

# connect 360

YOUTH TEACHING PLANS

## GC2 Strong

A Great Commandment and  
Great Commission Awakening

A Bible Theme Study

Chelsea Judkins • Hunter Brown



Dallas, Texas

*GC2 Strong: A Great Commandment and Great Commission Awakening  
Connect 360 Bible Youth Teaching Plans*

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# lesson 1

# God's Love Fuels His Mission

## MAIN IDEA

The only way for Christians to truly show love is to be consumed with God's love.

## QUESTION TO EXPLORE

How do I show God's love to others?

## TEACHING AIM

To lead students to understand that an awakened church will dwell in Christ's love and proclaim and demonstrate that love in Jesus' name



## YOUTH PLAN

### Connect With Life

1. Introductory Activity
  - Option 1—Begin by writing “I love \_\_\_\_” on the board or on individual index cards and asking each student to fill in the blank. You’ll likely get a range of answers from Diet Coke to Star Wars to Mom. Go through each answer from students.
  - Option 2—Invite two volunteers to the front. Ask them to take turns naming as many songs as they can, from any genre, with the word “love” in the title. Singing is optional! The game ends when one player can’t think of any more songs. You can extend the activity by giving each player one opportunity to poll the group for answers.
2. Ask the group the following questions:
  - Do you think there are different kinds of love? What are they?
  - What kinds of love are represented in our answers? Is there romantic love, friendship love, strong preferences for objects or activities?
  - What type of love does God give? What does He ask from us?
3. Open with a prayer inviting God to open the hearts and minds of students to have a deeper understanding of His love. Ask God to show your students how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and how they are called to share it.

### Guide Bible Study

4. Read 1 John 4:7–8. Use the material in the sidebar, “*Agape Love*” from the *Study Guide*, and clarify for your students what kind of love the passage is referring to here. Help students understand the different meanings between *agape*, *eros*, and *phileo* love.

- In this passage, John encourages us to love one another. Why did he say we should do that?
- In what situations have you felt the most loved? What contributed to that?
- What does it look like in your contexts—at school, at home, in your activities—to love one another?
- The text says that those who love know God and those that do not love do not love God. Have you ever experienced someone who was doing something in obedience to God, such as telling the truth or serving others, but doing it in a mean-spirited, unkind way? How did it affect your perception of them? Did it reflect on their church, organization, or even God?

(A copy of this assignment is available in the “Youth Teaching Resource Items” for this study at [www.gc2press.org](http://www.gc2press.org).)

5. Read 1 John 4:9–10 and ask your students the following questions:
  - We’re called to love others because God is love. How has God demonstrated that love to us?
  - Why do you think God would want to save us?
  - God’s sacrificial love for us is a grand theme across Scripture. Can you think of any other verses that say something similar to this? (John 3:16 is an easy one.)
6. Read 1 John 4:11–12 and ask these questions:
  - Where does our love for others come from?
  - Have you ever tried to show love to someone in your own human power? How did that go?
  - According to these verses, how does loving each other through God give others a visible view of an invisible God?
  - What does it mean by “his love is made complete in us”?
7. Divide into two small groups. Have each group read through one of the following passages and summarize it to share with the group. Ask them to think through how it relates to today’s discussion of love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:1–3
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–8
- 1 John 4:13–21

Ask your students:

- What good is it if you do great things without love?
- What good is it if you feel bad for others but do nothing about it?
- What is it that gives us the power to love the way that 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 describes?

(A copy of this assignment is available in the “Youth Teaching Resource Items” for this study at [www.gc2press.org](http://www.gc2press.org).)

8. Personal Reflection/Invitation Into Personal Reflections
  - Do you have a personal example of a time where you were a resounding gong? Where you did something good, but it was without love? Share how you recognized the issue and responded.
  - Invite students to share their own personal experiences as well.

### **Encourage Application**

9. As you wind things down, invite your group to close their eyes and ask God to remind each student of His deep, redemptive, abiding love for them. Give your students a few minutes to meditate on God’s transformative love.
10. Ask your students to approach this prayer exercise with open palms, signifying their willingness to accept what God has for them. Ask God to reveal a person who they can reach out with an act of love. Are there any classmates, neighbors, or coworkers who need to experience a practical demonstration of the love of God? What could you do to show them love? Could you rake leaves for a neighbor? Offer a ride to a teammate? Cover a shift for someone? Ask God to show you.
11. Close in a prayer of gratitude for God’s immense love for us and the privilege to share that love with others.