

# Real Love

## Lesson 9



**Scripture:** James 2:1-4, 8, 9; Romans 15:7










**Bible Memory:** Romans 12:9, 10, 13

**Focus:** ♥ Love and accept everyone.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

We are different colors and sizes; we have different failures and successes. But God loves us the same. Regardless of our appearances or experiences of life, we are equal in His eyes. But in one way, we're all the same—we have one common need. We all were lost, so God's Son died for all of us. That's amazing! Take time to thank God for loving and saving you. Ask Him to help you in your efforts to treat others equally and to ♥ love and accept everyone.

## Lesson 9 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>think about times they don't love and accept everyone.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Friend/Enemy Tag</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Paper People</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 colors of construction paper, timer</li> <li>• paper, markers, pencils</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help students <i>tell what God's Word says about loving and accepting everyone.</i></p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> James 2:1-4, 8, 9; Romans 15:7</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Romans 12:9, 10, 13</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Greeter reproducible page, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 9</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 7</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, pencils</li> <li>• Bibles</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>identify ways to love and accept everyone.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Love in Action</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Circles of Love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 9</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Circles of Love printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, pencils</li> <li>• pencils, Bibles</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>choose to love and accept everyone.</i></p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Just Pray</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Paper People, Take 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 9</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• paper people made during Focus In, pencils</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **think about times they don't love and accept everyone.**

### Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step Friend/Enemy Tag

Divide the class into three teams. Give each preteen on a team the same color of construction paper to hold. SAY: **Secretly decide which team will be your friend and which team will be your enemy.** Give teams time to do this. **Let's play a game of Friend/Enemy Tag.** Choose someone to be the first tagger. **The tagger's goal is to tag someone from the enemy's team before that person can get with a friend and put their hands on each other's shoulder. If the tagger tags you before you do that, you are out. The tagger's strategy is to get rid of all his team's enemies in less than one minute.** After a minute, stop the game. Then play a couple more times, each time choosing a tagger from a different team. Then have preteens sit down. **Although we may not call others our enemies, we sometimes treat people that way.**

ASK: **When was a time that was hard for you to love someone and accept him or her?** Accept responses.  
**What makes it hard for you to love and accept others?**

SAY: **At one time or another, it can be hard for us to love and accept others. Let's dig into the Bible and see what it says about how we should ♥ love and accept everyone.**

### Option Paper People

Distribute the supplies. Tell preteens to draw a large outline of a person on their papers. SAY: **On your paper people, draw and/or write things that would make this person hard for you to love and accept.** Give preteens time to work. Make sure that you make a paper person too. When preteens are finished, let volunteers share their paper people, describing them and reading what they wrote.

ASK: **When was a time that was hard for you to love someone and accept him or her?** Accept responses.

SAY: **At one time or another, it can be hard for us to love and accept others. Let's dig into the Bible and see what it says about how we should ♥ love and accept everyone.**

## Focus

♥ Love and accept everyone.

### Materials

3 colors of construction paper (1 sheet per preteen),  
timer



### Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, give individual students or pairs of students construction paper to hold.

### Materials

paper, markers, pencils



### Note

If you choose to do the Live It Out Option activity, students will need their paper people for that activity.



Consider giving some examples of things that would make people hard to love and accept.

## Focus

♥ Love and accept everyone.

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **tell what God's Word says about loving and accepting everyone.**


## Bible Background for the Teacher

In his letter to Jewish Christians, James includes this warning against showing favoritism. In this context, the sin of favoritism is the practice of judging others on the basis of their appearances and successes. Some versions translate this as showing “respect of persons” or even “snobbery.”

When Jesus was asked which of the commandments was greatest, He first named the commandment to love God with one's whole being (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5), and then He added this command: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:28-34). This law is given by the King of kings. It is the supreme law that embraces all other laws governing human relationships.

Two issues surface from James's practical treatment of this timeless problem. One involves the Christian's example. Can a person claim to be a genuine Christian and show partiality? The other issue centers on the true worth of an individual. God's response from His position of grace should determine the value we place on all people. The apostle Paul gives a similar admonition in Romans 15:7. Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners. He continues to love us and forgive our sins. He puts up with our many failings. In the same way, we should “bear with the failings” of our brothers and sisters (v. 1).

### Materials

Bibles, 4 copies of The Greeter reproducible page,  Activities for lesson 9, pencils

### Notes

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

### Teaching Tip

Today's Scripture may raise questions about issues such as racism, sexism, and distinguishing people by class. Emphasize God's answer to these problems: we should love our neighbors—period.

## Bible Exploration James 2:1-4, 8, 9; Romans 15:7

Ask preteens to turn in their Bibles to the contents page (print or digital). SAY: **Find the book of James. Raise your hand when you see whether it's in the Old Testament or New Testament.** Let a volunteer share that it's in the New Testament. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to James 2:1-4, 8, 9. **Listen for what God's Word says about loving and accepting others.** Ask volunteers to read the verses aloud.

ASK: **From this Scripture passage, what did you learn about loving and accepting others?** Accept responses.

**What is the “royal law”? Who gave this law?** (Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus. [See Mark 12:28-34.]

Ask for four volunteers who would like to read and be in a skit. If you have a small class, you could read a part and/or let preteens read more than one part. Give them each a copy of the skit, and assign parts. When they're ready, have them present the skit. When finished, thank them for their participation.

ASK: **How do you feel about what happened?** Accept responses.

**If the greeter had been following Jesus' command to love his neighbors as he loves himself, what would the greeter have done?** (paid as much attention to the poor man as he had to the rich man and also given the poor man a good seat)

**How might a person feel if he sees someone else being favored above himself?** (The person might feel unimportant or unloved.)

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to Romans 15:7, and have a volunteer read the verse aloud. Then distribute the leaflets, and have students look

at the activity Love God's Way. Do the page together as a class. Ask volunteers to read the sentences, telling how they would finish them. (Answers: 1=a; 2=c; 3=b; 4=c)

ASK: **Name some examples of people whom Jesus accepted though others didn't.** (Samaritan woman, tax collectors Zacchaeus and Matthew, people who were sick or disabled, sinners)

**What's the biggest reason we should accept others?** (Christ accepted us.)

SAY: **The Bible couldn't be more clear—God is not pleased when we show favoritism or discriminate and treat some people better than others. God desires for His followers to ♥ love and accept everyone.**

## **Bible Memory** Romans 12:9, 10, 13

<sup>9</sup>“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

<sup>13</sup>Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Continue to display the Romans 12 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have preteens find Romans 12:9, 10, 13 in their Bibles, and ask volunteers to read the verses aloud.

Challenge preteens to work together to come up with motions to go along with the key words in the Bible Memory. After the motions have been decided, ask all the students to say the Bible Memory while doing the motions.

SAY: **When we ♥ love and accept everyone as God wants us to, we honor others above ourselves—no matter what they look like or how much money they have. When we ♥ love and accept everyone, we share with people in need—no matter the color of their skin or where they live.**

### **Materials**

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 7



### **Note**

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

### **Optional Bible Skill Builder**

Print and use the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 9 printable file.



## Focus

♥ Love and accept everyone.

# Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help students **identify ways to love and accept everyone.**

### Materials

Activities for lesson 9,  
Bibles, pencils



### Teaching Tip

If you have an uneven number of students, you can be someone's partner.

## Quick Step Love in Action

Have preteens pair up. SAY: **Think of one way you could show love for your partner right now, and do it!** Pause as preteens do this. **Now let's pretend that our partners are someone we don't know very well and don't usually talk to. Think of one way you could show love for your partner right now, and do it!** Pause as preteens do this. **Now let's pretend that our partners are our enemies. Think of one way you could show love for your partner right now, and do it!** Pause as preteens do this.

ASK: **Which is easier: to show love to a friend, to someone we don't know well, or to an enemy?** Accept responses.

Have students turn in their leaflets to the activity Love in Action. Read the instructions. Tell preteens they can work alone on the page or with their partners. Tell students that for each situation they should first write what God's Word says and then give a specific way they could do that. Encourage them to write things they could actually do. When everyone is finished, have a volunteer read the first caption and the question. Then the volunteer can tell how he (or he and his partner) answered the question. (Answers: There are obviously many ways love and acceptance can be shown. 1=mourn/cry with her; 2=share with them; 3=love him, do good to him; 4=be patient and gentle; 5=honor her, don't be proud, live in harmony with her; 6=be willing to associate with him/be his friend) Discuss with students that it's not always easy to love and accept others. SAY: **To ♥ love and accept everyone can be hard. But that's what God wants His followers to do.**

## Option Circles of Love

Ask for three volunteers to stand and form a circle. SAY: **This little circle represents our family. For the most part, we love and accept family members.** Ask a few more volunteers to join the circle. **This larger circle represents our friends. For the most part, we love and accept our friends.** Ask a few more (or the rest of the preteens) to join the circle. **This much larger circle represents people we don't know well, people we are not friends with, people we don't talk to or associate with, people we don't understand, and even people we may consider enemies. It can be hard at times to love and accept our family and friends, but even harder to accept these other people.** Have preteens sit down.

Distribute copies of Circles of Love. Read the instructions, and ask preteens to write names in the circles. Tell them that no one else will see their papers. Then ask volunteers to find and read aloud the Scripture passages listed on the page. SAY: **In the outer circle, beside the names of those you find hard to love and accept, write a specific way that you could accept and show love to each person.** Give students time to work. When they're finished, ask volunteers to share what they wrote down (but don't have them share names). **To ♥ love and accept everyone can be hard. But that's what God wants His followers to do.**

### Materials

copies of *Resources* CD  
Circles of Love printable file  
(1 per student), pencils, Bibles



Offer help to students who struggle with writing. Consider putting key vocabulary words and/or phrases on the board.

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **choose to love and accept everyone**.

## Quick Step Just Pray

SAY: **Jesus loved** (do the sign for *love*: the hands cross over the heart) **us and accepted** (do the sign for *accept*: the hands pull something toward the chest to indicate the concept of taking possession) **us so much that He died on the cross** (form a cross with fingers) **for our sins. Now He wants us to ♥ love** (the hands cross over the heart) **and accept** (the hands pull something toward the chest to indicate the concept of taking possession) **everyone**. Repeat what you just said, and ask preteens to do the signs with you.

Then have preteens turn in their leaflets to the activity Just Pray. SAY: **Think about people you find hard to love; write a few of their names in the space provided. Then think about people you find hard to accept; write a few of their names in the space provided.** Pause as preteens work. **The next time you are tempted to not love or accept someone, remember how Jesus loved** (do the sign) **and accepted** (do the sign) **you. Instead of pushing someone away or ignoring someone or mistreating someone, ♥ love** (do the sign) **and accept** (do the sign) **everyone**. When preteens are done, tell them to take their leaflets and spread out as much as possible in your room. Encourage preteens to silently pray their prayers to God. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer.

## Option Paper People, Take 2

If you did the Focus In Option activity, use the paper people preteens created. (If you did not, let preteens create them now. Distribute the supplies. Tell preteens to draw a large outline of a person on their papers and draw and/or write things that would make this person hard for them to love and accept.) SAY: **Our papers show why some people are hard to love or accept. Now think of a few people whom you find hard to love and accept. Write on your paper people some specific ways that you will choose to show love and acceptance to these people. Remember—we are to ♥ love and accept everyone because Jesus Christ accepted us. And this brings praise to God.** Pause as preteens work.

SAY: **The next time you're tempted to not love or accept someone, remember how Jesus loved and accepted you. Instead of pushing someone away or ignoring someone or mistreating someone, ♥ love and accept everyone.** Close with a time of directed prayer. Tell students that you'll give some ideas they can pray about and then pause as they silently pray. PRAY: **Begin your prayer by thanking God for loving and accepting you.** Pause. **Ask God to help you love someone you find hard to love.** Pause. **Ask God to help you accept someone you find hard to accept.** Pause. **Ask for God's help in loving and accepting everyone.** Pause. **Thank You, God, for loving and accepting each one of us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Focus

♥ Love and accept everyone.

## Materials

Activities for lesson 9, pencils




## Tech Tip

Preteens can go online to find video examples of how to do the signs.

## Materials

paper people made during the Focus In Option activity (or paper, markers), pencils



 If you have students who struggle with writing, offer preteens the option of drawing or just thinking about it.

## Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

