in the church in Corinth were arguing about which spiritual gift was the best.

Q1b: You see two identical cars in a parking lot, but one is blue and the other is green. Which car is better?

TN: Outside of color preference, neither is better than the other because they are the same car. No one is better than anyone else. God gives us gifts that suit the purpose He created us for, and none of these spiritual gifts are better than the other or make the people who have them better than anyone else.

SLIDE 2



Q7a: Of all the gifts that God gives us, which is eternal?

A7: Love is eternal.

Q7b: Would you like to share a time when you recently felt loved?

TN: This can be a story about how they felt loved by God or by someone in their lives. Let the students tell their stories. That feeling of love is what God wants us to spread everywhere we go, and He has given us special gifts to help us do just that. Who doesn't want to make everyone experience such a fantastic feeling?! What a wonderful mission He has sent us on! This is an opportunity to connect the stories students tell with blessings they have received from God.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What can people gifted with spiritual understanding of God do?

A3: They can face any difficult situation and never fear because they trust in God.

Q3b: You sit down to watch TV, but the power cord is missing. Can you get it to turn on without electricity?

TN: Even though we have the TV, it requires electricity. Without a power cord, the TV won't work. We may have spiritual gifts, but without love, they won't work. Love is what gives our gifts power!

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What does a person gain by giving everything away without love?

A4: A person who gives away everything without love gains nothing.

Q4b: Is it okay to tell others that you shared your sandwich with your friend who forgot his lunch?

TN: It feels good to give, and when we do it with love in our hearts, the happiness we feel is from the Holy Spirit inside of us who is overjoyed at our decision to follow and obey Jesus' command to love others! These feelings are exciting, and we want to tell others about it, and that's okay. Talking about our giving becomes a problem when we give only to seek praise from others. The reward for giving is the blessing of knowing we helped someone in need, not praise from others for being a good person.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: The descriptions of what love is also describe who?

A5: The descriptions of what love is also describe Jesus.

Q5b: You aced a test at school that your friend failed. Is it wrong to be proud of yourself?

TN: No, we worked hard to understand the concepts on that test! We should be proud of ourselves! Being proud is wrong in this situation when we tease our friend about how well we did in comparison. It is wrong to assume that we are smarter than our friend because of their test score. Pride becomes a problem when we start think we are better than others; that is simply not true. God created each of us, making every person on the planet a miracle and part of God's plan, and He loves us equally. To show love in this situation, we can offer to help our friend study for the next test.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: On Earth we only have part of the picture. What will we have in Heaven?

A6: In Heaven, we will have an understanding that is perfect and true.

Q6b: Have you ever figured out something you thought was too hard to understand?

TN: Let the students answer. Most of us have encountered something like this in school. For some of us, we experience this in math class, for others it's language arts. The moment we figure it out, it's like someone turned on the lights, and we can see everything clearly. It's an amazing feeling! Here on Earth, we understand the world we live in and spiritual truths about life as best as we can, but there is just so much that we cannot understand. When we get to Heaven, it will be like someone turned on a light as big as the sun! We will understand everything!



QUESTION & ANSWER

1Corinthians 16:14: Do everything in love.

MEMORY
VERSES

BIG IDEA

CLOSING
PRAYER

God has given us gifts to help spread His love.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You so much for blessing us with amazing spiritual gifts. Help us to use them in love as we seek to tell everyone we know about how wonderful You are. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen

LOVE IS CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY

Across

- Of all the gifts God gives us, **(Love)** is eternal.
- In Heaven, we will fully grow up in **(Christ)**.
- Without love, giving does not **(Glorify)** God, but attempts to show how great the giver is.
- Faith that can move mountains will look like a cheap **(Magic)** trick without love.

Down

- The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in **(Corinth)**.
- Ultimately, love is outward, giving, and **(Selfless)**.
- Without love, people with the gift of speaking well are like a clanging **(Cymbal)**.

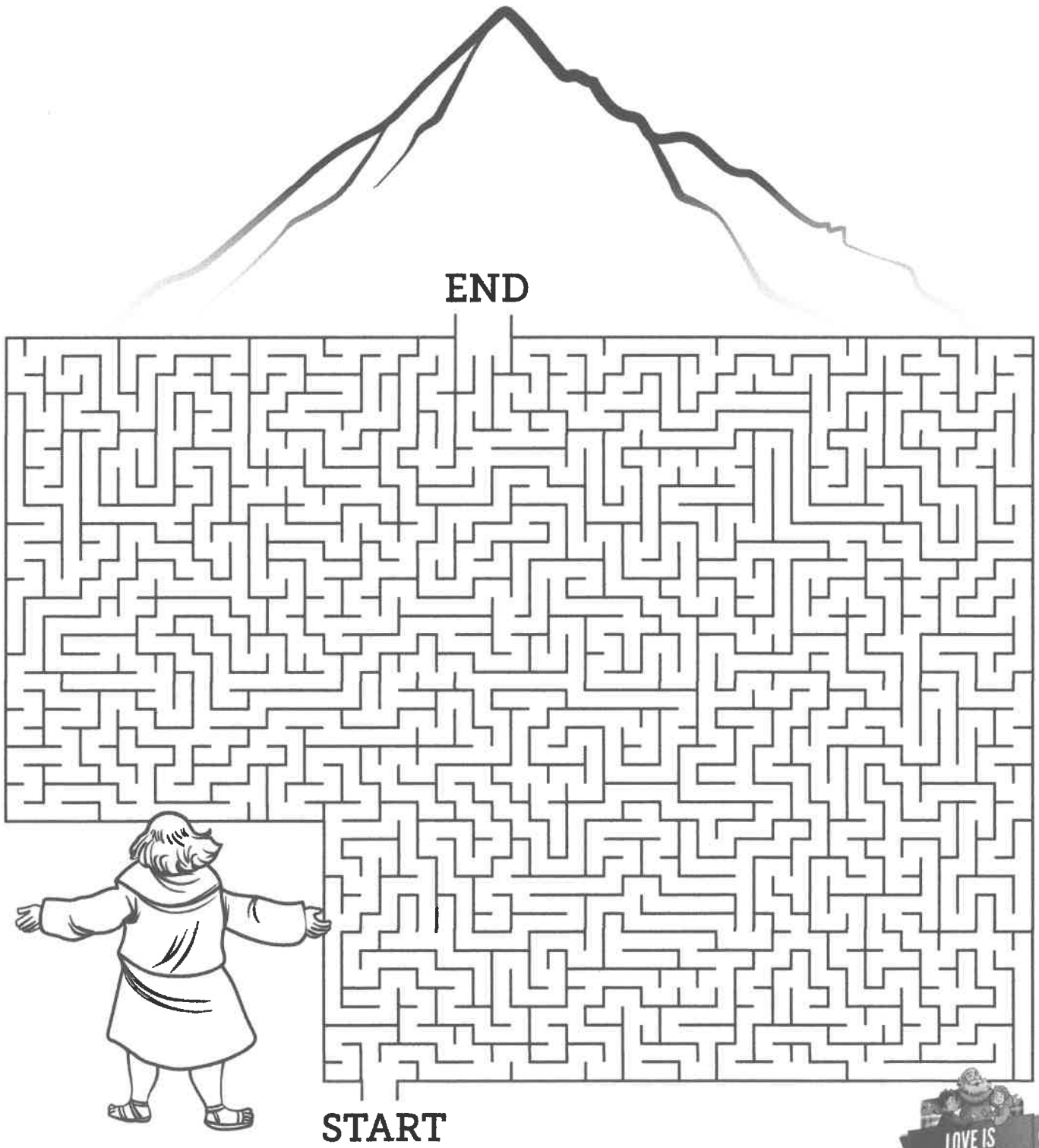
LOVE IS

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



LOVE IS

Help the man of God face his challenge.





LOVE IS



Discover the hidden words.

G	V	I	A	M	N	W	F	S	G	G	W	K	E	C
L	K	T	W	E	L	V	E	R	U	O	F	I	S	O
O	Q	F	V	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	D	N	E	R
R	D	E	S	X	M	L	U	Q	J	H	T	D	L	I
I	L	L	S	E	R	L	O	H	T	M	E	N	F	N
F	Q	H	F	X	Y	E	I	K	A	I	N	E	L	T
Y	L	I	S	Z	O	E	N	G	P	A	L	S	E	H
G	Q	E	K	J	K	M	T	L	T	Y	C	S	S	E
G	D	Z	Y	E	X	Y	B	S	Y	L	Y	X	S	E
F	J	T	A	S	J	T	I	F	M	Q	M	O	W	G
K	L	H	V	U	F	R	H	V	Z	T	B	O	Q	I
E	N	J	P	S	H	T	E	R	T	K	A	A	T	F
X	V	P	K	C	S	L	O	V	E	Z	L	V	S	T
K	D	I	J	I	P	T	E	B	B	E	P	B	O	P
F	W	I	C	H	U	R	C	H	L	P	O	M	S	P

Word Bank

LOVE
 JESUS
 CHRIST
 GLORIFY

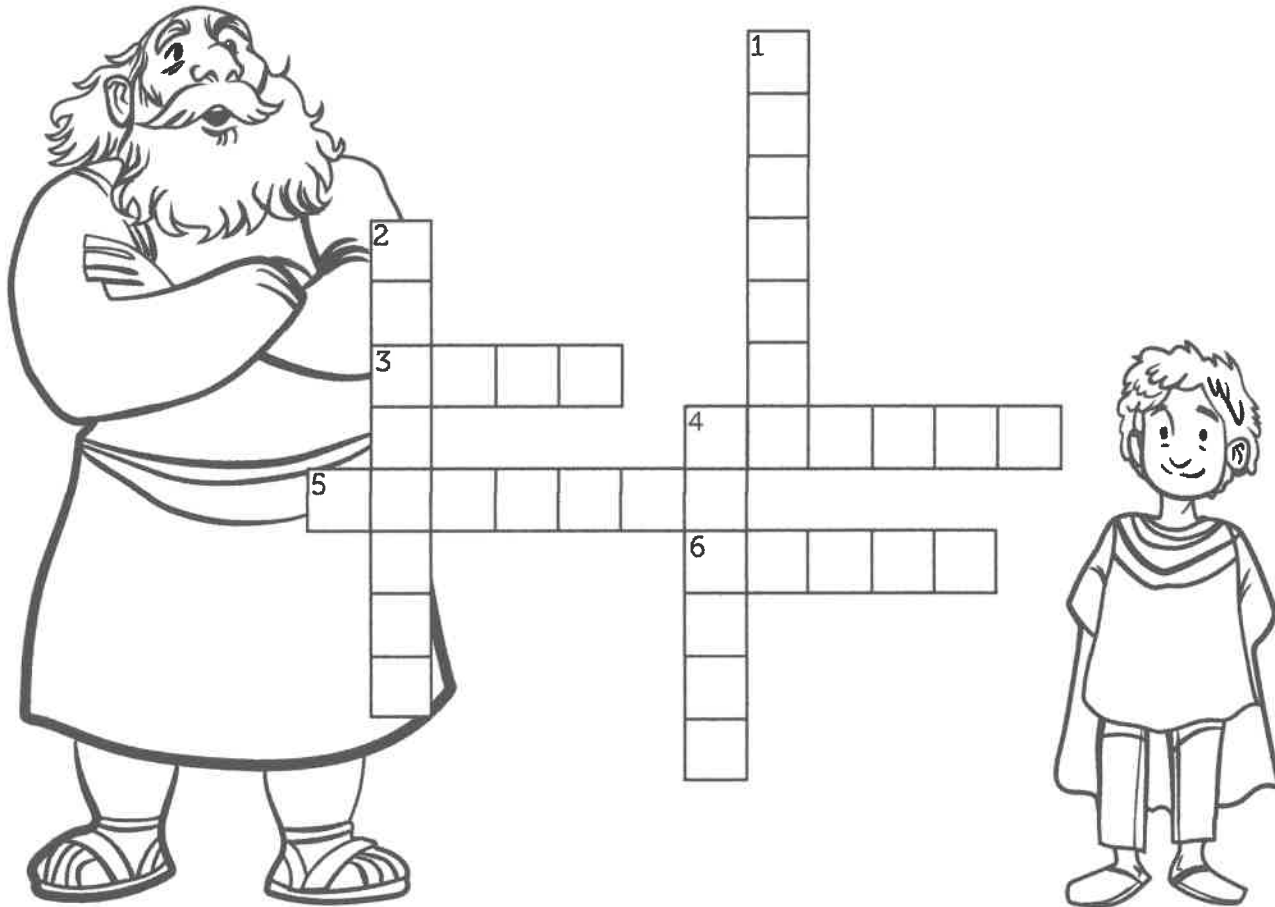
CORINTH
 SELFLESS
 PATIENT
 KINDNESS

CYMBAL
 CHURCH
 GIFT
 GOD



LOVE IS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13



Across

3. Of all the gifts God gives us, _____ is eternal.
4. In Heaven, we will fully grow up in _____.
5. Without love, giving does not _____ God, but attempts to show how great the giver is.
6. Faith that can move mountains will look like a cheap _____ trick without love.

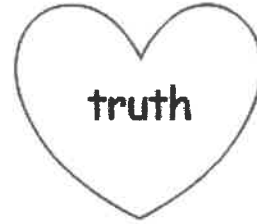
Down

1. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in _____.
2. Ultimately, love is outward, giving, and _____.
4. Without love, people with the gift of speaking well are like a clanging _____.





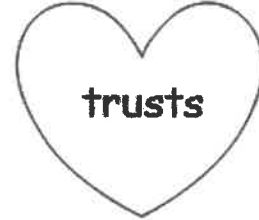
What is Love?



Love is p__t__e__t.



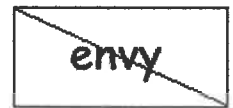
Love is k__n__.



It does not e__v__.



It does not b__a__t.



It is not p__o__d.

It does not d__s__o__o__ others.



It is not s__l__ - s__e__i__g.

It is not easily a__g__r__d.



It keeps no record of w__o__g__.



Love does not delight in evil but



r__j__i__e__ with the t__u__h.

It always p__o__e__t__, always t__u__t__,

always h__p__s, always p__r__e__e__e__.



1 Corinthians 13:4-7

