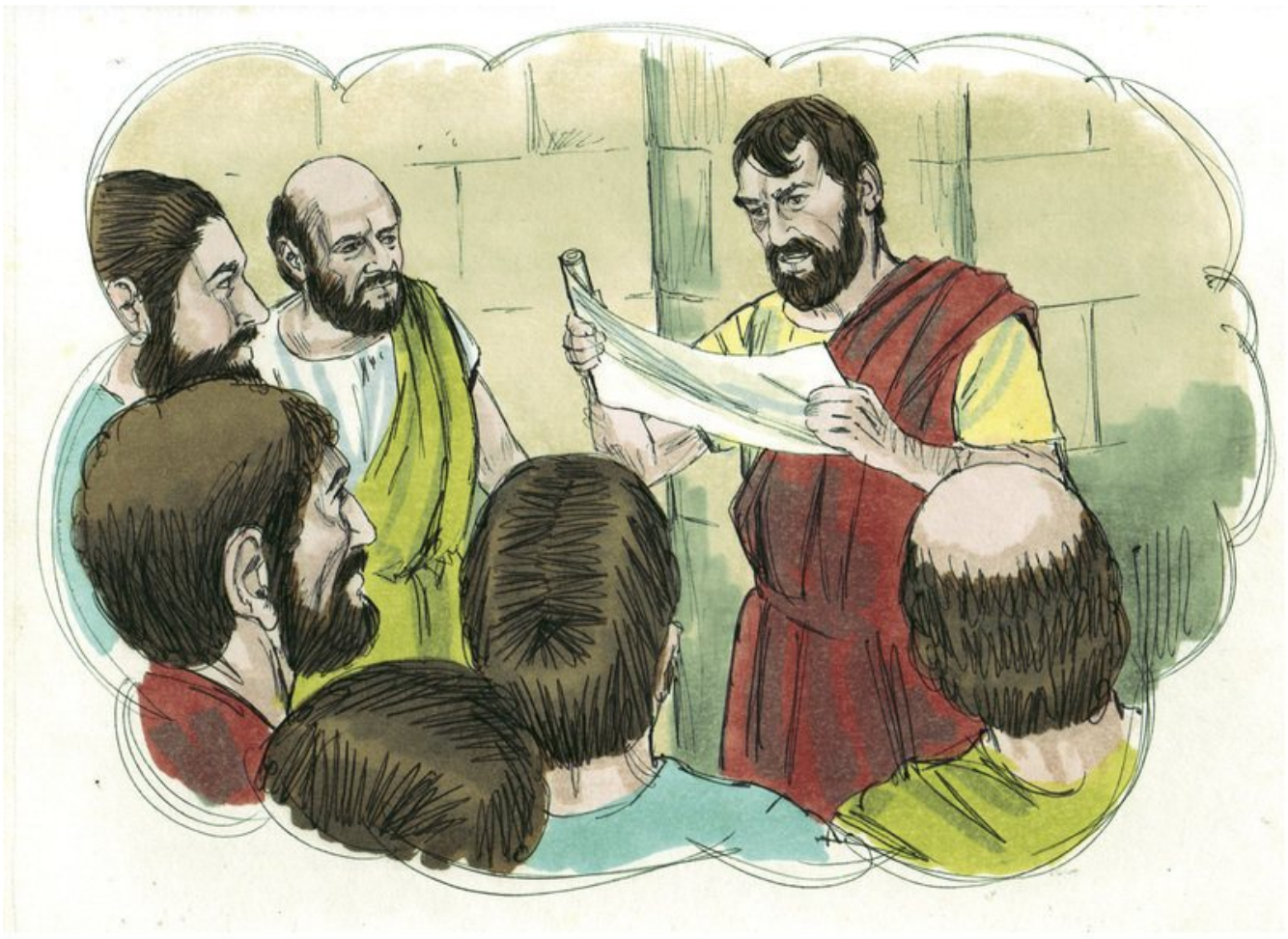
GENESIS TO REVELATION | LETTER LESSON

We Love Because God Loved Us

1 John 4:7-21



YOUR BIBLE READING

God's first love leads believers toward visible care for one another.

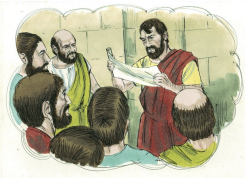
Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Love Begins with God

1 John 4:7-21



First John is a letter, and this passage asks believers to love one another because love comes from God. Knowing God is not separated from the way people treat their neighbors. The writer speaks strongly: a life without love does not show knowledge of God, because God is love. This lesson concerns more than claiming a special feeling or using religious words while disregarding the person standing nearby.

God's love was shown by sending his only Son into the world so that people might live through him. The passage does not begin with human beings succeeding at love and then receiving a reward. It begins with God's action. Jesus is described as the saving sacrifice for sins. The gift addresses what separates people from God and shows love as costly, active care rather than admiration offered only from a distance.

Because God loved in this way, believers ought to love one another. No one has seen God, the writer explains, yet loving care makes something of God's presence visible among people. If they love one another, God remains in them and his love reaches its intended expression. The unseen God is not made into an object someone can display; the lesson points instead toward the relationships shaped by his love.

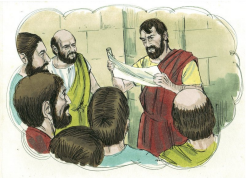
The writer also speaks of the Spirit given by God and testifies that the Father sent the Son as Savior of the world. Acknowledging Jesus as God's Son belongs to remaining in God. The message joins faith in Jesus with the love of God already known and trusted. It is a letter lesson about that shared life, not a new story about an invented family learning to feel affection.

Remember: Love received from God is meant to reach a real neighbor.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Love Shown toward a Visible Neighbor

1 John 4:7-21



The passage returns to the statement that God is love. Those who remain in love remain in God, and God remains in them. The writer speaks of love being brought to maturity so that believers may have confidence in the day of judgment. Their hope is not based on hiding from God or imagining that his purpose is to keep them constantly terrified. Love gives their relationship with him a different direction.

Mature love drives out fear connected with punishment. This is not a medical diagnosis of anyone who feels anxious or a command that children must instantly stop being afraid. The passage concerns confidence in God's love rather than a contest over who has the calmest feelings. A frightened person can still be loved, can still pray, and can still receive patient help from someone trustworthy while working through what troubles them.

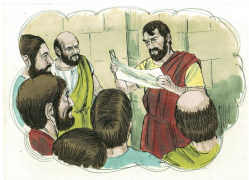
The writer explains that people love because God loved first. Then he gives a direct challenge: someone who claims to love God while hating a brother or sister is contradicting that claim. The neighbor can be seen and encountered. If the person refuses love there, a claim about loving the unseen God does not settle the problem. Their words and treatment of a real person need to agree.

The command is therefore clear: loving God is to be joined with loving the brother or sister. Such love is not only warm emotion. It can involve listening, truthful speech, practical help, and a willingness to repair a wrong. It can also include safe boundaries. The passage does not require accepting abuse. Its movement is from the love God has already shown through Jesus toward a visible response in the lives of those who receive it.

Pause and think: What action could make your words of care more trustworthy to someone you meet today?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Give Care a Visible Shape



Think of a kind word that needs an action beside it. If you tell someone they matter but never allow them a turn, the words become difficult to trust. A present-day example might be sharing the rules of a game patiently rather than laughing when another person is confused. The useful question is what the other person will actually experience from your response.

God's love does not depend on your being able to produce a cheerful feeling whenever asked. You can feel anxious, sad, or uncertain and still receive care. Tell a trusted adult what is troubling you. The passage's words about fear concern love and punishment; they are never a reason to accuse someone of having failed at faith because they need emotional or medical support.

Loving a neighbor does not mean agreeing with every action or giving up safety. You can name a wrong, ask for help, and set suitable boundaries while refusing to treat a person as worthless. An adult can help with a difficult relationship. Let the love described in the letter lead toward truthful, practical care rather than pressure to hide pain or pretend harm is harmless.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

God loved first through Jesus, and that love calls believers to care for the neighbors they can see.

What action could make your words of care more trustworthy to someone you meet today?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Who loved first in this passage?

2. What must be joined with a claim to love God?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ God's love invites confidence rather than terror of punishment.
- ☐ Love for God must be joined with care for a visible neighbor.
- ☐ The letter explains that love comes from God and is shown through Jesus.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw one kind sentence beside an action that would make the sentence true in practice.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Love received from God is meant to reach a real neighbor.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: 1 John 4:19-21

A thoughtful conversation

Explain Jesus' saving sacrifice gently without making children feel personally responsible for his suffering. The passage's fear language concerns confidence before judgment; ordinary fear, anxiety, or trauma is not proof of deficient faith. Keep love connected with truthful care and safe boundaries. Loving someone never requires accepting abuse, concealing harm, or denying a need for professional support.

Activity answers

1. God loved first and showed that love through Jesus.
2. Real love and care for a brother or sister who can be seen.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, thank you for loving first; help us give that care a truthful, visible shape. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on 1 John 4:7-21. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 62_1Jn_04_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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