



THE INSEPARABLE BOND

Disciples & Early Church • U10#3 1st-3rd Gr. • May 11, 2025

Concept

God's love bonds Him inseparably to His children.

Goal

Students will learn that the bond of God's love is unbreakable.

Passage

Romans 8

Key Verse: "For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death, nor life... neither our fears for today nor our worries for tomorrow... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>4 decks of key verse playing cards</i> 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Magnet with a few items it will attract</i> <i>Two 1' pieces of thin rope</i> <i>Glue sticks</i> <i>Small spool of medium-weight wire</i> <i>Metal washers, 10/class</i> <i>Styrofoam or paper cups, 10/class</i> <i>2 Chinese finger pulls</i> <i>Yellow, black, red, white and green pony beads, 1each/student</i> <i>12" lengths of hemp or jute, 3/student</i> <i>Gospel Bead Bracelet Explanation, 1/student</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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Our sin separates us from God and makes it impossible to have a relationship with Him. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:4-9, NASB).

"The Lord Jesus bare your sins in His own body on the tree, being made a curse for you; and at the same time He has become your righteousness, so that you are justified in Him. You are Christ's and Christ is yours. As Adam stood for his descendants, so does Jesus stand for all who are in Him. As husband and wife are one, so is Jesus one with all those who are united to Him by faith; one by a conjugal union which can never be broken. More than this, believers are members of the Body of Christ, and so are one with Him by a loving, living, lasting union. God has called us into this union, this fellowship, this partnership, and by this very fact He has given us the token and pledge of our being confirmed to the end. If we were considered apart from Christ we should be poor perishable units, soon dissolved and borne away to destruction; but as one with Jesus we are made partakers of His nature, and are endowed with His immortal life. Our destiny is linked with that of our Lord, and until He can be destroyed it is not possible that we should perish.

"... So, then, with the utmost confidence let us go forward into the unknown future, linked eternally with Jesus. If the men of the world should cry, 'Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved?' we will joyfully confess that we do lean on Jesus, and that we mean to lean on Him more and more. Our faithful God is an everflowing well of delight, and our fellowship with the Son of God is a full river of joy. Knowing these glorious things we cannot be discouraged: nay, rather we cry with the apostle, 'Who shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord?'"[1]

Additional reading: Walking in Victory, Dennis McCallum

[1] C.H. Spurgeon, All of Grace, Moody Press, pp. 122-124.

Set Up

Instructions: On the white board, place the Man sign at one end and the GOD sign at least 5 feet from it for Introduction, Lesson and Object Lesson.

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Gospel Bead Bracelets**

- **Instructions:** Give each student three 12" strands of hemp or jute. Tie one end of the three strands together in a knot with enough hemp/jute at the end to tape to the table. Tape the knotted end to the table and braid. Add the gospel beads to the middle cord in the order of gold, black, red, white and green. The beads can be placed all together or separated by the braiding. Braid until there is enough for a knot and short fringe. Knot the end and tie it around the wrist to make a bracelet.

- **"What's a Bond?"**

- **Instructions:** On a table place the provided items. Begin with a discussion of what is a "bond" – something that's used to tie or hold things together. Have the students use the provided materials to bond two or more things together.

Last week we learned that all people are sinful and separated from God. But we also learned that because God loves us so much He doesn't want us to be separated from Him. He wants to have a relationship with us. Some of you made a gospel bracelet when you came in. Who'd like to explain what the beads on the gospel bracelet mean? (If there is no student volunteer, the teacher should explain.) John 1:12 says, "... to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." When we admit that we are sinners and ask Jesus to forgive our sin we become God's child. We then have a special bond with Him. Who knows what a "bond" is? (Allow students to define and give examples.) When you came in, some of you were bound together with your hands to make a human knot.

When you came in, some of you bonded items together. We're going to play some games that will further illustrate what a bond is.

Games

Goal: Definition of "bond"

Instructions: Choose one or two of the games to play.

Human Knot: Students stand in a tight group facing each other. They put their hands out and grab two other hands (not of the same person). Then stretch out without letting go. As they stretch out they will form knots. Try to undo the knots by ducking under, stepping over, turning around, etc., without letting go.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Red Rover: Divide the class into two teams; line the two teams up facing each other about 15-20 feet apart, with team members locking their arms together. Determine which team will go first. That team will decide which player from the other team they will call over. The team then yells, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send <<name>> on over." The named player charges the calling team and tries to break through the line of interlocked arms. The players who break through return to their own team with one of the two players who were positioned where the line broke. Those who do not break through must join the team that called them.

Crack the Whip: Divide class into two or three groups. Each group will stand in a line holding hands. The player at the beginning of the line will lead the way as the players in the line run after him or her. The object of the game is to "crack the whip" so the person on the end breaks off. That person becomes the head of the line.

Transition

We're going to see a skit. In the skit we're going to see some different materials that could be used to bind people to each other. Then we'll compare all these bonds to the one Christians have with God.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Drama-- Mime performed by Drama Team

Transition

Let's see what the Bible has to say about the bond we can have with God.

Lesson Lg. Group

In the skit you saw some bonds that broke very easily and some that were more difficult to break. However, every one of them could be broken by something, e.g., scissors, a knife, a hatchet, wire cutters, a key. As we saw in our explanation of the gospel bracelet, when you ask Jesus to forgive your sin, the Bible says you are a child of God (Romans 8:16; John 1:12). When you become a Christian, you form a very special bond with God. But the bond that ties us to God isn't like any of the earthly bonds we saw in the skit or activity station. That bond is God's love and it is unbreakable. Our key verse is, "For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death, nor life... neither our fears for today nor our worries for tomorrow... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord " (Romans 8:38-39).

The Bible teaches us that when we form this special bond with God, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in us. With the Holy Spirit living in you, He gives you the ability to choose to follow the Holy Spirit or to follow your own desires. Listen as I read Romans 8:1, 2, & 5-9.

Lesson Continued

(Verse 1.) As Christians, God wants us to know that we are free from judgment, be honest about our sin (James 5:16) and listen to the Spirit. We do this in different ways by praying, reading the Bible, learning from Christian friends and by taking the consequences for our sin and starting again. The most important part of learning, to follow the Spirit, is to remember that God will be teaching us for the rest of our lives. Our key verse is, "For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death, nor life... neither our fears for today nor our worries for tomorrow...nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God, that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38, 39). Because we are forgiven and will not be condemned, and because we have an unbreakable bond with God through Jesus, we can come to Him every minute of every day. We can come to Him when we make good choices and when we sin. (Reference Rom. 8:15-23.)

In verse 6 we read that if the Spirit controls our thinking we have life and peace. In verses 7 & 8 we learn that if our sinful self controls our thinking we experience a type of spiritual death. Those controlled by their sinful selves are not able to obey God's law or please God. Verse 9 says that if you have received Christ the Holy Spirit indwells you. He will give you the power to follow God rather than your sinful self.

So if Christians are free from the power of our sinful selves, why do you think we still sin? As long as we live in these bodies called flesh, we will still have a sin nature. Our flesh or sin nature tempts us to sin and do things our own way. Our flesh wants to be in control and does not want to give God control. As Christians we have a choice to live following the Holy Spirit rather than our flesh.

Remember, God's love for us is so great that He took the punishment we deserve for our sin. This is "loving" proof that, as He says in His word, we can trust that He wants only the very best for us. As His children we can see His commands as opportunities for blessing and a full life rather than rules from an impersonal authority who isn't really interested in our fulfillment or joy. If God loves us and made these commands for us, they must be for our good, especially when we consider that He even gives us the power to do these things through the Holy Spirit.

Transition

We are going to play a game that will help us to think about what this would look like in our lives. Get into small groups.

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Groups

Card game – Love in Action

Goal: To learn scripture that would describe what it looks like when we follow the Spirit.

Instructions: Played like "Old Maid."

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1. Deal all the cards picture down, verse side up.
2. Players pick up their cards and fan them out facing themselves. They lay any matches down in front of them.
3. Choose a player to begin. Play begins by choosing a card from any player.
4. Players take turns taking a card from another player.
5. When a student has a match, he/she reads the scripture on the card, says a sentence about how the verse applies to his/her life, lays card face down
6. If a student runs out of cards, he or she selects a card from another player on their next turn.
7. The game is over when all the matches are down and all the players are out of cards except for one. That player will have the child of God card and be declared the winner.
8. When the last student has the winning card, take a look at the kinds of matches students have in front of them.

Who would like to share:

- Something that they learned about God recently?
- A question you have about God or the Bible?
- What Christ's death on the cross means to you?
- How you used the "Bridge to God" or will use the Gospel Bead Bracelet to share about God's love with friends or family?

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray and thank God that He wants always to bless us. Let's pray that we will learn more each day about how to follow the Holy Spirit so we can live full lives.

GOSPEL BEAD BRACELET EXPLANATION

- **GOLD** – GOLD bead stands for GOD. When explaining the good news about Jesus, tell people that God in heaven is the King over all. He wants all of us to live there with Him.
- **BLACK** – BLACK bead stands for SIN. This reminds us that we all SIN. We are selfish. Our SIN keeps us from God.
- **RED** – RED bead stands for the BLOOD of Jesus. This reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all our sins.
- **WHITE** – WHITE bead stands for FORGIVENESS. When we accept Jesus, our sins are forgiven and God sees us as all clean.
- **GREEN** – GREEN bead stands for GROWTH. After we have accepted Jesus, we continue to grow more like Him as we pray and listen to His Word.

Drama: "Mime"

Characters: Emcee, 2 "mimes"

Description:

A Charlie Chaplin, pantomime feel. Emcee points to the two "mimes," scratches his head. Points to his head. Holds up finger, like ah ha, I have an idea! Holds up a hair, shows it, strokes it, offers it to "mimes." Signals for "mimes" to pull the hair until it breaks (in a split second, of course!). With a shake of the head, emcee dramatically waves his arm—like that's no good.

Holds up a rubber band for the audience to see and goes through the same scenario. Strokes it. Stretches it. Gives it to "mimes" for tug of war. They pull. It breaks. Emcee tries various items.

Same routine with:

- String or yarn (At this point if the string won't break, EMCEE. dramatically flashes a pair of scissors and cuts the string or yarn)
- Rope (A knife to cut the rope)
- Vine (a hatchet)
- Chain (Wire cutters to cut the chain)

Then emcee points up (like to heaven) and then points to their heart. He has a huddle with "mimes." They make a semi-circle facing the audience, see emcee pointing up and to their own heart. When emcee gives the signal, this time the "mimes" pretend to pull and pull, both sides, not being able to win. Both sides should approach the midline, but not fall and not go over. Just go back and fourth, back and fourth. Emcee motions arms like showing muscles. Points to God, points to own heart, makes muscles. Then hold hands and does the "bravo!" signal.