

Peter and God's Agape Love, John 21: 15-19

Welcome

Up Rules:

Sit up,

Look up,

Listen up,

Zip up,

Thumbs up

Memory Verse Jeremiah 31:3 :

- 1. Question:** Did you know that the New Testament Bible was originally written in Greek?

I want to show you an English Word:

Hold up sign, visual 1: LOVE

What does that word mean to you?

Here is the same word in the Greek Language

Flip sign over to reveal: Agapé, Phileō,

Agapé describes God's perfect, unfailing lovingkindness and *Phileō* describes a type of fellowship and deep friendship.

Yes, the one word in English has more than one word in Greek! Today's Bible verse talks about the *Agapé* love. It describes God's perfect, unfailing love.

Read verse from Bible, Jeremiah 31:3

Show visual 2 for children

"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

Have children read the words with you.

This Bible verse lets you know how much God's loves you and wants you to belong to His forever family. His love for you is everlasting!

Review: Play Memory Verse Song and Hold up visual. Find music on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/M4rEqDd3nBQ> or purchase One Way CD or DVD here: <https://cefpress.com/one-way-music-cd.html>

Bible Lesson: Peter learns of God's Agape Love: John 21: 15-17,

Teacher: Last week we learned how Jesus fixed breakfast for Peter, John and five other disciples one morning on the beach. What happened next? Let's see...

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you [agapé] love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I [phileō] love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Teacher: Jesus was giving Peter a job to do. He wanted Jesus to teach his children (Little ones or new believers, who believe in Him) about God's way.

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you [agapé] love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I [phileō] love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Teacher: Perhaps, because Peter denied Jesus three times, maybe he was saying he [phileō] loved Jesus, from feeling unable to serve God as he once thought, but Jesus knew the potential in Peter. He told Peter that God's lovingkindness will urge him to not only teach the young believers, but also take care of the needs of all the believers, too.

Application: Perhaps you've asked God to save you from the punishment of sin but you feel like your love for God is weak (compared to God's agapé love for you) and you can't tell others about Jesus. Maybe you've drifted back into your old selfish ways just like Peter did and you think God can't use you. God loves you very much and He needs you to help others know His agapé love for them too. He loved Peter too.

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you [phileō] love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you [phileō] love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I [phileō] love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.

Teacher: Our love is limited compared to God’s perfect lovingkindness. However, God can use you and needs your help. He has sent His Holy Spirit to help us tell others about Him. God’s Holy Spirit can help perfect His [agapé] love in us for others. God helped Peter too! After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter would become a leader in the early church helping many, many trust Christ as Savior! Even though at this time, Peter felt he couldn’t teach and care for God’s lambs and sheep, and love with God’s [agapé] love, Jesus knew he could and Peter did! Will you ask God to help you grow in His lovingkindness this week to help others know Him?

Teacher: John finished his Gospel with these words:

²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Teacher: *John wants us to know that his testimony of Jesus is true. We also have historic fact and the other Gospels that confirm his writings are true; plus, God’s Holy Spirit.*

Why did John write these words? Our memory verse a few weeks ago reminds us:

John 20:31: But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Teacher: God showed His agapé love for us by sending His Son to take the punishment for our sin. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior from the punishment of sin, God gives us His gift of eternal life. If you haven’t trusted Jesus as the Savior from the punishment of sin, won’t you make that decision today? Let us know in a comment or message and we will help you

learn more about what it means to believe in Jesus and receive His gift of eternal life.

Song: Salvation Poem (CEFPress and TheSalvationPoem.com)

Activity:

This Bible lesson makes me think of Mother's Day (or people who love and care for us). One thing we can do for our mother or the one who cares for us is to share God's agape' love with him/her. I thought we could make a Mother's Day (or Thinking of You) card for him/her to show your love & God's love.

1. Pause the video and go get a piece of paper and something to color with (markers, color pencils, or colors) and come right back, I will show you a card to make.
2. Have a sample card to show kids. Show how to fold the paper.
3. On the front write these words: God Love you and so do I (decorate the front); (You can pause the video while you do this.)
4. Now open the card, on the inside, write the words of our Bible verse, show them a sample. (You can pause the video while you do this.)
5. On the back, write your own special message to your Mom or special person, and be sure to sign your name. (Pause the video while you do this.)
6. Now, let's say a prayer for your mother or special person. Let's ask God to help us show His agape' love in our families and world!