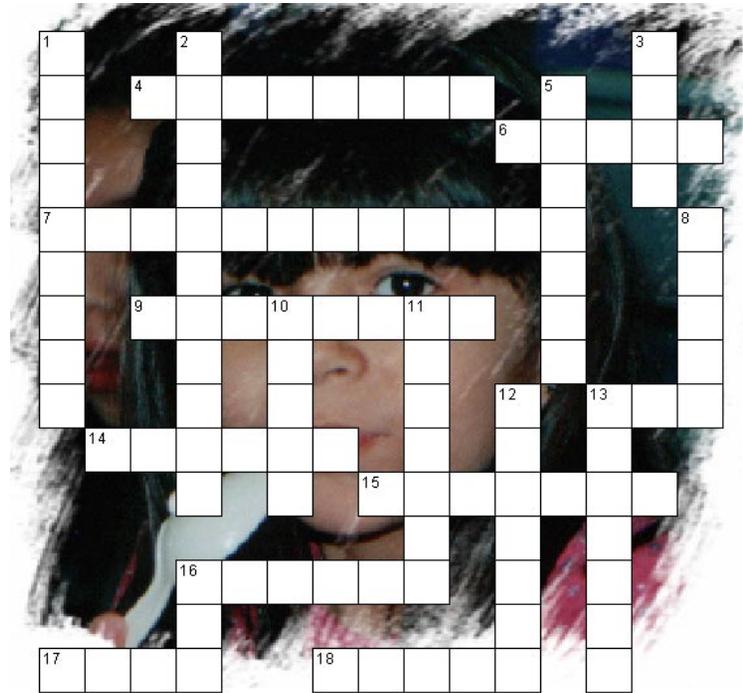


Crossword Puzzle

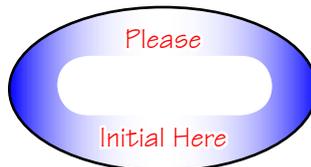


Across

Down

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. John wrote three _____, or letters. | 1. John had a loving _____. |
| 6. John had an open and large _____. | 2. John received and _____ this love more than the others. |
| 7. Our character trait this week. | 3. John was very close to the _____ Jesus. |
| 9. John was called the _____ Jesus loved. | 5. John could _____ and give the love of God. |
| 13. _____ is love. | 8. The disciple Jesus _____. |
| 14. John leaned on Jesus' _____. | 10. John was very _____ to the Lord. |
| 15. John often called the saints "_____". | 11. John wrote three epistles, or _____. |
| 16. God's love can fill us until it overflows and we become persons who love _____. | 12. Beloved, love one _____... |
| 17. God is _____. | 13. God loves us all _____... |
| 18. When John was _____ he wrote three epistles, or letters. | 16. Love _____ another... |

Parent's Initials:



2-6

The Character of God's People

- Lesson Seven -

Affectionate - Nearness and Love Seen in the Life of John

I. Overview.

The apostle John was a person full of love and warmth. He was affectionate. John wrote five very important books in the New Testament. Especially in his three short epistles, his deep love and care for the saints can be clearly seen. Over and over he calls the saints "beloved". He showed his love for the saints and encouraged them to love one another.



"God is Love"
 "Love is God"
 (1 John)

Even when he was quite young he was a warm and loving person. He enjoyed being with the Lord Jesus. When he wrote his gospel, he referred to himself as the "disciple whom Jesus loved" and spoke of how he leaned on Jesus' breast. John also spoke often about how much God loves us and how the Lord Jesus told us to "love one another". Because he was an affectionate person, God could use him to teach us about love.

II. Memory Verse.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God."

(1 John 4:7)

III. Lesson.

To be affectionate is a very important character trait. God is so full of love, but He must have people through whom He can express this love. Although He loves us greatly, still His love is most evident when seen in people who are filled with God and have an affectionate character. The apostle John was such a person. He was a person who was open, large and warm in heart. His character was affectionate, so he could receive and give the love of God.



Love one another!

John Leaned on Jesus's Breast

When John was young, during the time that he was with the Lord Jesus, we can see that he was an affectionate person. He was very close to the Lord Jesus. Because his heart was open and affectionate, he received much love from the Lord Jesus.

Although the Lord Jesus loves each of us the same, our appreciation of that love differs according to our character. John was one who had a loving character and deeply sensed and appreciated the love of the Lord Jesus. This is why he called himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved", and the one who leaned on Jesus' breast. It was not that Jesus loved John more than the others, but it was because John had a character that received and appreciated this love more than the others.

John's Epistles Show His Love for Others

When John was older, he wrote three epistles, or letters, that are included in the New Testament. In these epistles, it can easily be seen that John was a person of love. Repeatedly he calls the saints "beloved" and encourages them to love one another.

God is Love

In John's experience of being an affectionate person and receiving the love of God, he discovered something wonderful about God. God revealed to him that "love" is the "nature" of God - therefore, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). This means that God is full of love and is always loving us. His love can fill us until it overflows out of us and we become persons who love others with the love of God. We then become the expression of God's love to others. This is what John was speaking of when he said "Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another".

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What does it mean to be affectionate?

2. Why did John call himself the disciple that Jesus loved?

3. How can you tell that John was affectionate?"

4. How can we "love one another"?

