As I Have Loved You KZ Lesson Sun Am 3/21/21

# Memory Verse: John 15:12 (NKJV)

**12**This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Target Thought: We love others the way Jesus loves us.

This morning I have a few pieces of candy. As you can see, they come in many different flavors. There are lemon, cherry, grape, strawberry, and butterscotch.

One thing I have noticed is that when you offer to share your candy and allow people to choose the flavor they want, people can be very picky about the flavor they choose. My experience is that when I do this, I almost always end up with butterscotch left over when all of the other flavors are gone.

I don't know why so many children won't choose the butterscotch candy. Maybe it is because their flavor is different from the other candy. Maybe it is because they don't like the color of the wrapping paper. Whatever the reason may be, I always end up with butterscotch leftovers.

Sometimes we treat people the same way some people treat this candy. When children play games, some children are always the last to be chosen. Maybe it is because they are just a little bit different. Perhaps they have a physical handicap or maybe their skin is a different color. Whatever the reason might be, the other children just won’t choose them. Sometimes we judge people based on if they are different or if there is something we don’t like or understand about them.

We need to love others, not based on the way treat us, but based on how Jesus loves us. Sometimes it isn’t easy to be nice or forgiving. Sometimes other people don’t treat us right but if we will obey Jesus and love them He will make us able to do it and reward us for it. Why does God want us to love everyone? *Because God is love.*

The Bible teaches us that we are to love one another.  Read John 13:34. This is a commandment.  God wants us to love one another. Ask, How can we love one another? Accept any reasonable response.  Examples could be telling others about Jesus, helping our friends and family members, obeying our parents, Praying for others, sharing, being kind, helping the poor.  Since we are Christians, what makes doing these things different for us, from how people who are not Christians yet would do these things. It is that we act out of love.  
Now read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. If we love people, then we will show them who Jesus is.  If we know someone who needs food and we give it to them that is great. But if we love them then we will also tell them about how Jesus died on the cross for them.  Remember what John 13:34and John 15:12 taught us.  We must love first because God loved us and then help others because we love them and God loves them.

Have you ever been the one that wasn't chosen for a game or an activity? It isn’t a very good feeling, is it? We all need to remember that Jesus loves ALL the children and He said, "Love each other as I have loved you." If you are ever the one that is left out, don't worry, Jesus loves you just as much as He loves the other children. He loves us all!

Dear Father, help us to remember that Jesus taught us to love one another just as you loved him and as he loved us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1. Why do we sometimes judge people?
2. Is it always easy to love the way Jesus’ loved?
3. Why does God want us to love?