

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Thirty Seven - Love Never Fails

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The birth of Jesus into the world shows God's love for His creation. He is not a distant God but the God who comes down to be with us — Emmanuel, God with us. We can now love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). Because the Spirit is within us, we can love like Jesus. Pray we would become a church marked not by power or status, but by the love of Christ.

- **Big Idea:** God's love is shown through Jesus — and through Jesus we can now love too!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Starter Conversation**

Ask the kids to describe God. What is He like? Write the attributes down if you can and see if love makes it on the board. Ask them what life would be like if God was all of these things except for love (powerful, big, in control, etc).

Finally, ask them to describe love. Is God's love different than our love?

Sing Together

Story - from 1 Corinthians 13

After the Spirit filled and empowered the followers of Jesus they went out and shared the good news of Jesus and the Kingdom of God with everyone they could. One man named Saul didn't like that so he, along with others, tried to stop these Jesus followers. But, Jesus appeared to Saul and transformed him. He even gave him a new name to show how he had a new identity as a follower of Jesus — his name became Paul.

Paul then went to cities all over the known world to also share the good news of Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Others, who were like Paul used to be, were now trying to stop him. He was beaten and thrown into prison more than once. While he was in prison, he wrote letters to the different cities he had visited where people began to follow Jesus. One city he was in for about a year and a half was called Corinth. Paul wrote to the Corinthians to remind them what it looks like to follow and obey Jesus. In part of that letter he wrote:

God's Church is a body made up of many different parts — different people with different functions. I know a lot of you think certain parts are more important than others but let me tell you about the most important thing all of us are called to do: love.

I could be the most amazing speaker, but without love I would just be a noisy sound. I could be wise and smart and hold the power of faith to do great things, but without love I am powerless. I could give everything I have to the poor and even give my own life to share the good news of Jesus, but if I do it without love I have done nothing.

Love is patient, kind, does not envy others, does not boast or brag or get filled with pride. Love is not rude or serve self before others. Love does not get irritated easily or keep track of the wrongs others do. Love does not find pleasure in wicked things but rejoices in the truth of God. Love puts up with anything, trusts God always, holds onto hope, and endures all hard things. Love never fails.

There are other good gifts God gives the body; like inspired prophetic speech, speaking and praying in other languages, knowledge and wisdom, etc. But all of those are for a season. We only have a limited power in those things, but when Jesus returns with his Kingdom in its' fullness, we will have no need for those partial powers. Love, hope, and faith are the things that will continue in fullness — and the greatest of these three good things is love. So practice love for one another, for God, and for the world who needs to know God's love! This is how God loved us, through Jesus who came and died and rose again to give us new life.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- How have you experienced God's love in your life?
- What is the most important role anyone can have in God's kingdom? To show God's love!
- Who is able to love? Important people? Powerful people? All people?
- Where does our ability to love come from?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank you for first loving us. Help us to also love you and love others. In Jesus' name, amen.

- **Craft:**

- Use the next two pages to make a craft which describes what love is. Color and cut out both wheels, then use a metal brad to connect them.
- OR use the last page to color and cut out a Christmas ornament

- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm.

Who can you bless this week as a way to show the love of Jesus to them?





