



Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 6 April 6, 2025

BELIEVE GOD'S LOVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**

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- Bible Basis: 1 John 4:13 – 5:5
- Bible Truth: Believers are made complete when as a community they abide in God's love and the Spirit of God's love abides in them.
- Memory Verse: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him" (1 John 5:1).
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: COMPREHEND what is required to live in community; TALK ABOUT experiences of love within the community that exemplify faith and love in God; and CELEBRATE the community's contribution to our formation as disciples of Jesus.
- Background Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15—Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

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1 John 4:13 – 5:5, KJV

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

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1 John 4:13 – 5:5, KJV

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19 We love him, because he first loved us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

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1 John 4:13 – 5:5, KJV

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

The writer of the book of 1 John is thought to be John the apostle. John, along with his brother James, was a fisherman until he was called by Jesus to join the other eleven disciples. For three years, he followed and learned from Christ. He is known as the one apostle who died a natural death, although it is also reported that he was thrown in a pot of boiling oil. The Day of Judgment refers to the final and ultimate judgment of God. It involves the final appearance of Christ when He judges the actions of all humankind.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

This phrase finds its roots in the Old Testament concept of the Day of the Lord. The Hebrews believed this would be the day when God would judge the nations and vindicate His people. In the New Testament, it loses its nationalistic tone and refers to God's solemn condemnation of all evil. On that day, Christians will inherit eternal life and unbelievers the ill-fated choice of eternal damnation (hell).

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LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will understand how to live in
community that is built on unity and mutuality in
God's love.

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INTRODUCTION

Christian Spiritual Fundamentals

The letters of John are three brief epistles. The succinctness is misleading, for they deal with insightful and significant questions about the fundamental nature of Christian spiritual experience. John's letters also provide fascinating insight to the condition of the church at the end of the first century. Heresy played a critical and deceptive role in the church. Autonomy and church organization are reflected. The genuine nature of a committed and obedient relationship to God through Christ is strongly and affectionately depicted and commanded.

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BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will know and understand God's
commandments.

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I. LIVING PROOF

God's Spirit Manifested in Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

All Christians receive the Holy Spirit as living proof of God's presence in our lives. The Holy Spirit gives us power to love and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and provides assurance that we are connected to our Heavenly Father. Perfect love does not mean we love perfectly; it is a description of our Savior's love for us. Jesus loves flawlessly because He accepts us with all our imperfections and mistakes, and regardless of our gender, sex, or race; marital, educational, or economic status; physical, mental, or emotional qualities; age or cultural background, He loves us!

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I. LIVING PROOF
God's Spirit Manifested in
Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Two themes dominate John's exhortation in verses 13-21: faith and love. In verse 13, John affirms that the assurance of the presence of God in the life of a Christian, is proved by the residence of the Holy Spirit in them. Since love is the first of the fruit produced by the Spirit, John's connection of love with the Holy Spirit is obvious, in addition to the other work of the Spirit in the life of a believer.

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I. LIVING PROOF
God's Spirit Manifested in
Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Although no one has seen God, He has revealed Himself visibly in His Son Jesus Christ. As one of the apostolic eyewitnesses, John bears testimony to this fact. The Greek word *soter* (soh-TAYR), which means savior or deliverer, defines both the purpose and the result of Christ's mission(cf. Matthew 1:21; John 1:29).

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I. LIVING PROOF
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1 John 4:13-17

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Emphasis is placed on the test of (doctrinal) faith in Christ as evidence of God's indwelling. The Greek word homologeo (ho-mo-lo-GEH-oh, confess) indicates that confession involves the intellectual acknowledgment of the human-divine nature of Christ and a personal acceptance of Him.

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I. LIVING PROOF
God's Spirit Manifested in
Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

John effectively connects faith with works (action), Belief must find expression in behavior. Here, believing and loving are intimately joined. They are proof of God's Spirit in the believer.

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I. LIVING PROOF
God's Spirit Manifested in
Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

By dwelling in love and consequently in God, and by God dwelling in us, love will be perfected teleioo, (teh-lay-OH-oh), to complete or accomplish). This word refers to completion of a goal or maturity. Love will be made complete, mature, and perfect once for all in us. This perfection refers to a complete, fully accomplished state. John is stating that the on-going action of God abiding in us and we abiding in God perfects our love. The phrase "because as he is so also are we in this world" refers to God's abiding in us (v. 16).

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I. LIVING PROOF
God's Spirit Manifested in
Our Lives
1 John 4:13-17

17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

If we abide in God and God in us, despite being in this imperfect world, we are like God, who is love. This should give us confidence on the day of judgment which comes from loving as Jesus loved us. It does not mean that we will love perfectly, but that we will have evidence that we are believers, and we will have confidence that our hearts are right before God.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

The Freedom in Love

Knowing we are loved by God diminishes our apprehension of Judgment Day, increases our need to see others saved, and supplies us freedom to love indiscriminately and do the work God called us to do. The confidence we receive in acknowledging God's love is not arrogant. Arrogance is when we depend and boast in our own abilities. The confidence that the Bible describes is a declaration of our relationship with Jesus and evidence of the abiding Holy Spirit within us.

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II. LOVING PROOF

Love Without Fear
1 John 4:18-19

The love of God eradicates all fear. If we operate from fear, it is a sign that we have not fully grasped the concept of God's unconditional love. Even many Christians function in fear and live as prisoners of anxiety, even though the Lord cannot use us when we walk in apprehension. If we fear Judgment Day, are we certain of our salvation? There needs to be a level of confidence in knowing we are saved and eternally secure with Christ.

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II. LOVING PROOF

Love Without Fear
1 John 4:18-19

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

John then goes on further to clarify that love is absent of fear. Mature and complete love casts out all fear. The word for "casts out" literally means to lay or throw aside something. Christians should not experience fear of punishment in their life. The punishment that John refers to is the judgment, which is clear because it is mentioned in the context of the day of judgment. Because fear has punishment (the two are inevitably intertwined), the person who fears punishment does not have the love in vv. 16-17.

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II. LOVING PROOF

Love Without Fear
1 John 4:18-19

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

The same Greek verb appears again here as "perfect" (teleioo), confirming the connection. John seals his point by stating that whoever fears has not matured in love. The one who fears that they will receive the Final Judgment has not experienced the complete work of God's love in their life.

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II. LOVING PROOF

Love Without Fear
1 John 4:18-19

19 We love because he first loved us.

Next we see the motivation behind the Christian's love. It is because we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ. This verse points to the detailed description and explanation of the preceding verses. It summarizes what John has said concerning the love of Christ and its effect in the life of a believer. We love God because He has shown His love to us in Christ. We love one another because we have experienced God's love in our hearts.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

God Loves Imperfect People

We cannot explain why God loves us; He just does! It is human nature to want justification for our feelings and actions; however, the Bible tells us Jesus loved us before we became Christians (Romans 5:8). So if a sovereign God can love imperfect people, then who are we to refuse to love another imperfect being? Christians have experienced the fullness of Christ's love and have testimonies of His kindness. The greatest tragedy is to hoard the love of God and miss opportunities to pour this precious gift into the lives of others.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

John's emphasis on loving others is nowhere more clearly reflected than in this passage of Scripture. We are lying if we say we love God but actually hate our brothers and sisters in Christ. Many biblical teachers skate over these verses because they are too direct. Yet, these verses force us to examine our actions. How can we claim to love the invisible Lord and still be seen to hate the visible inhabitants of His kingdom? We cannot love God apart from loving one another.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

John says that if anyone says they love God and hates their brother, they are more than a walking contradiction: they are a liar. This may not mean they are intentionally deceiving others. At the most basic level, they are deceiving themselves. They are not walking consistent with the truth. Anyone who does not love someone who is physically visible to them cannot love God, who is invisible to their natural senses. For John, the real test of true love is loving those who are right in front of you. Loving people whom you can see is the litmus test of loving the God whom you cannot see.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Not only is loving your brother a litmus test for loving God, but not loving your brother is disobedience to the Lord's command. John appeals to the direct command of Jesus (John 13:34). If we do not love our brother, we are not obeying the command of Jesus. Jesus has given us this command, and Christians must fulfill it or risk disobeying the Lord who loves them.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 John 5:1-5 is a part of John's final elaboration of the three principal tests of authentic Christianity: belief (faith), righteousness (obedience), and love. He has devoted sections of his letter to treating the subjects in turn. Here, all three are closely related, integrated, and woven together into one theological fabric, within the overriding idea of Christian confidence and assurance through the new birth. The text shows the Christian's confidence in victory, witnesses, eternal life, and prayer.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

John connects belief and love mutually and spiritually. The Greek word pisteuo (pihSTEHOO-oh) means to trust or to believe. It is more than a mere profession of a creed; it means personal faith in and personal union with Christ. Our proof of the new birth is shown as a continual belief in the humanity and deity of Christ and His redemptive mission. The logical consequence of the new birth is an expression of love for God, who is the source of the spiritual birth, as well as to all who have been given birth by Him.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

In the preceding verse, John connects belief and love. In this verse and the next, the connection is made between love and obedience (righteousness), indicating how intertwined the themes are John reverses the relationship by stating that our love for one another is made manifest when we love God and keep His commandments. Previously John declared that we cannot love God if we hate one another. Now John is saying that loving God reveals our love for one another. The two are intimately related, so that both should flow from each other.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

John takes a step further to link love and obedience. This verse is obviously an echo of the precept of Christ Himself: "If ye love me, keep my commandments ... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me ... " (John14:15, 21). Love for God is both a basis and motivation for obedience. The Greek word *barus* (ba-ROOS), translated as "grievous," regulations of the scribes and the Pharisees were heavy burdens hard to bear. Jesus' yoke, on the contrary, is easy and His burden light (Matthew 11:30). Furthermore, divine resources are made available to equip Christians to do the will of God. John directly references the impartation of divine nature and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in all who have been born of God (see 1 John3:24)

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

John's confidence in the believer's victory is contagious. Within two verses he uses the words "overcome" and "victory" four times (vv. 4-5). The Greek verb nikao (nih-KAH-oh) means to conquer, to overcome, or to prevail, while its related noun nike (NI-kay) means victory or conquest. Anything that has been born of God conquers the world, but here John focuses on our faith as the victory that has already conquered the world.

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III. LASTING PROOF

Love and Hate
1 John 4:20-5:5

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Two aspects of the believers' conquest are implied in these verses. First, Christ's victory becomes the believers' own upon their belief in the person and work of Christ, acceptance of Christ as Lord and Savior by faith, and consequent union with Christ (cf. John 1:12, 16:33). Second, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to live in daily victory over the flesh, the world, and the devil. In everyday experience, the Christian can constantly express thanks to God "which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will model our lives after God's love
when we love our neighbors.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

Society teaches us to love conditionally. Some people live in fear of rejection from those who claim to love them. This is not real love. One of the most remarkable attributes of God is His ability to love unconditionally and completely. No matter what we face in life, God's love is everlasting and nothing can separate us from His love! Not only do we have God's promise of love but also the promise of eternal life. With this kind of reassurance, what keeps us from loving others?

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will explore different ways that
Christians live in God's love in unity and
community.

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STUDENT RESPONSES

The Lord has high regards for the community of believers, and we should too. All we can do is learn to love and obey God's command. Pray and ask God to reveal where you can extend love to someone in the family of God. After God shows you, act! Write in a journal about how the incident impacted your life and share your experience with the class.

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Prayer

Dear God,

We pray that we are giving our best in love to others. Help us to learn how and to love one another. Love, faith, and hope are qualities that we should give to one another.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

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Next Sunday
April 13, 2025
Lesson 7
The One Who Comes
Mark 11:1-11