



Story: Love is...

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 10 Sheets of [Cardstock](#) (8.5" x 11")
- 10 3 mil Laminating [Film](#)

DIRECTIONS

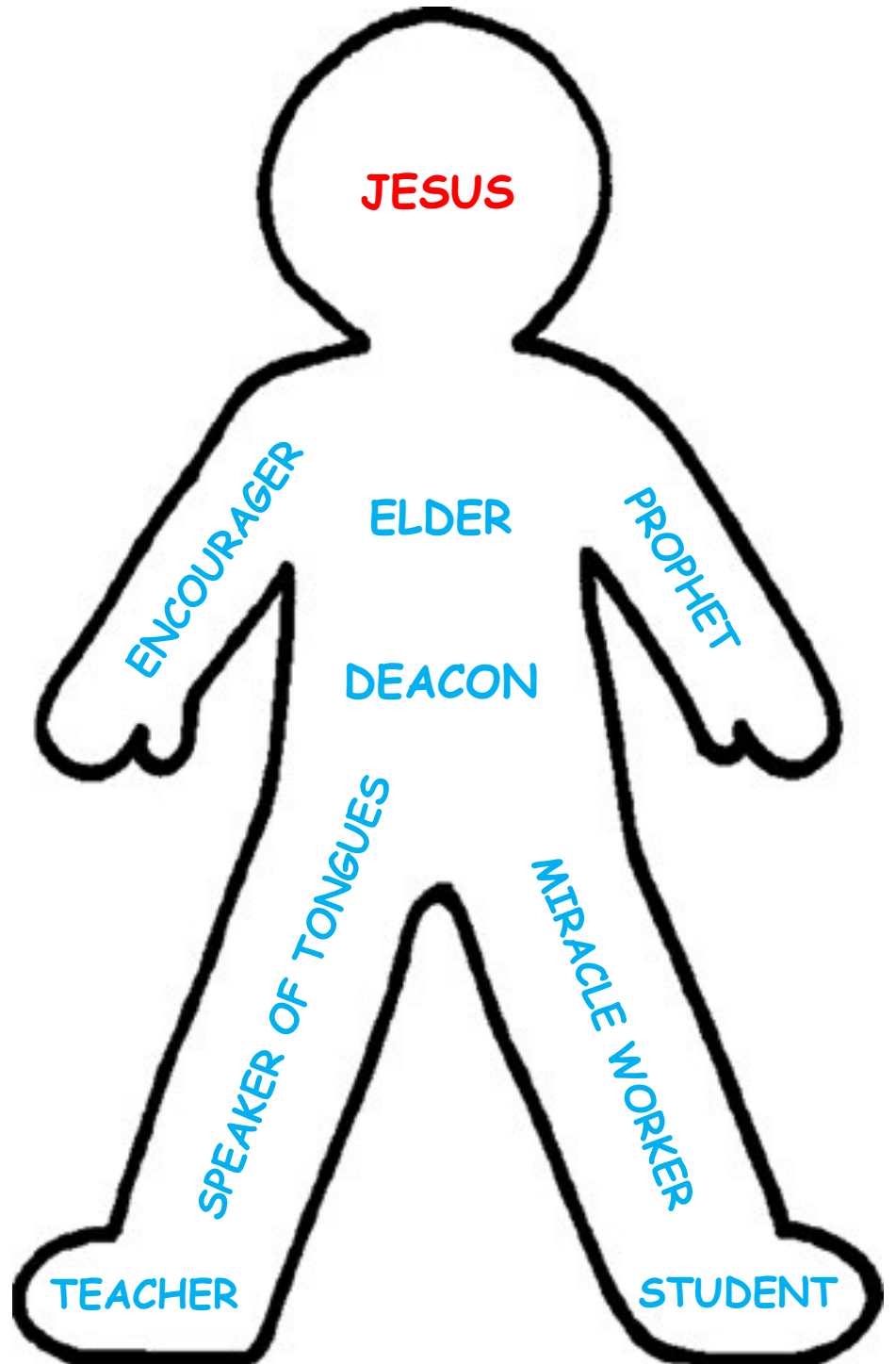
- Print pages 2-13 two-sided. Laminate the story pages.
- Print pages 14-21 two-sided. Cut the "letters" along the gray line. Laminate all the letters and cut them apart.
- As students arrive, give them a few letters and ask them to look up the verses and fill in the blanks using a transparency (wet erase) marker.
- During class, read the story while holding up the pictures. When you come to the verses in the lesson, have the students take turns reading their "letters." At the end of class, they should put their "letters" in the correct "mailbox" (see Epistles Mailbox Bulletin Board).

Clip Art: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

Illustrations: Free Bible Images
www.freebibleimages.org

Graphics: @Phillip Martin
www.religion.phillipmartin.info

1 CHURCH



Hold up picture:

Remember back to our very first lesson? The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth how they were all apart of one body of Christ. Each member had a different gift or talent to use in the service of God. Some were prophets, some were teachers, some worked miracles, etc.

Well Paul wanted them to know that no one talent was more important than another talent. No matter what role they had in the church, they needed to have the right attitude. Paul said the most important attribute to have is...can you guess? **(LOVE)**

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up the picture:

We're going to spend most of our time in 1 Corinthians chapter 13, so everybody turn there in your Bibles. Let's read these verses.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

1 Cor. 13:1 – If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Cor. 13:2 – If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Cor. 13:3 – And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

Ask / Discuss:

Imagine you are trying to read the Bible and someone stands up in class and starts clanging cymbals together...how annoying would that be? That's not showing love or consideration for one another is it?
(No it's not)

We can do all sorts of good deeds, like feeding the poor, but Paul says if we don't do those things with love, we are what? *(Nothing)*

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up picture:

The next section in chapter 13 is quoted often. You might have heard it before...

Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

1 Cor. 13:4-5 – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

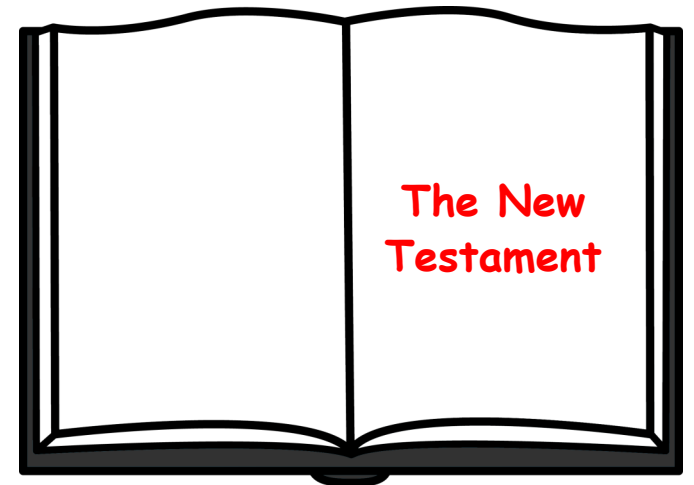
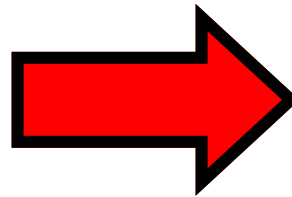
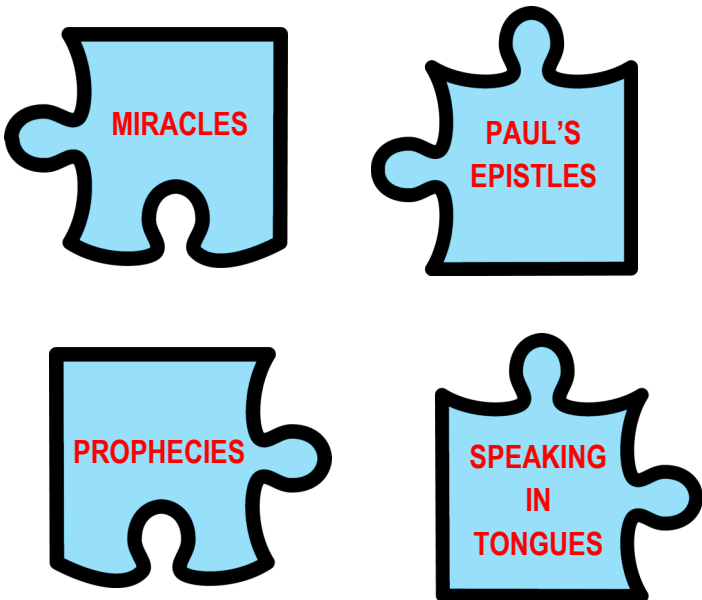
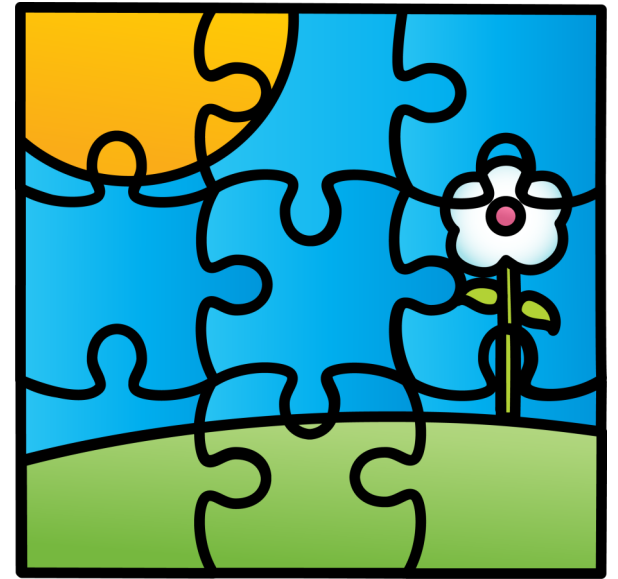
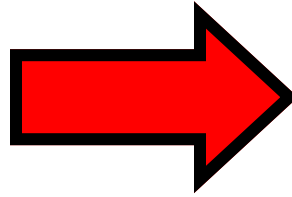
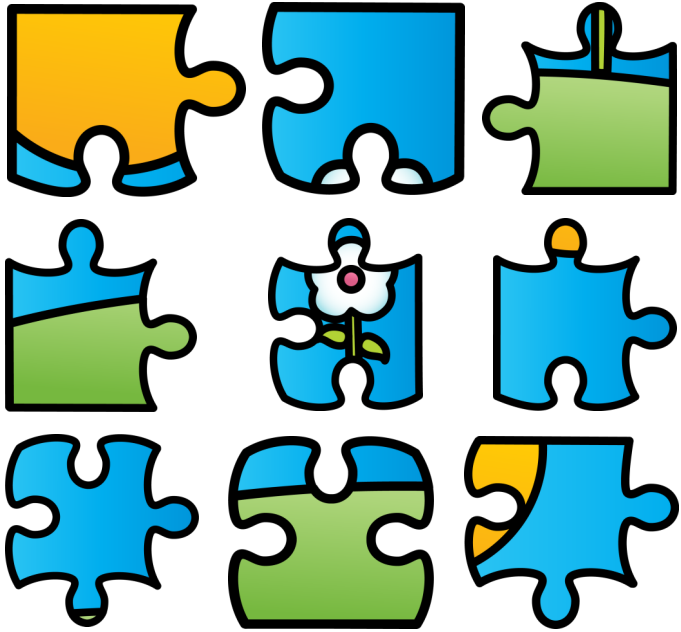
1 Cor. 13:6-8a – does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails,

Ask / Discuss:

Have you ever heard those verses before? *(Answers might vary...maybe at a wedding)* Sometimes it's good to reread these verses to yourself, but put your name in place of the word “love,” like this:

Teacher is patient, *Student 1* is kind and is not jealous; *Student 2* does not brag and is not arrogant...”

Reading it that way will help us to see our own actions and attitudes, and see if we are measuring up to God's standards for love.



Hold up picture:

Have you ever wondered why we don't have miracles or speaking in tongues today? Well in the next section of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul explains why there was a need for all these different gifts and talents in the early church and what will happen to them. I'm going to read it while you follow along.

Read Verses (NASB):

1 Cor. 13:8-12 - but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Ask / Discuss:

These verses might be a little difficult to understand, but I want you to think of a puzzle. When you have a bunch of puzzle pieces, you don't have the whole picture yet; you only have a part of it. Remember that the early Christians did not have the completed NT to refer to. That's why they had different gifts of miracles, prophecies, and speaking in tongues, along with Paul's letters. Everyone had a little piece of the puzzle and they needed to put their pieces together to make the Word of God complete. But once the puzzle, the New Testament, was completed, they would no longer need the spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit and those gifts would be done away with. Does that make sense? **(Yes)** Paul also describes it as looking in a dim mirror, the image isn't as clear as seeing someone face-to-face.

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



Hold up picture:

Paul then finishes the chapter with another famous verse:

Let the students take turns reading the “letters” (NASB):

1 Cor. 13:13 - But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Ask / Discuss:

Paul lists the three great attributes we should have, but which one is the greatest? (**Love**)



COLOSSIANS

Hold up picture:

Let's look at one more verse, but this one is in Paul's letter to the church in Colossae.

Let the students take turns reading the "letters" (NASB):

Col. 3:12-14 – So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other...just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Ask / Discuss:

Paul again lists several attributes that we need to have as Christians...compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness. But he says above all these others, to put on love. Why is love so important? *(Love is what bonds us in unity—in one body.)* Love is what makes all these other attributes easier. It's hard to be compassionate or kind towards someone, if you don't first love that person. Paul wants these brethren, and us today, to have a loving attitude toward each other and all mankind.

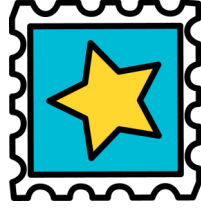
(After the lesson, have the students put "The Epistles" in the correct mailboxes.)

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

1 Cor. 13:1

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #1

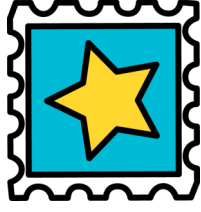
If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but do not have _____, I have become a
noisy _____ or a clanging cymbal.

1 Cor. 13:2

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #2

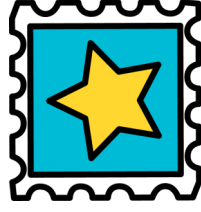
If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all
mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all
_____, so as to remove mountains, but do
not have _____, I am nothing.

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

1 Cor. 13:3

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #3

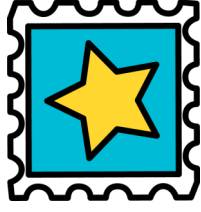
And if I give all my possessions to feed the
_____, and if I surrender my body to be
burned, but do not have _____, it profits
me nothing.

1 Cor. 13:4-5

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #4

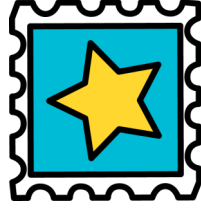
Love is patient, love is _____ and is not
jealous; love does not _____ and is not
arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not
seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into
account a wrong suffered,

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

1 Cor. 13:6-8a

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #5

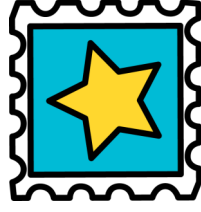
[Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but
rejoices with the _____; bears all things,
believes all things, _____ all things, endures
all things. Love never _____,

1 Cor. 13:8-12

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #6

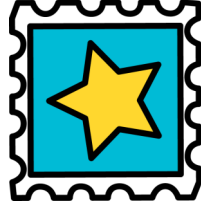
...but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away;
if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge,
it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy
in part; but when the _____ comes, the
_____ will be done away.... For now we see in a
mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but
then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

From: Paul



To: The Corinthians

From: Paul



To: The Colossians

1 Cor. 13:13

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #7

But now _____, _____, love, abide
these three; but the greatest of these is
_____.

Col. 3:12-14

Yr 3 / Qtr 4 / Less 4a / #8

So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and
beloved, put on a _____ of compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing
with one another, and forgiving each other..just as
the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all
these things put on _____, which is the perfect
bond of _____.