**Lesson 12: Proper Humanity 12 – Love (1)**

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

**Verse:** “And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.'” (Matthew 22:37).

**Focus:** A proper person loves God. We love Him because He first loved us.

**Scripture:** Matthew 22:34-40

**Bible Story Suggestion:** One time, Jesus met a lawyer who knew a lot about the Bible. The lawyer was very tricky. He asked the Lord Jesus a question he thought would be so difficult. He asked Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" He wanted to know what the most important instruction in the Bible was. What do you think is the most important instruction in the Bible? Well, the Lord Jesus said to the tricky lawyer, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." Isn't that wonderful? The most important instruction in the Bible is to love God! God wants us to love Him.

**Practical Application:** The Bible tells us that love is from God and that God is love. God loves us even when we are cranky or doing terrible things. He loves every part of us, always and forever, no matter what. Our wonderful loving God wants us to love Him back! What are some ways that we can love God? How do you show others you love them? (*Ask for examples: We talk to them, we listen to them, we like to spend time with them, we do the things that will make them happy*.) We can do all these things with God. We might not be able to touch Him or see Him, but He is real! We can pray to God, read the Bible and learn about Him, obey Him and behave in a way that makes Him happy.

**Suggested Craft:** Make a heart out of paper. Provide labels or pictures for things that the children love (family, toys, pets, etc.). Have them glue the images on the heart. In the center of the heart, write or glue a label with the word God, to show that we should love God the best.

**Suggested Songs:** #92 (Jesus loves even me); #94 (Jesus loves the little ones); #1015 (And He loved us!); #144 (I love Him, He loves Me); #145 (I love Jesus, Yes I know); #162 (Praise Him! Praise Him); #5211 (Oh, How I love Jesus); #6711 BSS Matthew CD Vol. 2 - Song 20 (The Great Command)

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