



Lesson 5: A New Love 6-8 In-Person Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	The love of Jesus empowers me to love others.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” (John 13:34, NLT)
<u>Bible Passage</u>	“Jesus washes his disciples feet.” (John 13:1-17, NLT)
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Bible ● A box or briefcase ● A piece of silverware ● A towel ● A water bottle ● A bucket or basin ● A flip flop/sandal ● A squishy ball*

*Materials marked with an asterisk are in the CKC Games Bag.

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one.):

- **God sightings:** Ask students to describe how they’ve seen God at work in their school or at their home in the past week.
- Let students take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the Feelings Wheel (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with a question, “Who did something for you that made you feel loved? What did they do?”

Play a game.

Word Tag

For this game you will need a squishy ball. Seat students in a circle, then name an animal, type of candy bar, etc. Toss the ball to another player. The next player must name another animal or object that starts with the last letter of your word and then pass it to a new player. A player is out if they can't come up with a word as soon as they catch the ball. Continue until one student remains.



Receive (20 minutes)

Read God's Word.

Ask students to fill in the blank:

Treat others as you want to be _____ . (treated)

Love your _____ **as yourself.** (neighbor)

Love one _____ . (another)

These commands are not new to us...they've been around for centuries! These commands would have been familiar to Jesus's disciples too. Jesus gave his disciples a new command: This sounds familiar doesn't it? What, then, makes Jesus's command a new command? We're going to figure that out by exploring today's Bible story.

For this part of the Bible story, you will need to place the following items into a mystery box, keeping the objects hidden from view:

- A piece of silverware
- A towel
- A water bottle
- A bucket or basin
- A flip flop/sandal

Read the script below as you tell the Bible story. The directions on the right column indicate what item to remove from the box and any explanatory information to share with your students.

<p>Jesus and his disciples gathered in an upper room to eat one last meal together because Jesus was about to say goodbye to his friends, die on a cross and return to his Father in heaven.</p>	<p>Pick up the piece of silverware from the box and show it to the group.</p>
<p>Before Jesus and his disciples sat down for the meal, Jesus got up, took off his robe, and tied a towel around his waist.</p>	<p>Pick up the towel from the box and show it to the group. If the towel is long enough, tie it to your waist.</p>

Jesus’s disciples were shocked by this. At that time, foot-washing was a task that only the servants would do. Usually disciples were expected to serve their teachers, but Jesus beat them to it!	Explain how Jesus became a servant to his disciples.
Jesus began to pour water into a basin...	Pull out the basin and the water bottle from the box and begin to pour water from the water bottle into the basin.
...and he knelt low to remove the sandals from the feet of his disciples.	Pick up the sandal from the box and show it to the group.
After removing the sandals from his disciples' feet, Jesus placed their feet into the basin, poured water over their feet and dried them on the towel that was wrapped around his waist.	Explain how the disciples feet would have been dirty, messy and stinky because they walked in sandals as they followed Jesus.

This act of service made Peter, one of Jesus’s disciples, very uncomfortable. When Jesus came to wash Peter’s feet, Peter moved his feet away, exclaiming: “Jesus, you’ll never wash my dirty, grimy feet...ever! I won’t let you. You’re my king!”

But Jesus replied to him, “Peter, if I don’t wash your feet, you will not be clean and you won’t really belong to me.”

Peter responded, “Fine Lord, but don’t wash my feet, wash my hands and my head also!”

So Jesus answered, “People who have bathed and are clean all over only need their feet washed.”

After Jesus washed all his disciples’ feet and put his robe back on, he sat down again and said to his disciples: “Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me your teacher and Lord, and you should, because that is who I am. And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other. I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you.”

After setting this example for his disciples, Jesus shared the following with his friends:

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” (John 13:34, NLT)

When we experience Jesus’s love like his disciples in today’s story, we receive a new command: to love others as we’ve been loved by Jesus! The command to love one another is not new, but to love one another in the same way that Jesus loves us is new!

Here’s an example of what that might look like:

Place all the items back in the box and place it in front of one of the students. Then, ask the students to pass the box around the room.

I hope you notice something as we pass this box around. Can you give away the box if you don’t first receive it?

Take student responses.

That’s right! We have to receive the box first before we can give it away. This is the new command we are given: Receive and experience Jesus’s love first, and then give it away and share that same love with others!



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God’s truth.

Ask students to say the Bible verse aloud together:

“But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you.” (John 13:34, NLT)

Open a discussion:

- **What’s so new about Jesus’s command?**
- **How does Jesus love us? In what ways have you experienced Jesus’s love for you?**
- **What do you feel like Jesus is inviting you to do or say in your own relationships?**

Ask students to read the following Bible verses:

“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” (Colossians 3:13, NLT).

“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” (Romans 15:7, NLT).

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters” (1 John 16, NLT).

What do you notice that all of these Bible verses have in common?

Take student responses.

All of these Bible verses speak of following Jesus’s example: loving as he loves us, forgiving as he forgives us and accepting others as Jesus accepts us. We’re invited to learn and receive from Jesus the love, acceptance and forgiveness he asks us to go share with others.

Close in prayer together.

Walk students through the A-C-T-S structure of prayer in relation to today’s lesson. For each step, briefly explain the type of approach to prayer (adore, confess, thank, seek God’s help). Lead students through the prayer utilizing the questions below for each step.

Adore - **What is something you love about God? What qualities do you see in God?**

Confess - **What is something you’ve done that you need to admit to God and ask for his forgiveness?**

Thank - **What is something God has done for which I can thank him?**

Seek God’s Help - **Who is someone you’d like God to help you share his love with?**

Then, take prayer requests and close the group in prayer.