Session Two: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

I. Background

A. Learners: Preschool through Fifth Grade combined summer Sunday school.
B. Setting: Classroom in the Fellowship building. This is the second session of a two week unit.
C. Time frame for this session of the class: 45 minutes

II. Focus

A. The subject matter for this 45 minute class is Jesus' commandment to love each other.
B. Main idea: This session will deal with Jesus' commandment to love one another.
   I want to be able to help the children relate to this commandment with issues or events that they deal with in their lives outside of their family units.
C. Session goals: I want the children to think about ways they interact with other children and to think about whether or not they show the love of Christ to others.

III. Space, set up, materials

A. There is one table in the classroom - have the chairs arranged so that they will sit beside each other facing the board.
B. Items needed:
   • Dr. Seuss book and video of "The Sneetches"
   • White board and markers

IV. Plan for teaching

A. Introduction
   • Tell the children that Jesus left his disciples with a new commandment: he said, "Love each other just as I have loved you. Everyone will know that you are my disciples because of your love for one another."
   • This isn't always easy to do. All of us have a hard time loving people that are different from us.
   • We're going to listen to a story about different types of Sneetches and how they acted towards each other because they were different.

B. Present the case with instructions
   • Ask the children to listen and look for two things, as you read them the Dr. Seuss story, The Sneetches:
     1. How did the star-bellied Sneetches treat the ones without stars?
     2. How did the Sneetches without stars feel about the way they were treated?
   • Read The Sneetches aloud, showing the illustrations from the book

C. Learners identify the facts
   • Invite the children to tell everything they can remember about this story. If the kids need prompting, here are a few leading questions:
     ..: How many types of Sneetches are there?
How did the adult star-bellied Sneetch show his child to treat the children without "stars upon thars?"

What did the plain-bellied Sneetches do to try to get into the other group?
• Write these story facts down on the board, as children name them.

D. Learners name the moral, ethical and/or value issues involved in the story
• What did you see that you think is wrong about the way the star-bellied Sneetches treated the plain-bellied Sneetches?
• Make a list of these on the board.

E. Teacher raises theological angles on the moral, ethical and or value issues
• Now, thinking about Jesus' commandment to love one another, what are some ways you can think of that the Star-bellied Sneetches could have treated the plan-bellied Sneetches to show love?
• Make a list of these on the board.

F. Teacher selects focal question for deeper discussion
• Now, think of children that you know that are different from you. What are some of the things that make them different? Taller, heavier, smarter, are some promptings that can be used to get them started.
• Have you ever seen these kids that are different made fun of or not played with? Do you remember how that made you feel?

G. Teacher and learners engage in discussion to deepen perspective
• What ARE things we can do to show people (not just family and close friends) that we love them on the playground? In class rooms? At Sunday School?

H. Closing
• Watch the last 5 minutes of the Sneetches video to see what conclusion the Sneetches came to.