

Valentine's Day Lesson

Theme: God Loves Me!

Teacher Pep Talk: You are so blessed! You get to teach about the MOST important thing we can tell people: Jesus Loves You! I know that it sounds simple, and it is. But there is often confusion about God's love and so it is important for us to teach it well. Mountains of materials have been written on God's love, and yet it has never been fully described. God's love for us is unfathomable and yet simple. Be blessed today as you teach this important lesson.

In order to be ready to teach today, please review the truths about God's love found in John 3:16, Romans 5:8, and in 1 John 4:10-19.

You Will Need: Lesson – Draw a heart shape on the board or have a cutout paper heart shape to show. *(If you have access to a stethoscope you may bring it and let the children listen to their own heartbeat.)*
Crafts – Construction Paper (*ex: pink, red, white*), scissors, & glue.
Activity – Two large pieces of paper for Bible Verse

Major Points: God loves you!
God is love!
We don't earn God's love, He gives it to us!
Because God loves us, we can love Him back!

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:19 – We love because he first loved us.

Song: "Jesus Loves Me"

Lesson: Our lesson today is about something very special. And I have a hint to help you guess what it is about. *(Show paper heart, draw one for the children to see, or point to your own heart and let the children point to theirs.)* **What is this?** *(A heart, a valentine, etc)* *(Have a stethoscope? Invite the children to listen to their hearts.)*

Our hearts beat all the time... from before we are born to the moment we die and go to be with Jesus. Our hearts are very important. For many years the heart shape has been used to talk about "Love". **What is love?** *(Wait for answers; they will vary.)*

Those are good answers! The Bible says that love is from God. It also says that God is Love. Isn't that amazing? Can you imagine God actually being Love? It's hard for me to imagine too! But we know from God's Word that God is love, and love comes from God!

Lesson (cont.) Sometimes, we get mixed up about what love is and how we get it. We start thinking that if we are good then people will love us. We may think that if someone is angry with us, or disappointed with us that they may not love us anymore. But that's not the way love is.

Love (real love) doesn't have anything to do with whether someone is happy or sad with us. It doesn't have anything to do with whether we've been good or bad. Real love is given to us as a gift. That is how God loves us! That is how you can KNOW that God loves you!

We don't have to make any special promises, or do any special things for God to love us. He just does! GOD LOVES YOU!!

The Bible, God's Word, tells us that God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, (to be our Savior.) He did this wonderful thing for us before we ever loved Him!

When someone loves you, do you love them back? (Yes)

God loves us! And the Bible says that we can love God because He loved us first. 1 John 4:19 – **We love because he first loved us.** We can love God and we can love others too!

We love because he first loved us. *(Have children repeat verse.)*

Let's pray and thank God that He loves us and that we can love Him back!!

Prayer: *(Pray with the children out loud. Allow them to repeat after you.)*
Dear God,
Thank you for loving us.
Thank you for sending Jesus for us.
Thank you that we can love you back!
Amen.

Transition Time: Stand up tall and reach up high!
See if you can touch the sky!
Squat down low and touch the ground!
Jump up fast and turn around!
Careful, not to fall back **dow----n!** *(Plop back down on the floor!)*
(Do this twice if necessary)

Discuss Craft: Today we will be making a Valentine for someone we love! *(Show craft you have decided upon and discuss how you will make it today. Have enough materials on hand for each child to make at least one Valentine to take home.)*

Craft:

Paper Hearts *Traditional Valentines.*

Show the children how to fold paper in half and create a heart shape from construction paper. If necessary have a half-heart shape template to trace out Valentines. (*Have various sized templates available.*) Write on paper hearts "God Loves Me!" or "Jesus Loves Me!" or "I Love You" or "Be My Valentine!" Put names on Valentines. (*OPTION: Glue to paper dollies or onto larger pieces of construction paper.*) Send home with children to give to parents and loved ones.

With All of my Heart *For those already adept at Valentines.*

Provide construction paper of various colors for the children, some cut in half sheets, some in quarter sheets. Give one half sheet and two quarter sheets, of different colors, to each child. From quarter sheets the children cut out two heart shapes, one slightly larger than the other. From the center of the smaller heart shape, cut out a tiny heart and reserve. Glue the two larger Valentines on top of each other. Fold the half sheet to create a card. On the front of the card glue the two larger Valentines and write "Valentine, I Love You..." On the inside of the card, glue the tiny heart and write "...With ALL of My Heart!"

First Love *Simple and pretty.*

Start with two half sheets of different colored construction paper. Fold one piece in half and then fold ONE side of it in half again. Carefully cut out a heart from the center of the folded side of that sheet. Unfold the sheet. Glue the two half sheets on top of each other. The heart cutout will show the contrasting color beneath it. Fold the glued sheets in half at the midline to create your card. On the inside of the card, glue the heart you cut out. On the front of the card write "**We love because...**" and on the inside of the card write "**...He first loved us!**" (OR On the Front write "God loves us!" and on the Inside write "And we love Him back!")

Activity:

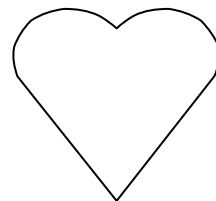
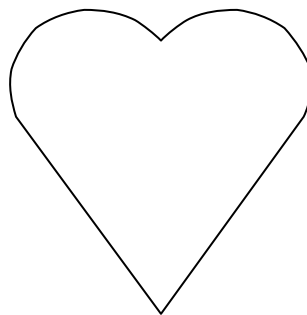
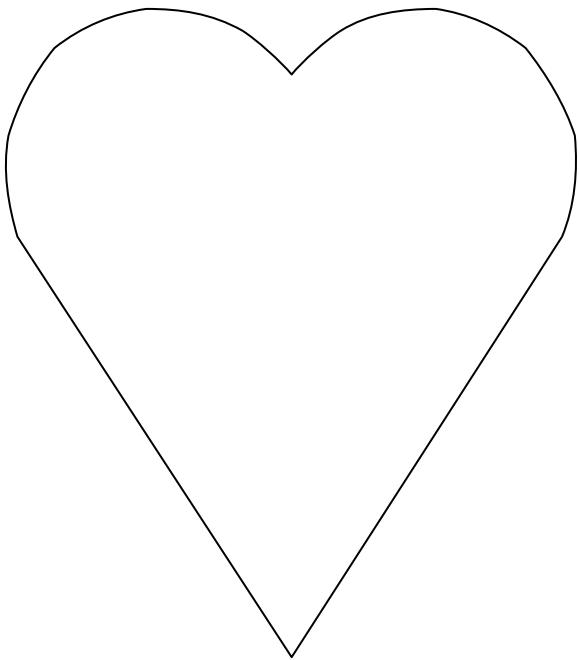
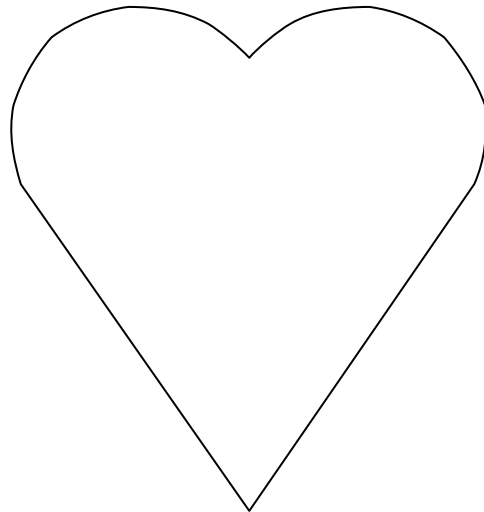
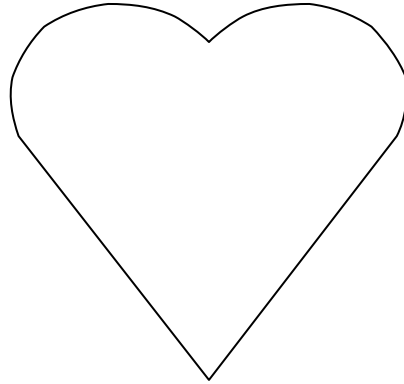
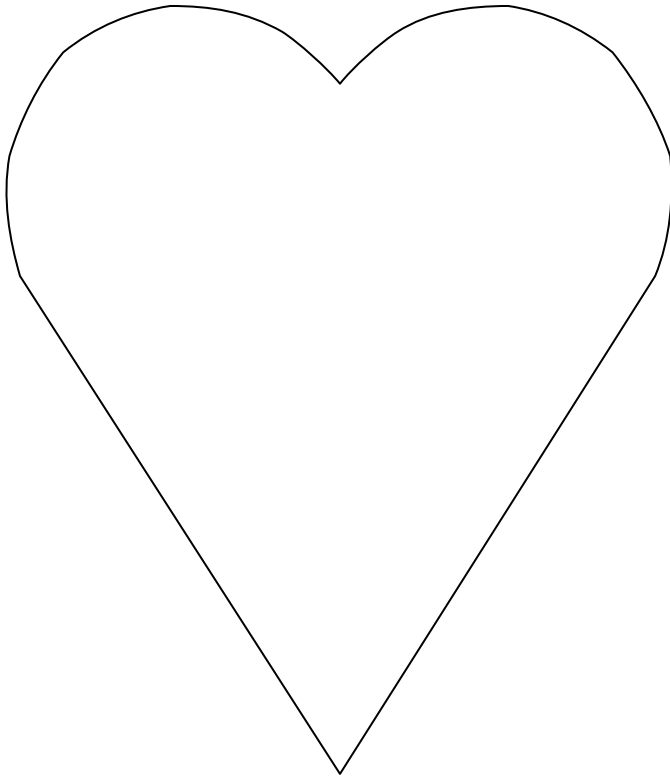
Bible Memory Game *Very Active – Be Careful!*

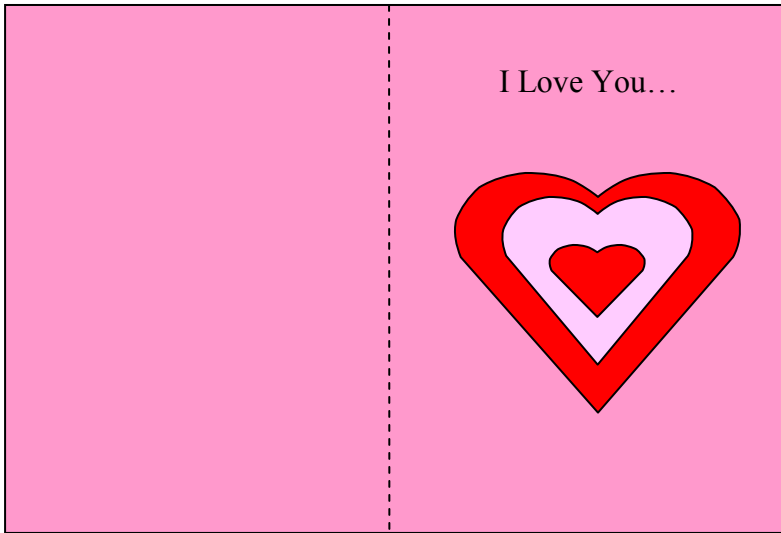
On a sheet of paper write "We love because..." and on another sheet of paper write "...He first loved us." Put the papers up on two opposite walls. Make sure there is NOTHING in between the walls in that area. Put half the children on one side and half on the other side. Have all the children touch their wall. The children with the first part of the verse say their half loudly and then the other children respond with their half. Switch sides quickly!! Repeat!!

Tamer Game Version – have a small group start on one side; say half of the verse, and then move to the other side, by hopping or skipping, where they say other half of verse. REPEAT as needed.

Paper Hearts

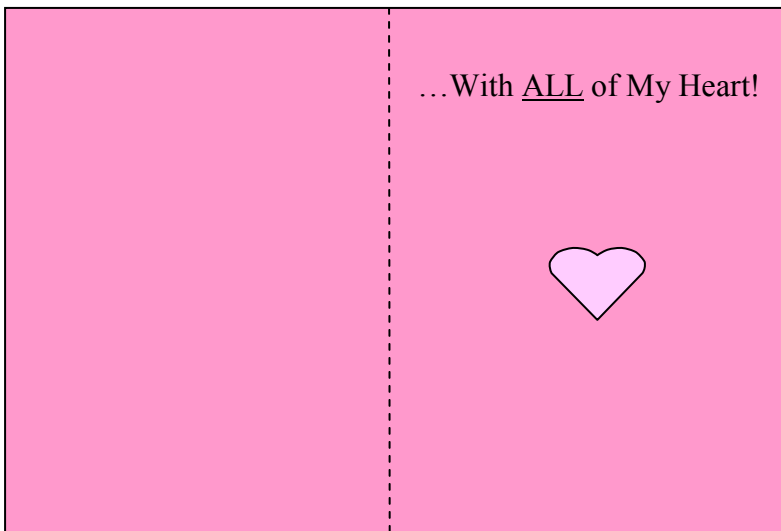
Fold shapes in half to cut templates.





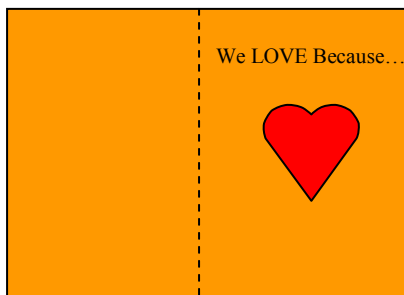
**With ALL of
My Heart**

FRONT

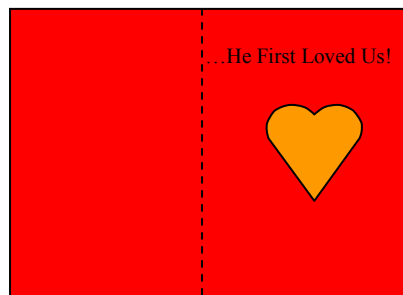


INSIDE

First LOVE



FRONT



INSIDE