



Overview: Love (John the Apostle)



Story:

St. John the Apostle (not to be confused with John the Baptist) was the son of Zebedee (a Galilean fisherman) and Salome. He is the third disciple considered to be part of Jesus' "inner circle" with James (his brother) and Peter. According to Christian tradition, John is the author of three letters (1 John, 2 John, 3 John), the Gospel of John, and possibly the book of Revelation.

Key Bible Verses:

- Mary Magdalene ran to Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, (John 20:2)
- John and his brother, James, were nicknamed "sons of thunder." (Mark 3:17)
- John asked Jesus if he and James should call down fire from heaven to destroy a village that failed to show them hospitality. (Luke 9:54)
- John asked Jesus if he and James could sit on either side of His throne in heaven. (Mark 10:37)
- John cared for Jesus' mother. (John 19:26–27)
- John beat Peter in a race to Jesus' empty tomb. (John 20:4)
- John was a "pillar" of the church. (Gal. 2:9)

Lessons from John

John could speak impulsively with explosive outbursts, but through Jesus' love, John discovered truth, identity, and purpose. He learned what mattered most in his life was Jesus. John called himself "The disciple whom Jesus loved" because his identity was in Christ. He knew Jesus deserved the highest honor above all else in his life. John shared Jesus' love with everyone. Jesus loves us perfectly so we can share His love with others like John. **Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Cor. 16:14)**



Lesson: Love (John the Apostle)

Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Cor. 16:14)

What is love?

- Love means wanting the best for others, putting their needs first, speaking truth, avoiding evil, and protecting them, no matter what.
- Jesus offers us perfect love because He loves us no matter what we do, and His love protects us from our fears.

Identity in Christ

- Who am I is a question we all ask and must answer—the Apostle John knew he was "the disciple Jesus loved."
- When we accept Jesus' perfect love, we are secure knowing He loves and cares for us, and we can share that love with others.

How can I love other people like Jesus loves me?

- Be kind and helpful to others, put their needs before yours, speak the truth, don't let them do bad things without saying something.
- Loving like Jesus means caring deeply about others and doing what's best for them, even if it's hard.

Role-play

- Conversation Starter: Who makes you feel safe and loved?
Thought Challenge: Why does this person make you feel that way?
- Conversation Starter: Who do you admire and want to be?
Thought Challenge: Why do you want to be like that person?

Lessons

- John's identity was in Christ—not his feelings—he was loved by Jesus so wasn't controlled by negative thoughts, feelings, or people.
- When we feel secure and built up in Jesus' love, we love God and others how God created us to love.



Take-away: Love (John the Apostle)

Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Cor. 16:14)



John called himself, 'the disciple whom Jesus loved.' It became his identity and fueled his passion and love for Jesus.

Scripture: Love (John the Apostle)



L.I.G.H.T. Kingdom Kids

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Prov. 17:17)

One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, (John 13:23)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." (John 20:2)