

Make a "KWL" Chart:

For this activity, you will need 3 pieces of 8 ½ x 11" paper for each child. Have them turn their paper "sideways" so that the width is 11" and the height is 8 ½". Then have them tri-fold their paper, so that when they open their paper back up again, it will have 3 columns. Use pencils to draw lines down each column as shown below. Then add a title to each of the 3 papers as follows: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. (To save time, you may want to have this already completed for them. However, it may also get their attention to do the folding and setting up themselves.)

Christianity		
<u>Know</u>	<u>Want to Know</u>	<u>Learn</u>

Once the papers are all folded and labeled, give your students a chance to fill in the "know" and "want to know" columns for each of the three papers. The "know" column is for them to write everything they already know about the topic (Christianity for example). The "Want to Know" column is for the children to write down everything they might want to know about the topic. Leave the "Learn" column blank until later in the lesson. This will help them organize the information better as they learn about these topics.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities

Message: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*

In order to help the children organize the information, have them make another tri-fold sheet labeled as seen below. Also, on your chart paper or easel, make a similar chart. As you go through each characteristic, write (or have a volunteer write) on the chart paper. Allow the children to write on their charts as well as the discussion goes on.

Please Note: The **BOLD** words below are what should be written on the chart or Venn diagram. The other words are there for you, the teacher, to fill in the blanks.



Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities - Continued

<u>Judaism</u>	<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Islam</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called “Jewish” or “Jews” - “Yahweh”, but expressed as usually “Adonai (i.e. “Lord”) - Believe in only one God. - The Torah (1st 5 books of Moses in the Bible) is the foundation of the Jewish doctrine. - The people of “Israel” are the chosen people (chosen by God and obligated by the Torah) - Believe in an “end time”, including the return of the Jewish people to the land of their fathers. - Await the “Messiah” as a ruler sent by God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Believe in the resurrection of the dead for judgment. - Star of David is the symbol of Jewish Congregations. - Judaism is mostly found to be practiced in Israel, USA and Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called “Christians” - “God” or “Lord” - Believe in the Trinity, or God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. - Study the Holy Bible, Old and New Testament. - Believe that God already sent His son Jesus to earth who died for our sins. - Believe that Jesus will come again to take home the Bride of Christ. - Believe in the afterlife. - “Cross” is the universal sign of Christianity. - Christianity has spread all over the globe, due to the work of missionaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called “Muslims” - “Allah” (Arabic for God.) is God. - Use the “Koran” as a cornerstone of their religion. - “Kabah” is the main holy place in Mecca.** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Islam is mostly practiced in North and East Africa, Middle East, and East Europe and Western Asia. <p>Islam requires fulfillment of the Pillars of Islam (five duties):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allah is the only God; Muhammad is His prophet. - Say a ritual prayer 5 times a day. - Support the Needy - Fast during the month of Ramadan - Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life.

**The main holy place is the Kabah (i.e., the Arabic word for “dice” in Mecca, is a cube-shaped structure veiled with an enormous black cloth and containing the holy black stone, which the faithful touch and kiss. The Kabah was already worshipped before Muhammad’s time. Muslims believe that Abraham (from the Old Testament), whom they call Ibrahim, built the Kabah as the “house of God”.

Judaism, Christianity and Islam have one thing in common: **they all believe in the same God.**

(Background Information is from God’s Ways – Book 3)

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

Activities:

The point of this activity time is to show that being respectful of others beliefs and being kind and loving toward them no matter what their beliefs is a moral issue and something as New Apostolic Christians we must also practice.

Note: Look up the following Bible verses together and discuss. It is not necessary that you do all of them. Do what you have time for in class. Choose which ones you feel are more important to cover, according to the understanding of your children.

Read Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive each other, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. According this verse, how should we treat one another? *(Be kind, tender-hearted, forgiving.)*
2. Based on this verse, should we hold grudges, be rude, or not care about people? *(No.)*
3. Why is it that we are called to live like this? *(Because Jesus did.)*

Read 1 John 4:7-11

“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born again because of what God has done. That person knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ How did God show His love for us? He sent His one and only Son into the world. He sent Him so we could receive life through Him. ¹⁰ What is love? It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we should also love one another.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What’s the key word in these verses? *(Love.)*
2. According to these verses, why should we love one another? *(Because God loved us first.)*
3. How does God show us His love? *(By sending His Son into this world to die for our sins.)*

Read John 13:34-35

³⁴ “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. ³⁵ If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this verse say about how we should treat one another? *(Love one another.)*
2. What does it mean to treat someone in a loving way? *(Discuss.)*
3. What does this verse say will happen if we treat one another that way? *(People will know we believe in God.)*
4. When Christians fight, treat each other poorly, or are rude, what do you think people think? Is it possible they assume we don’t believe in God? *(Discuss together.)*

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

Read 1 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ “Finally, I want all of you to live together in peace. Be understanding. Love one another like members of the same family. Be kind and tender. Don't be proud. ⁹ Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay them back with kind words. That's what you have been chosen to do. You can receive a blessing by doing it.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does this Scripture say we should treat each other? (*Be understanding, kind hearted, etc.*) What do you think that would look like? (*Discuss together.*)
2. Does verse 9 condone or speak against revenge? Why do you think that is? (*Discuss.*)

Revenge is not an excuse to not be kind to someone. Neither is someone who is hard to get along with. How many of you know someone who is just hard to get along with. Maybe they're annoying, too loud, too self-conscious, or whatever. There's one in every group (if there's not one in your group of friends, it might be you!) Just because someone is difficult to get along with doesn't mean they are not worthy of your kindness.

Read Ephesians 4:2-3

² “Don't be proud at all. Be completely gentle. Be patient. Put up with one another in love. ³ The Holy Spirit makes you one in every way. So try your best to remain as one. Let peace keep you together.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Does this verse answer the question of whether or not we should put up with people who are hard to love? (*Yes.*) How so? (*By being gentle and patient and keeping the peace.*)
2. Why is this important, according to these verses (*Because the peace keeps everyone together as one....it preserves unity.*)

Tell the children that there are a ton of passages on kindness, niceness, and love. The message is clear: we should love one another. We should be kind to those who are hard to be kind to. We should not be rude or inconsiderate to anyone, whether we have differences or not.

(Some materials used for this lesson are adapted from www.teensundayschool.com)

Application to Real Life

Ask the children if they have ever heard of the “Golden Rule”. Look in your Bible and read **Matthew 7:12** together:

“In everything, do to others that you would want them to do to you.”

Ask: “Is there a commandment that says the same thing as this “Golden Rule?” Have the students look in their pinwheel folders if they need to. Lead them the very last one that Jesus said was one of the greatest of the Commandments: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Challenge your children to be kind to others, no matter what. Challenge them to practice this commandment and the “Golden Rule” each day, no matter who they interact with, no matter what they believe, no matter if they are Jewish or Christian or Muslim. We never want to criticize someone's beliefs. We want to always be positive and share what God has done for your life.

Application to Real Life – Continued

Remind the children that everyone has a bad day, but if they find themselves being rude, mean, or unkind they can always stop what they are doing and say a prayer to God asking Him to help them. God can help us be kind. We want the people around us to know that we believe in God and His Son because of the way we are acting and treating ALL others. **Love your neighbor as yourself.** (Message Statement)

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
4. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.
5. Which fruit of the spirit is talked about in today's lesson? (hint – see the message statement) Who can name all 9 fruit of the spirit? (See Galatians 6:22-23 as needed.)

Journal Reflection Questions

- What do you think it looks like to be a totally respectful person to others with different religious beliefs? Write about it.
- Choose one of the following Bible Verses about kindness or love. Look it up in your Bible and copy it into your journal. What does the verse mean to you? Write about it.

1 John 3:11

1 John 3:23

2 John 1:5

Romans 12:10

Galatians 5:22

1 Corinthians 4:13

Proverbs 11:17

Proverbs 14:21

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: **World Religions – Part 2** as well as 1 Corinthians 9:19-22, James 3:1-12, and James 5:7-20.
- Learn the memory verse: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
-- Ephesians 4:32 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith # ____.
- Use your KWL Charts on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Fill in the "LEARN" column with what you learned about these 3 religions. Bring them with you to class to compare next week these religions to 2 more.