

LOVE GROUPS

This exercise is a five-session project which could conclude on Valentine's Day. The basic purpose is to let the youth be creative and imaginative about the subject of Christian love through many different activities. The teacher or youth leader should act as a traffic director and organizer and supply very little direct lecture-type teaching.

The basic format of the five sessions will have each youth working in an activity group for the first four sessions. Each of these activity groups will be working on something directly related to the subject of Christian love. During the class period (while the activity groups are working), the leader should stop all the groups for one of a variety of give-and-take sessions which include mini-lectures (three minutes), discussion, or a short film, all dealing with the subject of love. The fifth session should be devoted to the presentation of each of the activity groups' finished products. (For example, the drama group should present their drama, and the "love banners" group should auction off their banners, etc.) Adults or other youth groups can be invited to the fifth session to see and hear the presentations. This could be done on Valentine's Day.

Following are ten sample "love groups":

1. *The Signs of Love Slide Show*: This group will shoot pictures of "signs of love" all around them, have them developed, and create a slide show with narration or music.
2. *Drama*: This group will prepare 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 will come up with lists centered around Christian love. For example, a list of "What love is," or "What love is not," or "Ways to demonstrate love," etc.
4. *The Crossword Puzzle Group*: This group will design one or more crossword puzzles based on the subject of Christian love.
5. *The Poetry Group*: A group will write original poetry about Christian love.
6. *The Cartoons Group*: This group will publish a booklet of Christian love cartoons. They can be original or from other publications.
7. *The Bible Scholar Group*: This group will research the concept of Christian love in the Scriptures using commentaries, other books, etc., and write a report on the findings.
8. *The Love Banner Group*: This group must have some artistic and sewing ability, because they will produce banners on the subject of Christian love.
9. *The Songwriting Group*: This group will compose Christian love songs and perform them. They can be completely original or new words to familiar tunes.
10. *The Love Object Group*: This group will produce love-related art objects to auction off or give away, such as love necklaces, plaques, calligraphy, paintings, or whatever.

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 projects as well.