

## Love One Another

May 22, 2022—Lesson 12

**Background Scripture:** Galatians 5:1-15 • **Lesson Scripture:** Galatians 5:1-15**Key Verse:** The entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (*Galatians 5:14*)**Faith Block:** I am free to give love!**Lesson Objective:** The children will discover that the love of Christ offers them freedom to serve and love others.**Materials Needed:** *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), happy-face stickers, markers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin).

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**A BEGINNING BLOCK**

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, clear a space in the classroom to facilitate ease of movement for the game “Love Freeze Tag” during the opening activity time.

**Welcome**

Refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for general instructions for this section.

**Opening Worship and Activity**

Refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for general instructions for this section.

Inform the children that today, they will hear how Jesus has set us free to show love to everyone.

**Say:** Let’s play a game of “Love Freeze Tag.” This game is played similar to regular freeze tag—except the person who is “it” is called Rule Maker. Rule Maker’s job is to tag and freeze as many children as possible. Once you are frozen, only a hug and the words “I love you” from another player can unfreeze you.

Explain the rules of freeze tag (how you have to stay still [“frozen”] if you have been tagged). Select the “Rule Maker” and play several rounds of the game, changing up the Rule Maker at the end of each round. Conclude after the time allotted for the activity has expired.

**Ask:** How did it feel to be frozen? (*Pause for responses.*) It’s not a good feeling to be frozen in place and unable to move. How did it feel to get unfrozen? (*Pause for responses.*) Getting unfrozen is like being set free. Jesus has set us free. But we must be careful what we do with our freedom.

**B BIBLE STORY BLOCK**

Refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for general instructions for this section.

**Say:** In today’s Bible story, Paul shares a message with the Gentile Christians. The Gentile Christians were being told that they must follow a rule from the Law of Moses called *circumcision*. This rule was a sign of the covenant relationship between God and the Jewish people. It was not a rule for the Gentile Christians to follow. Listen to find out the one command or rule that sums up the whole Law.

**The Bible Story****Love One Another**

The apostle Paul shared a message with the *Gentile* (non-Jewish) Christians. Obeying only one law will not make you right with God. You would have to obey every law perfectly. But that is impossible. Jesus Christ has set you free. So, live your life as a person who is free.

Having faith and trust in Jesus is what matters to God. Do not allow anyone to make you forget that Jesus has called you to live free. But you are not free to sin. You are free to serve others in love. The whole Law can be summed up this way: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

**Ask:** What is the one rule that sums up the whole Law? (*“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*)

**Bible Story Application**

Refer to the lesson 12 Bible Story Application (*page 63*) and teach the children the action song “Love Your Neighbor.”

### ☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for instructions on presentation. The script for Pax appears below.

**Pax:** Hello, everyone.

**Teacher:** Hello, Pax. How has your week been?

**Pax:** It’s been a good week. My mom is helping me to learn the Ten Commandments. And I’m doing a good job of obeying most of them.

**Teacher:** That’s great, Pax! We heard in today’s lesson that it’s not easy to obey every command perfectly. But there is one command or rule that summarizes the whole Law. And we all can obey it. Class, can you tell Pax what it is? *(Pause for responses.)*

**Pax:** Wow! *To love your neighbor as yourself.* That means that I should show the same love to others that I want shown to me. My neighbor is very old. On trash pickup day, I can move her trash can to the curb for her. If I were old, I would like that. I bet she would like it too. What about you, boys and girls—what do you plan to do this week to show your love? *(Pause for responses.)*

**Pax:** We are going to have an awesome week of serving others in love. Bye bye—I will see you next week!

### C STACKS OF FUN

Refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for general instructions for this section.

#### Freedom to Serve Others

Read the words on the sign “In Jesus Christ, I am free to . . . .” Invite the children to draw a line from the sign

to the picture(s) that show(s) what Jesus has set them free to do. Discuss ways that they can show love by serving others. **(A line should be drawn to all pictures except the one depicting two little girls fighting.)**

#### Trace the “I’m Free to Love Others!” Flag

Invite the children to trace and color the flag in their pupil books; they may then decorate it, using stickers. As they complete the activity, read the words on the flag together.

### D CLOSING BLOCK

**Say:** Today, we heard the apostle Paul’s message. The Gentile Christians were being told to obey one law, so that they could be right with God. But Paul told them that was wrong. They were made right by God by having faith and trusting Jesus as their Savior. The apostle Paul told the Gentile Christians that Jesus had set them free. What were they set free to do? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, they were set free to love their neighbors as themselves. This one command is so important that it summarizes the whole Law. What are some things we can do to serve others in love? *(Pause for responses.)* This week, show someone that you love him or her by doing something kind for the person. Let’s pray together now.

Refer to page 7 of this teacher’s guide for instructions on what to do prior to and during the closing prayer.

**Pray:** Dear God, thank You for the freedom that Jesus has given us. Help us to remember how important it is to love others like we love ourselves. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Refer to pages 7-8 of this teacher’s guide for instructions on how to close out the session and engage the children until parents/guardians arrive.

## NOTES