



## Lesson 5: A New Love Online Plan

<b><u>Key Teaching Point</u></b>	The love of Jesus empowers me to love others.
<b><u>Bible Verse</u></b>	“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)
<b><u>Bible Passage</u></b>	“Jesus washes his disciples feet.” (John 13:1-17, NLT)
<b><u>Materials</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">03: “A New Command” Zoom slides</a></li> <li>● Glue (optional: for mystery bag preparation)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Mystery Bag (Optional)</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two popsicle sticks per student</li> <li>● Two index cards per student</li> </ul>

### **Relate** (10 minutes)

#### Welcome crew members.

Greet crew members as they sign on.

#### Icebreaker Options (choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week.)
- Rosebud: Ask students to share a highlight or success from the week (a rose), a challenge or disappointment from the week (a thorn) and something they are looking forward to doing or experiencing in the week ahead (a bud).
- Open a discussion with a question: “Who did something for you that made you feel loved? What did they do?”

#### Play a game.

##### Would You Rather? Round 1

Pull up the *Would You Rather?* [game slides](#).

Pull up the game slides and share your screen. Show students how to use the Zoom meeting reaction symbols (the hand clap and the thumbs up symbol) to show their choice. Find detailed instructions on how to do this [here](#). Flip through each slide one at

a time, allowing students a chance to respond. If time permits, call on students to share why they made their choices.

Or, choose another game from the [Zoom Playbook](#).



## Receive (10 minutes)

### Read God's Word.

Pull up the Zoom slides and share your screen so students can fill in the blanks below:

**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: love one another as I've loved you. What, then, makes Jesus's command a new command?**

Pull up the slide that shows Jesus's new command next to the other commands. Give students a minute to share their thoughts.

**When Jesus introduced this new command to his disciples, he also gave them an example to show them what he meant by this command. We're going to explore that Bible story today.**

If you use the mystery bag: Ask students to pull out their true/false flags out of their mystery bags. As you tell the Bible story, students will hold up a flag to the camera depending on whether they think each part of the story is true or false.

If you do not use the mystery bag: As you tell the Bible story, ask students to put their thumbs up in front of the camera when they think part of the story is true and to put their thumbs down in front of the camera when they think part of the story is false.

Tell the Bible story to your students but encourage them to pay attention to the details. When students indicate that part of the story is false, be sure to retell the story with the correct details again to reinforce the story. Use the script below as you tell the story.

**Just before Jesus was going to die on a cross for our sins and return to the Father in heaven, he gathered with his friends for one last soccer game.**

Students should indicate that this part of the story is false.

**Nope, that's not it! Jesus gathered with his friends for one last meal together. These were Jesus's final moments with his friends before he died so there was a lot he wanted to say and do before he died.**

**Before dinner, Jesus got up, took off his robe and tied a towel around his waist. He was preparing to wash his disciples feet! He began to pour orange juice into a basin...**

Students should indicate that this part of the story is false.

**Nope, that's not right! He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of his disciples. They were shocked! Foot-washing was usually a task reserved for the servants of the house, and the disciples considered Jesus their master and their teacher!**

**Jesus knelt low to remove the sandals from the dirty, dusty and sweaty feet of his dear friends and place their feet into the basin. He poured water over their feet and dried them with his hair.**

Students should indicate that this part of the story is false.

**Nope that's not it, although one time someone did serve Jesus by drying his feet with their hair! Jesus dried the disciples feet with the towel that was wrapped around his waist.**

**When Jesus came to wash his friend Peter's feet, Peter said, "Jesus, let me wash your feet."**

This part of the story is false. Students may not recognize that this part of the story is false, so you may need to pause here.

**Actually, that's not what Peter said. Peter was really uncomfortable that Jesus, his master, teacher and king, wanted to wash his feet. When Jesus came to wash Peter's feet, Peter actually said, "Jesus, you'll never wash my dirty 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 won't belong to me."**

**Peter responded, "Fine Lord, but don't wash my feet only, wash my hands and my head as well!"**

**But 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 introduced a new command to 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!**

**This raises the bar on how we love one another, because Jesus loved us extravagantly. He even died on a cross to show us that he loved us. Although It’s impossible for us to love like Jesus all do on our own, we need to receive Jesus’s love for ourselves so that we can love others in the same way that Jesus loves us.**



## **Respond (10 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:

- **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 with others?**

Read the following Bible verses aloud:

**“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).**

**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) and then encourage students to repeat the suggested prayer phrase or fill in the blank to personalize the prayer.

Adore - **You are a loving God who sent your only Son to die on the cross for me and for others. You are great and mighty, but you also serve humbly.**

Confess - **I'm sorry I did not show God's love when I \_\_\_\_\_.**

Thank - **Thank you for loving me. Thank you for giving me everything I need to love you and others!**

Seek God's Help - **I need your help to show love to \_\_\_\_\_.**

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