

Reproducible
Student
Activity Pages

Fall Quarter
2020
Love for One
Another

BIASED LOVE

Lesson 1, Genesis 37:2-11, 23-24a, 28, NIV

YEP—THAT’S FAMILY!

Find the words in the Word List. Then circle the words in the list that are most painful to you personally. Why?

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

WORD LIST

ARGUMENTS
BIAS
CONFLICT
DISCRIMINATION
DYSFUNCTION
ENVY
ESTRANGEMENT
FAVORITISM
JEALOUSY
NEGLECT
STRIFE

EXEGESIS, NOT EISEGESIS

Exegesis is the explanation of a Scripture text based on a careful, objective analysis. *Eisegesis*, on the other hand, is the process of interpreting a text in terms of one’s own agendas or biases as those are read into the text.

1. How can you guard against reading today’s text through the lens of your own family conflicts?

2. How would you gently correct someone who is not being careful in that regard?

3. What other Scripture passages would you say are particularly susceptible to this danger?

OBEDIENT LOVE

Lesson 2, Genesis 41:25-33, 37-40, 50-52, NIV

STORYTELLING

From your acquaintances think of a Christian friend or family member who has experienced one of the following. Fill in the chart below with information about how he or she handled the misfortune and how his or her Christian faith was demonstrated during the process.

Problem	Person's Relationship to Me	How He or She Responded	Current Situation
Life-threatening illness			
Serious traffic accident			
Prolonged unemployment			
Sudden death of a family member			

YOUR LIFE TREE

Answer these questions:

What fruit do you see in your life?

What other fruit would you like to see in your life?

What beliefs about God keep you rooted in your faith?

How could you make your roots deeper and stronger?



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VICTORIOUS LOVE

Lesson 3, Genesis 42:6-25, NIV

MOVIE PLOT: REVENGE IS MINE

Use the boxes below to describe or depict a series of scenes for a movie about an unbeliever who is contemplating revenge for being mistreated. Base the outcome on one of the following secular quotations; be prepared to discuss how it is unbiblical:

“Revenge is a powerful motivator” (Marcus Luttrell).

“No trait is more justified than revenge in the right time and place” (Meir Kahane).

“The best revenge is massive success” (Frank Sinatra).

Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4

Scene 5	Scene 6	Scene 7	Scene 8

“BE IT RESOLVED . . .”

Work as a team to create an argument for one side of a debate as assigned. The *Affirmation* side is to create a case that proposes that Joseph would have been justified in taking revenge. The *Denial* side is to create a compelling case for the opposite. Each side should anticipate the points the other side will make. Use one or more of these passages to bolster your side’s position: Leviticus 19:18; Judges 15:7, 28; Jeremiah 20:10; Romans 12:19.

Points my team needs to stress:

What my team should be prepared to refute:

REVEALED LOVE

Lesson 4, Genesis 45:1-8, 10-15, NIV

JOSEPH'S ACTIONS AND MINE

Review the verses in the column below. Describe Joseph's actions; then speculate on what yours would have been had you been Joseph.

Situations	What did Joseph do?	What would you have done? Why?
v. 1, Joseph is alone with his brothers for the first time in years and . . .		
v. 4, Joseph remembers how his brothers mistreated him and . . .		
v. 5, Joseph reveals his identity and . . .		

GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Romans 8:28 tells us, "all things work together for good to them that love God." That certainly came true for Joseph! Discuss a time when things seemed really bad for you, but God worked it out for good.

Use the lines below to write a prayer of gratitude: _____

VALUES MATRIX

Jacob's family members display a broad range of spiritual values—or lack thereof. List the spiritual values that you associate with the following people:

Reuben (Genesis 37:21-22; 49:3-4): _____

Judah (Genesis 38, 44:32-34; 49:8-12): _____

Joseph (Genesis 39, 49:22-26): _____

Jacob (Genesis 27:1-24; 30:25-43; 43:1-14): _____

LOVE THAT INTERCEDES

Lesson 5, 1 Samuel 19:1-7, NIV

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

If any of the three main characters in today's lesson (Saul, Jonathan, David) had made different decisions, how might things have turned out? Complete the statements on the right.

What actually happened	What might have happened
1. Saul told Jonathan and his servants to kill David.	Jonathan was afraid to do anything and . . .
2. Jonathan warned David and told him to hide.	Jonathan realized that David might become king instead of him, so Jonathan . . .
3. David believed Jonathan and took his advice.	David mistrusted Jonathan's motives and . . .
4. Jonathan gave Saul compelling reasons for sparing David's life.	Jonathan made a half-hearted, token effort to change his father's mind and . . .
5. Saul heeded Jonathan's wise counsel and promised not to kill David.	Saul's jealousy got the better of him; not only did the death-order stand, but also . . .

LOYALTY AND INTERCESSION

In what situations can and should you act as an intercessor? Complete any of the following sentences that apply.

Like Jonathan, I can try to work to help _____ [name] resolve a current conflict.

Like Jonathan, I can take risks by taking sides and trying to prevent _____

Like David, I can trust this friend or coworker to stand up for me. _____

Like Saul, I can come to my senses and relinquish my anger against _____ as I work to resolve our conflict.

Like Saul, I can pay attention to _____ [name]'s past and/or current attempts to help resolve a current conflict.

What New Testament passages in addition to Romans 12:18 spurs you to action on these? _____

LOVE FOR ENEMIES

Lesson 6, Luke 6:27-36, NIV

NATURAL OR GODLY

As the class works through Luke 6:27-36, use the following charts as note-takers. The first one in each chart is done for you as an example.

Enemy's Action	Natural Reaction	Godly Reaction
v. 27—Hates you	<i>Hate them back; be mean to them.</i>	<i>Love them and do good to them.</i>
v. 28a—Curses you		
v. 28b—Mistreats you		
v. 29a—Slaps your cheek		
v. 29b—Takes your coat		
v. 30—Asks for a favor		

My Action	Natural Action	Godly Action
v. 31—Deciding how to treat others	<i>Treat them as good or bad as they treat you.</i>	<i>Know how you would like to be treated and do that to them.</i>
v. 32—Deciding whom to love		
v. 33—Deciding whom to do good things for		
v. 34—Deciding whom to lend something to		
v. 36—Deciding to whom you will give mercy		

NOW IT'S PERSONAL

What enemies do you have trouble loving? Post this where you will see it daily in the week ahead.

- _____ hates me, I will respond with love.
 _____ curses me, I will do the opposite in return.
 _____ mistreats me, I will respond with prayer.

I will be merciful as the Father has been to me.

YOUR ACTIONS: A CASE STUDY

You are driving along an interstate when you notice a car pulled over to the shoulder with its hood up and four-way flashers on. You realize you have at least three options:

- You can stop and offer help
- You can use your cell phone to call for help while you keep driving
- You can ignore the situation

What difference, if any, would these variables make in your decision?

- Time of day: light vs. dark
- Appearance of the driver: scruffy vs. well-dressed
- Location: desolate vs. well-traveled
- Passenger(s) in your car
- State of the weather
- Type of car, its age, condition, and bumper stickers

MORE COMPASSION, LESS RATIONALIZING

From Jesus' story—

A surprising insight for me is . . .

One way I plan to be less like the lawyer, less rationalizing, is by . . .

One way I plan to be more like the Samaritan, more compassionate, is . . .

LOVE NEVER FAILS

Lesson 8, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, NIV

HEALTHY OR UNHEALTHY LOVE?

Identify which of the following are healthy (H) or unhealthy (U) acts of love.

- 1. Finds pleasure in giving and receiving
- 2. Rarely shows affection
- 3. Expects unconditional love
- 4. Cares but with detachment
- 5. Looks to others for self-worth
- 6. Allows individuality
- 7. Invites growth of others
- 8. Seeks to change others
- 9. Does not seek unconditional love
- 10. Seeks to get something by giving
- 11. Fulfills the law (Romans 13:10)
- 12. Believes in equal worth before God

What characteristics do you associate with healthy love? Why?

USING OUR GIFTS IN LOVE

Read through the list of spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Pick the one you believe is your strongest and write it in the box to the left. Then give seven examples of how you can better use it to express love each day this week.

My strongest spiritual gift is . . .

**How I will better use that strength
to express love . . .**

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

Saturday: _____

Sunday: _____

WHAT DOES THE CONTEXT IMPLY?

People misunderstood Jesus when they took His words literally in contexts where He intended to be understood figuratively (compare Matthew 16:5-12; John 10:1-6; 16:25-30; etc.). In which way is the word *hour* used in the passages below? Put a check in the correct box out to the right. Be prepared to explain why you made that choice.

	Literal use for 60 minutes?	Figurative for a time frame?
<i>Matthew 20:12</i> —“These who were hired last worked only one hour ,” they said, “and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.”		
<i>Matthew 26:40</i> —Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour ?”		
<i>Luke 22:53</i> —“Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour —when darkness reigns.”		
<i>Luke 22:59</i> —About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”		
<i>John 13:1</i> —It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.		
<i>John 17:1</i> —After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”		

What does the above imply regarding interpretation of time references such as “day” (Genesis 1:5; 8:4; Nehemiah 9:3; John 9:4a; 1 Thessalonians 5:5a; etc.), “night” (Genesis 14:15; John 9:4b; 1 Thessalonians 5:5b; etc.); and “year” (Isaiah 61:2; Luke 3:1; 4:19; etc.)?

MY (UN)WILLINGNESS

Rank-order the following tasks from 1 (least unwilling to do) to 6 (most unwilling to do).

- Clip a disabled person’s toenails.
- Clean up an alcoholic’s vomit.
- Help clean out the house of a hoarder.
- Watch over a person suffering from Alzheimer’s for two hours to give the primary caregiver a break.
- Use up a vacation day from work to transport a wheelchair-bound person to a medical appointment.
- Use up several vacation days to take a short-term mission trip to an area that has no running water.

How does today’s lesson text convict you on changing unwillingness to willingness? Why?

ABIDING LOVE

Lesson 10, John 15:4-17, NIV

CONNECTING



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Circle the social media applications that you use.

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Facebook</i> | <i>Whatsapp</i> | <i>Tumblr</i> |
| <i>Instagram</i> | <i>SnapChat</i> | <i>Meetup</i> |
| <i>Twitter</i> | <i>LinkedIn</i> | <i>Reddit</i> |
| <i>YouTube</i> | <i>Messenger</i> | <i>[other]</i> |
| <i>Pinterest</i> | <i>QQ</i> | |

Which do you find most helpful in connecting with friends and family? Why? _____

What drawbacks does social media have in comparison with the connecting tools of the pre-social media era? Why? _____

OBEYING

Compare the passages listed below and determine the common message:

John 15:17

1 Thessalonians 4:9

1 John 3:11

We are to

Do the same with these passages:

John 15:4

1 John 2:24, 27

We are to

Describe one area each where you find it especially difficult to obey these commands.

CONFIDENT LOVE

Lesson 11, 1 John 3:11-24, NIV

SIMON SAYS

Discover the source of confidence we need by following the instructions below!

SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE

Regarding the phrase above . . .

Delete the last two vowels and every *C*

Move the fourth and fifth letters to the front

Change the first *O* to *A* and the final letter to *Y*

Place letters *TH* between the third and fourth vowels

Substitute the word *LABEL* for the letter *S*

Change every *F* to *R* and every *D* to *T*

Place an *I* after the first *L*

Reverse the order of the seventh and eighth letters

Delete the three letters following the second *R*

GOD'S OUTLOOK VS. WORLD'S OUTLOOK

Fill in the blanks with the contrasts you see.

How do I view others?

The world says it's "survival of the fittest." —Herbert Spencer (1820–1903).

God says, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" —1 John 3:17

The contrast I see is _____

How do we know what love is?

The world says, "Love is the master key that opens the gates of happiness." —Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841–1935)

God says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down *our* lives for our brothers and sisters." —1 John 3:16

The contrast I see is _____

How should love make us feel?

The world says we feel uncertainty: "When a man is in love, he doubts, very often, what he most firmly believes." —François de La Rochefoucauld (1613–1680)

God says it's confidence: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." —1 John 4:18

The contrast I see is _____

RESPONSIVE LOVE

Lesson 12, Acts 4:32–5:11, NIV

TRUTH FROM AN ATHEIST?

“Let us try to teach generosity and altruism, because we are born selfish.” —Richard Dawkins

How would you evaluate the validity of the “we are born selfish” part of this statement (from an outspoken atheist) in terms of . . .

what the Bible says? _____

your experience with any 2-year-old child? _____

using or not using the old “consider the source” dictum? _____

whether or not it’s really all that important to decide if selfishness is something we’re born with or is learned? _____

MY RESPONSE TO NEED

People in need are all around us! On the following list, rate the likelihood of your responding to each need on a scale of 1 (very unlikely to respond) to 5 (very likely to respond).

The homeless	1	2	3	4	5
Disaster victims	1	2	3	4	5
Cancer research	1	2	3	4	5
Clothing drives	1	2	3	4	5
Disabled veterans	1	2	3	4	5

What one thing will you do to improve in the area of your lowest score?

How do you include Matthew 25:40, 45 in improving your response?

HE'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING

Sometimes people are judged unfairly. Match the famous person with his less-than-stellar beginnings.

- _____ 1. Flunked out of Yale University—twice!
- _____ 2. Didn't speak fluently until age 9.
- _____ 3. Screen-test evaluation read "Can't act. Can't sing. Balding. Can dance a little."
- _____ 4. After an audition, he was told to go back to driving a truck.
- _____ 5. Threw his first book in the trash after it was rejected 30 times.
- _____ 6. Dropped out of Harvard to start a computer processing business that failed.
- _____ 7. Fired from a newspaper for his lack of creativity and any good ideas.
- _____ 8. Told by an editor that he did not know how to use the English language.

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| a. Stephen King | d. Albert Einstein | g. Elvis Presley |
| b. Fred Astaire | e. Dick Cheney | h. Bill Gates |
| c. Rudyard Kipling | f. Walt Disney | |

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE?

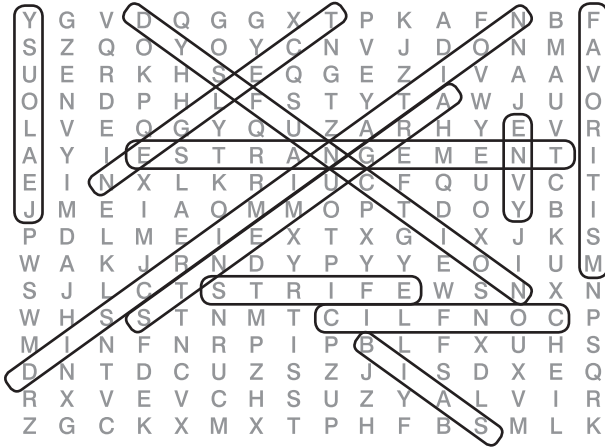
Part 1. Church signs proclaim that everyone is welcome to attend. But consider the following list of visitors who may show up on Sunday morning. Put a check mark beside the one most likely to make it difficult for the church to project the impartial love commanded in Scripture.

- ___ A person obviously lacking in personal hygiene
- ___ A person wearing clothing identifying him or her as a member of a gang
- ___ A person with extensive tattoos and/or other body modifications
- ___ A person wearing revealing clothing
- ___ A person using profanity
- ___ A person reeking of alcohol
- ___ A person who seems to be dressed in contrast to his/her biological sex
- ___ A person with a story of needing help, but who seems to be a con artist

Part 2. Describe an approach that a congregation can take that demonstrates that "mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful" (James 2:13) without compromising basic Christian values. How do *be wise* passages such as Matthew 10:16; Ephesians 5:15; and Colossians 4:5 contribute to the plan?

Lesson 1

Yep—That's Family!



Exegesis—Not Eisegesis: Answers will vary. An obvious passage to mention for number 3 is the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

Lesson 8

Suggested answers to **Is It Healthy or Unhealthy Love?**:
Healthy=1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12. **Unhealthy**=2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10. Allow students with a different answer to explain their reasons.

Lesson 9

What Does the Context Imply? Matthew 20:12; 26:40; Luke 22:59 refer to a literal time frame of 60 minutes or something close to it. Luke 22:53; John 13:1; 17:1 are figurative for a larger framework of time.

Lesson 11

Simon Says: Reliable Authority

Lesson 12

Truth from an Atheist: Answers will vary.

Lesson 13

He'll Never Amount to Anything: 1=e. 2=d. 3=b. 4=g. 5=a. 6=h. 7=f. 8=c.