

# Acts-Revelation

1st, 2nd and 3rd John

1st John 1-5, 2nd John 1  
3rd John 1

Younger Verse

God loved us first. 1John 4:19

Older Verse

We love because God loved us first. 1John 4:19

Welcome Time

(Sing “Jesus Loves Me” or “Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children.”)  
What did we just sing about? How many of you know that God is love and that He loves you? Do you love God? We are going to talk about that today!

Bible Story

*The following is a summary of the Bible story to help you with your preparation. Please do **NOT** read to the children. Instead, study your Bible, using this summary as a guide, and make a note page to help you remember your plans for the lesson or questions you want to ask.*

This week, we are going to talk about three short books of the New Testament; 1st, 2nd and 3rd John. They were written by someone we have already talked about - John. But which John is it? It wasn't John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who wrote these books, it was Jesus' friend and disciple, James' brother. This is the same John that wrote the book of John that follows Matthew, Mark and Luke. The book of John is about Jesus' life when He lived on earth.

John wrote 1st, 2nd and 3rd John as letters. John was older when he wrote them and did so because those who received them needed encouragement and a little more teaching. They needed to be reminded of some things. These three letters were all written within 5 years and the main thing John wrote about in all three of them was God's love! John's first letter tells us that God showed His love for us by sending His one and only Son and making a way for us to be called children of God (1 John 4:9, 3:1). Do you know that when you sing “Jesus Loves Me,” there is a line that says “for the Bible tells me so?” We can also know God loves us because God's word, the Bible, tell us so. And do you remember us learning that God cannot lie, so if He says He loves us, then he does! But He also showed us by sending His Son.

We know that God loves each of us, but do we love God? I think all of us would probably say “yes,” but, do we *always* tell the truth? NO. We sometimes make mistakes and say things that are not right. So, how can God and others know if we really love God when we say we do? That is what John explains in his letters. John talks about two different kind of people, those who obey God and those who don't. He says that “love means that we do what God tells us” and that “we truly love God only when we obey him as we should, and then we know that we belong to him” (2 John 1:6; 1 John 2:5 CEV). Obeying God

Lesson Goals

Stress that loving God is more than just saying so, it's obedience.

means following the example that Jesus gave us when He lived (1 John 2:6). It means acting like Him and doing things the way He did them.

Are we always going to be able to do the right thing? No. We should do our best and we should ask God to help us, but we will make mistakes and John explains in his letters that if we sin (not doing what we know is right or doing what we know is wrong), we have an Advocate. What is an advocate? Have you ever seen a courtroom where a lawyer or an aide who knows the law is helping someone who doesn't understand the law and speaks for them. That is an advocate, someone who speaks in favor of us - and God does that. He also offers us forgiveness when we sin. 1st John 1:9 says that "God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."

John also talks about people who want us to believe another way. There are people who want to deceive you, or trick you into believing lots of strange things. John warns us in his letters not to let anyone deceive us. How can we know if someone is telling us the truth or trying to trick us? One thing you can do is watch how they act. John tells us that if they act like God, they belong to Him, but if they practice sin they belong to the devil. He also shares that those who belong to God know that God sent Jesus to earth and He came in a human body but was still God's Son (1 John 3:7-8; 4:2).

If you don't follow God, or have never accepted the love He has shown you, don't wait! God loved you enough to send His one and only Son because our hearts are dirty with sin. He wants to clean you up today. Will you let Him?

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

On two separate pieces of construction paper print out "We Love" and "God Loves." Review the Bible verse with your students asking them which came first. Have them place the paper in order according to who loved first.

**Prayer Time**

Pray with your students thanking God for His love that makes it possible for us to love. Also give your students time to ask God's forgiveness for any sin they haven't confessed yet.

**Clean Up/Snack time**

Encourage your students to follow Jesus' example this week and to walk in obedience to God.

Planning for December 12th  
Jude

## Preschool Lesson for 1st, 2nd and 3rd John

### God Loves Me

Provide your students with construction paper on which you have already written "God Loves Me" across the bottom. Have each student draw a self-portrait.

Who is that on your picture? And do you know what it says at the bottom of your picture? It says, "God loves me." God does love you. He loves Stefani and He loves Tony. God loves Jenny and He loves Ms. Amy. (Mention each child by name as you talk about God's love for them.) The Bible tells us that God loves us. (Open your Bibles to 1John 4:19 and point to this verse saying "God loved us first.") Do you know that God loved you so much that He sent His one and only Son for you? He sent Jesus as a gift for us, to show us how to live and to make a way for us to spend forever and ever with Him.

And if God loves you so much, you should show Him how much you love Him. You can show God that you love Him by being obedient to what He tells us in the Bible. You can show God we love Him by obeying your parents, and being kind to your brothers and sisters. You can even show God how much you love Him by sharing with your friends and not being selfish. Don't you want to spend time this week making sure that God knows you love Him?! What will you do?

Sing "Oh, How I Love Jesus."

Make heart bracelets.

---

## **Activities for 1st, 2nd and 3rd John**

- Be sure to continue practicing the books of the Bible, adding books as you learn them. (There are only two that remain, Jude and Revelation.)
  - Sing 1st John 4:7-8. “Beloved, let us love one another (echo) . . .”
  - Make Heart Bracelets  
Cut hearts out of construction paper and print “God Loves Me - 1 John 4:19” on each. Punch holes on each side of the heart and tie yarn in the holes. Fasten bracelets onto each child’s wrist using yarn.
  - Provide crossword puzzles, word searches and Bible verse coloring pages to reinforce this weeks lesson.
-