

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	2	WORSHIP	Talking to God	14: Loving God

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod.= Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you have called me to love you with all that I am, heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today I am reminded especially of the opportunity I have to love you. All praise be to you, O God. Amen

Starter:

When I say 'LOVE' I need you to cross your arms over your chest like your giving yourself a great big hug. When I say 'HEART' I need you to make a heart shape with your hands. When I say 'SOUL' I need you to point both thumbs at your chest. When I say 'MIND' I need you to put your hands on your head. And when I say 'NEIGHBOUR' I need you to point at anyone else in the room.

Learning objectives:

To comprehend that God Himself is love and therefore the greatest virtue is love.

To learn that the one who loves God perfectly is the one who loves Him with the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will read to children a short passage from the Bible: “Jesus said, “LOVE the Lord your God with all your HEART and with all your SOUL and with all your MIND. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE your NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

The teacher will explain to the children that to love the Lord God with all one’s heart means to desire nothing but Him and His holy will. The heart is the centre of our being according to the scriptures and the teachings of the saints. It is the “deepest part” of our being, the foundation and guide of our life. What is in our heart, and what our heart desires, is what determines our whole life and activity.

To love God with all one’s soul means to love Him with every spiritual power and with the whole of one’s life. When one loves God with all his soul he loves Him and serves Him in whatever he does, doing all things “to the glory of God”.

To love God with all one’s mind is to love God’s Word, to serve God’s trust, to delight in God’s righteous commandments. The love of God with all one’s mind is the “love of the Truth”. The mind of man is the guide of his life, directed to truth by the purity of his heart.

To love God with all one’s strength is to be spiritually strong. It means to do everything to please Him, with all of one’s energy and power, to serve Him faithfully and patiently in all things until death. It is to struggle to resist sin and every evil.

2. The teacher will explain to children that if God is love, then having a personal relationship with God and loving God with our whole heart also means opening up our whole heart to receive God’s love. Opening your mind, and especially your heart, to receive God’s love is one of the most personal ways of loving God with your whole heart.

God is Love, and His love is very different from human love. God’s love is unconditional, and it’s not based on feelings or emotions. He doesn’t love us because we’re lovable; He loves us because He is love. He created us to have a loving relationship with Him, and He sacrificed His own Son (who also willingly died for us) to restore that relationship.

We are to love God with all that we are, including our thinking. Loving God fully includes not just obedience in body, commitment in will, and passion in feeling, but also thinking in a way that honours God.

The teacher will explain to children that when we love God with our minds by thinking rightly about him and reflecting on his nature, we are enabled to love Him in the way we think about all things. The way we think about everything in life can be an act of worship if we offer our minds to God and learn to think in his ways. Thus, we can love God with our minds, not only when specifically reflecting on Him, but also in every aspects of life.

3. *Create a origami heart.* Children will be invited to create a origami heart. The teacher will demonstrate and then guide the children through all the steps to help them make all the necessary foldings. While children are creating their origami heart emphasise that greatest virtue is love because God Himself is love.

Folding instructions: <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-hearts.html>

Resources:

Icon of the Holy Trinity, red paper or card

Review:

God is love so loving God makes us closer to Him and each other.

Follow Up:

Think during the next week of someone you could help.