



Answer Key — Lesson 1: Love Initiates

Key Verse: 1 John 4:7 (NKJV)

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

1. The Starting Point of Love

- John is often called **the Apostle of Love**, because he wrote more about love than any other apostle.
- In verse 7, “love” is a **verb**—an **action word**—something we **do**, not merely feel.
- Our love for others begins **with God**; we reflect what He first showed to us.
- Love is the **fruit** of salvation, not the **root** of it.

2. God Took the First Step

- God didn’t wait for us to become **lovable** before He loved us.
- Romans 5:8 shows that God **demonstrated** His love while we were still sinners.
- True love **initiates**; it moves first and acts on behalf of others.
- The Greek word *agapē* means love that **acts for** another’s good without expecting anything in return.

3. The Call to Active Love

- “Let us love one another” is not a **suggestion** but a **command**.
- Love is not reactive—it is **proactive**.
- When we love first, we **reveal** the very nature of God to our students and coworkers.

4. Theological Insight

- Everyone who truly loves is **born** of God and **knows** God.

- “To know God” means more than head knowledge; it means **personal** fellowship with Him.
- When we know Him, His love **flows** through us naturally.

5. Biblical Foundation

(Reference only — no blanks.)

John 13:34–35 • Philippians 2:3–4 • Colossians 3:14

6. Classroom Connection

- Love that initiates looks like:
 - Greeting every student by **name**.
 - Showing **grace** before frustration.
 - Noticing the **quiet** student others overlook.
 - Starting **reconciliation** when tension arises.
- Every time you choose to love first, you are **preaching** the Gospel without saying a word.

7. Practical Takeaways for Teachers

1. Lead the way in love—don’t wait for others to **earn** it.
2. Begin each day with the mindset: “I will **reflect** who God is to my students today.”
3. Replace reaction with **initiation**; ask, “How can I love first here?”
4. Small acts—notes, smiles, prayers—are **seeds** that God grows into fruit.
5. Pray by **name** for students who need extra grace.
6. Extend love to **fellow** staff through encouragement and service.

8. Reflection

- Love that initiates is **supernatural**, not natural.
- Every time you choose grace over grumbling, you **partner** with God in His redemptive work.
- Ask daily: “Who can I **initiate** love to today?”

- Remember: God **loved** first—now it's our turn to take the first step.