

LOVE GROUPS

This exercise is a five-session project designed for more informal times with your youth group, although it could be used for Sunday school under certain conditions. The basic purpose is to let the youths be creative and imaginative about the subject of Christian love through many different activities. The teacher or youth leader acts as a traffic director and organizer and supplies very little direct lecture-type teaching.

The basic format of the five sessions has each youth working in an activity group for the first four sessions. Each of these activity groups is working on a project directly related to Christian love. During the class period (while the activity groups are working), the leader stops all the groups for one of a variety of give-and-take sessions including mini-lectures (three minutes), discussion, a short film, or whatever, all dealing with the subject of love. The fifth session is devoted to presentation of each finished product. Adults or other youth groups can be invited to see and hear the presentations.

Here are 10 sample love groups:

1. The Signs of Love Multimedia Show. This group shoots pictures of signs of love all around them, has them developed, and creates a video show with narration or music.

2. Drama. This group prepares a play on some facet of Christian love. It can be original or it can be a well-known Bible story.

3. The Multiple Listing Group. This group comes up with lists centered around Christian love, such as a list of "What love is," or "What it is not," or "Ways to demonstrate love," etc.

4. The Crossword Puzzle Group. This group designs one or more crossword puzzles based on the subject of Christian love.

5. The Poetry Group. This group writes original poetry about Christian love.

6. The Cartoons Group. This group publishes a booklet of Christian love cartoons. They can be original or from other publications.

7. The Bible Scholar Group. This group researches the concept of Christian love in the Scriptures, using commentaries and other books, and writes a report on the findings.

8. The Love Banner Group. This group needs to have some artistic or sewing ability, because they produce banners on the subject of Christian love.

9. The Song Writing Group. This group composes Christian love songs and performs them. They can be completely original or new words to familiar tunes.

5. The Love Object Group. This group produces love-related art objects to auction off or give away, such as jewelry, plaques, calligraphy, or paintings.

Each group should be supplied with the necessary items to complete their work, and the kids should be encouraged to work at home on their project as well. A textbook (such as Francis Schaeffer's *The Mark of the Christian*, published by Intervarsity Press) can be used during the class sessions as a common study guide.