LESSON 3: LOVE UNSTOPPABLE

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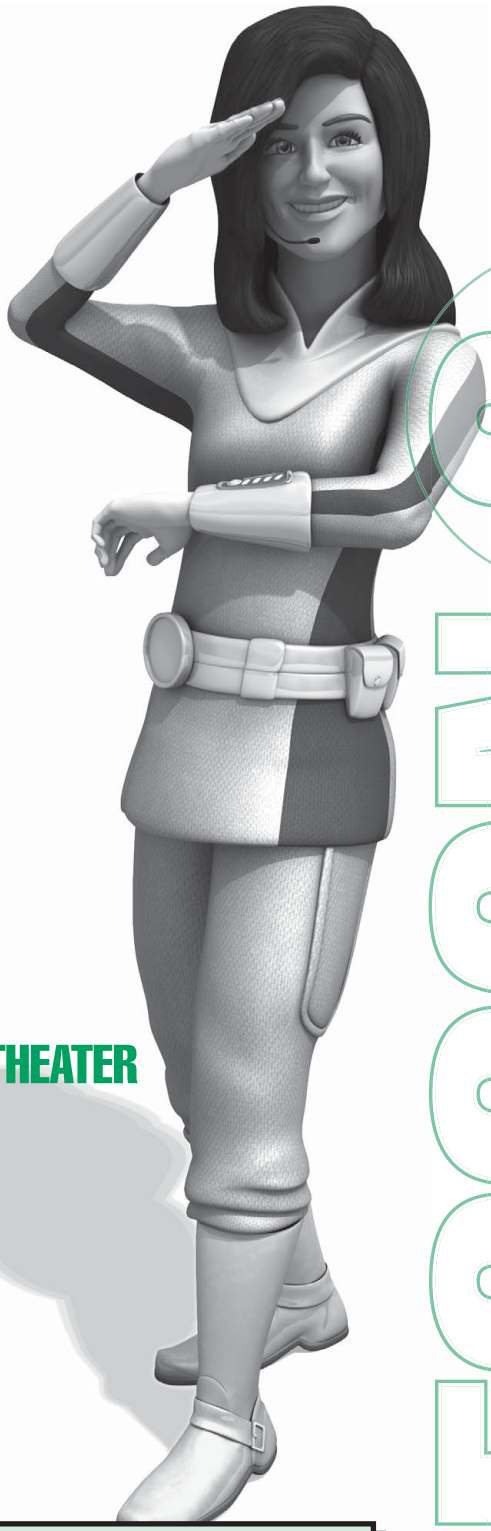

LESSON 3

Memory Verse: "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]."

1 Corinthians 13:8a AMP

GAME TIME JUMP 'N' JINGLE RELAY

Time Required: 5-7 minutes

Memory Verse: "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]."

1 Corinthians 13:8a AMP

Supplies: ☐ 2 Jingle bells, ☐ 2 Beach balls, ☐ 2 Rubber cones, ☐ Upbeat music to play during the game

Prior to Game:

- Divide the Cadets into two relay teams.
- Place masking tape on the floor to create a starting line, which can also serve as the finish line.
- Place rubber cones at opposite ends of the relay area.

Game Instructions:

- Contestants will hold a jingle bell in their hand and a beach ball between their knees.
- As the relay begins, each player will walk or hop around the cone, placed at the opposite end of the room, without dropping the beach ball, and while ringing his/her bell.
- As each player reaches the finish line, they will gently tag his/her teammate, and then continue the relay.
- The first entire team to complete the course wins.

Final Word:

God's love is unconditional and never fails. When we work together as a team, supporting and encouraging each other, we are producing good fruit that brings honor to God.

Notes: _____

REAL DEAL GLADYS AYLWARD

Concept: Highlighting an interesting historical place, figure or event that illustrates the theme of the day. The theme of the day is God's love never fails.

Costume: Floor-length dress in muted colors (ex: "Prairie" or "English collar")

Teacher Tip: Entering in costume is an attention grabber for the Cadets. When presenting the information, it's helpful to have pictures available.

Teen Tip: Reviewing the script prior to service and involving teen helpers is a great way to keep the Cadets involved and attentive.

INTRO:

- Today, we'll be learning about a woman who demonstrated her heart of love for people. Not just any kind of love, but a never-ending love.
- Jesus is the ultimate example of unfailing love. He chose to love even when He wasn't loved in return and when others chose to persecute Him.

LESSON:

About Gladys Aylward:

- Gladys Aylward was born in London, England, in 1902. At the age of 28 Gladys' life changed forever. Gladys chose to dedicate her life to serving God and others, and knew in her heart she wanted to be a missionary to China.

Unstoppable Determination:

Challenge #1 - Little Education:

- Gladys faced many obstacles as she stepped toward the calling placed on her heart by God. When Gladys was 26 years old, she entered a missionary school in London, called the China Inland Mission Center. Gladys was unable to complete the exams, but persevered in her calling.

Challenge #2 - Money and a Dangerous Trip:

- Gladys worked nights and weekends to save money for her trip. She wasn't able to save enough money for ship fare, so she chose to take the Trans-Siberian Railway. This was a very dangerous way to travel, especially for women, but with her determination and God's grace she arrived safely in Yangchuan, China.

Notes: _____

Loving the Chinese People:

- Being a foreigner and a woman in China was challenging. The Chinese people did not trust her or want to learn from her.
- Gladys was led to a woman by the name of Mrs. Jennie Lawson, who had been serving as a missionary in China. Jennie and Gladys worked together at an inn, providing clean lodging, good food and Bible stories to travelers.
- Gladys learned a lot from serving with Jennie and her consistent presence began to earn the trust of many Chinese people.
- After serving as a missionary in China for 50 years, Mrs. Lawson passed away.

Love Unstoppable:

- In China, many children without parents were bought and sold like slaves. Gladys knew these children needed God's love and care, so she began rescuing these children, and the inn became a shelter and an orphanage.
- War broke out in China, which threatened Gladys and her work with the orphans. Gladys would face one of her biggest challenges, leading 100 orphaned children to safety. Gladys was alone in her mission but trusted in Jesus to guide her way across 100 miles of mountain territory.
- After 12 days of walking in the mountains, an obstacle appeared, a river with no easy way to cross. The children began praying and knew God could help them. Not long after they prayed, an abandoned boat appeared that was floating down the river, and they were able to cross the river to safety.

MAKING HISTORY:

- Gladys Aylward answered the call on her life to love others, travel to a foreign country and share God's goodness with people who did not initially welcome her. Gladys walked in love with the Chinese people and eventually won their hearts. Her strength and faith were stretched, but God's love in her did not fail.

OUTRO:

- Giving, being kind and laying down your life to help others comes from a heart that's full of God's love. Gladys Aylward lived a life of never-ending love and brought peace and hope to many Chinese people.
- That's what makes Gladys and her story today's Real Deal.

Notes:

OFFERING KEEP FAITH FLOWING

Time Required: 10 minutes

Offering Scripture: "....Faith working through love."

Galatians 5:6 NKJV

Supplies: ■ 1 Punch ball or 1 Large balloon

Prior to Offering:

Leave a deflated punch ball or balloon at the front of the room. The punch ball or balloon will be inflated as the lesson is taught. (Consider also having an inflated punch ball or balloon available prior to the lesson.)

Offering Instructions:

- Hello, Cadets!

Ask **Does anyone like to play with punch balls or balloons?**

- Great! Balloons and punch balls are fun, but this one seems to have a challenge.

Ask **Does anyone know what this balloon or punch ball needs?**

- Right! It needs air!

Ask **Would anyone like to help with the demonstration by adding air to this balloon or punch ball?**

- (Choose a volunteer to help with the demonstration.)
- Wow! What a great volunteer! As this Cadet continues to blow air into the balloon, it continues to get bigger and bigger. Let's think of this "air" like our faith.
- As we learn to believe and trust in God's promises, our faith will grow bigger and bigger, just like this punch ball.
- (Allow the balloon to get bigger but do not tie off the bottom.)
- Let's say our Offering Scripture together from Galatians 5:6 NKJV, which says, "Faith working through love." Receiving God's love in our hearts and allowing that love to flow into the lives of others will help our faith grow.
- With God's love working in us, we'll want to be kind to others, be respectful and be generous. When God's love is not working in our lives, it's like this balloon leaking air; it gets smaller and smaller.
- (Allow some air to leak out of the balloon.)
- There are behaviors that can keep our faith from working: If we are greedy or disrespectful at school, or if we are not kind to our brothers and sisters, then love is not working in our lives. And when we are not loving and kind, this is what happens to our "faith balloon."
- (Allow some air to leak out of the balloon.)
- So, let's try this again. (Blow air back into the balloon.) Now our balloon is full of "faith air" and this time we'll make sure we keep our attitude right and do things that please God. When we do, it's like taking our balloon and tying a knot in the end. We could call it the "love knot." Remember, Cadets, keep the "air of faith" in your giving and make sure to watch over your heart. With the "love knot" in place our faith stays right where it needs to be!

LESSON OUTLINE LOVE UNSTOPPABLE

Memory Verse: "Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]."

1 Corinthians 13:8a AMP

I. GOD'S WORD SAYS "LOVE NEVER FAILS" 1 Corinthians 13:8 AMP

a. Our natural love can fail.
b. When love is first place, we don't fall for Satan's tricks.
c. The devil CAN'T HANDLE GOD'S LOVE!!!
d. Love confuses the enemy.

II. JESUS COMMANDED THAT WE WALK IN LOVE John 15:12

a. He chose to love even when men came to arrest Him.
b. Natural weapons do not have the power that love has.
c. Jesus defeated death because He walked in God's love.

III. WALKING IN LOVE PRODUCES EVERLASTING FRUIT! John 15:16-17

a. Satan continually attempts to pressure you into not loving others.
b. He will try to get you into strife with people. He even tries to get strong Superkids like you to fight with their brothers or sisters!
c. Against the fruit of love there is no law! Nothing can defeat God in you when you choose to let His nature come out! Galatians 5:22-23
d. If we walk in love, we can have whatever we ask. Galatians 5:6 says our faith works by love.
e. Satan doesn't want us to know these secrets to success. Too bad and too late—God already has a bunch of Superkids who know the truth about the fruit of love!

A Word from Commander Kellie: *We've doubled up on our love teaching because all the other "fruit" fall into place behind love. Faith, patience, joy, etc., all come out of love. Anything we try to do on our own without using God's powerful nature inside us is done in our flesh. In our study of the fruit of the spirit, refer often to the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the spirit. What we do in the flesh is just hard work, but what we do in the spirit is empowered by Him! In fact the Greek word for flesh means "work." An important concept for the kids to take away from this series is that for every pressure (lust of the flesh) Satan brings, there is a force in you that comes out when you choose love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, kindness and self-control. Satan has nothing that can defeat us when we walk in the spirit. Our Superkids are winners in God!*

Notes: _____

STORYBOOK THEATER BUBBLE GUM & DOGS

Teen Tip: Reviewing the script prior to service and involving teen helpers is a great way to keep the Cadets involved and attentive.

Teacher Tip: Options are provided for story presentation.

Artist Tips: Cut the paper to fit on the board and tape it down. Lightly sketch the drawing with a pencil prior to presentation during service. Time may not allow the picture to be completely drawn and colored onstage. Erase the pencil lines, so light lines are visible to the artist, but are not visible to the audience. Review the story ahead of time to determine the amount of time needed to complete the illustration while on stage. When the story begins, use black markers to "draw" the picture, following the sketched pencil lines. Next, apply color using the pastel chalk. Then, blend the color with the rags. Finally, cut the illustration from the board, roll it up and secure it with rubber bands, and share it with a Superkid!

Art Supplies: ☐ Easel (To set foam-core board on), ☐ Large piece of foam core (Recommend a 30" x 48" size from an art store), ☐ Roll of white, banner-size paper (Teacher's supply or art store), ☐ Black markers (For initial drawing and outlining), ☐ Pastel chalks (From art store), ☐ Rags (To blend chalks), ☐ Scissors (To cut paper to size), ☐ Tape (To tape paper to foam-core board), ☐ Rubber bands (To roll up paper for giveaway), ☐ Small table (To set art supplies on during story), ☐ Pencil & Eraser (Art pencils work best), ☐ Art smock (To keep your artist's clothes clean)

Prior to Segment:

Choose which story presentation option fits best with your team.

1. Storybook Theater:

Select people ahead of time (these can be team members or Superkids who are good readers, dramatic and expressive) to read "spoken" lines of characters. The number of people you select to be your character voices will depend on how many characters have lines in your story, and how many people you have available. If you are limited on people, you can have readers play two or more characters. Just be sure they can make the voices distinctly different! Make copies of the story and highlight their "lines." We suggest doing a practice read before service to make sure delivery is smooth. For added fun, dress your characters in costumes! At the beginning of your story, introduce your cast of characters.

List of Characters/Costumes:

Donald	Messy hair and an old T-shirt
Mr. Goodman	Suit jacket, white shirt and nice tie
Mrs. Goodman	Dress, pearls and a straw hat
Miss Berry	Glasses and her hair in a bun
Mr. Stark	Comb-over hair and mustache (mustache can be drawn with an eyeliner pencil)
Rosie	Pigtails and freckles (freckles can be drawn with a brown eyeliner pencil)

2. Illustrated Story:

If there is an artist in the house, this is a great addition to your Storybook Theater! While the story is being read, the artist can illustrate a large picture relating to the story, to give as a prize at the conclusion. Use the picture giveaway as an incentive for Superkids to be extra quiet and pay close attention. Initially, there will be a few supplies to purchase but don't let this be a deterrent from using the illustrated story option! Once the supplies have been purchased, they'll be long-lasting and reusable.

Over the gate, down the walk, and through the two big, brown doors of Weeping Willow Children's Home there are a variety of kids: big kids, little kids, loud kids, quiet kids and kids of all colors. Even though each child is very different, they all have one thing in common, they are orphans. Each child is waiting to be loved and this story is about one very special orphan.

Donald has dark brown hair and when he smiles it causes his eyes to squint. And Donald smiles a lot! Today is Donald's seventh birthday and every year he asks for the same presents: bubble gum and a dog. Every year Donald is told, "No pets allowed at Weeping Willow. No gum allowed either; it sticks to the floors."

"But I promise I won't drop my gum on the floor! I just want to know what it tastes like," Donald pleads.

"No gum."

This birthday is very special because Donald received the best birthday news ever! Miss Berry, a worker at the orphanage, has told him there is a foster family ready to take him home.

"What's a foster family? Does that mean their last name is 'Foster'?" Donald asked.

"No, a foster family is a family who's willing to take care of you for a while," Miss Berry replied.

"How long is a while?" Donald wondered.

"That's decided by the foster family. It could be for one month or longer," Miss Berry replied.

"I'm going to be extra good, so they'll want to keep me forever! And I'll show them my coolest magic trick!" he exclaimed.

"Don't get too excited. Not many kids get adopted because most people want to adopt a baby."

Donald's heart sank and his ever-present smile drooped. Miss Berry's words played over and over again in his head: "Most people want a baby." If only he had a dog right now; a dog would love him whether he was 2 or 92. Oh well, at least he would be out of the orphanage for a while and experience many new things. He was just starting to daydream when Miss Berry snapped him out of it.

Donald needed to get his things together because the foster family would be picking him up in one hour. Donald headed up the rickety staircase to the room he shared with 11 other boys.

Creeeeeek, crack. Creeeeeek, crack. The stairs made funny noises. Donald pulled a cardboard box from under the small, metal-frame bed. This box contained everything he owned, so it didn't take long to pack. He stuffed a few extra belongings—a ragged bear, a toothbrush and a bouncing ball—into his pillowcase and headed down the stairs.

Creeeeeek, crack. Creeeeek, crack.

"Whew! I won't miss these creaky stairs," Donald said to himself.

A little freckle-faced girl named Rosie came skipping up to Donald.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Waiting for my foster family," Donald replied.

"Why would anyone pick you? You don't even have all your teeth," she added, then skipped off before he had time to answer her.

Why would anyone pick him? Maybe Miss Berry and the freckle-faced girl were right. Maybe he wasn't special enough to be loved. He sat down on the hard, wooden bench by the door to wait. A big, white clock on the wall looked back at him. *Tick tock, tick tock.* He watched the little hands on the clock move. Thirty minutes went by, then another hour. Donald rested his chin on his hands. Maybe this wasn't such a great birthday after all.

Rosie popped her head around the corner.

"Still not here?" she asked.

He thought about throwing his pillowcase at Rosie but she'd definitely tattle and get him in trouble. Not worth it. Instead, he just looked out the window.
Three more hours passed, and a loud bell sounded. Dinnertime. Donald wasn't very hungry. The disappointment had stolen

his appetite. He felt a tap on his shoulder and swung around. It was just Miss Berry. Bummer.

"Dinnertime, Donald," she said.

"I have to wait for my foster family."

"I'm sorry, son. I don't think they're coming or they'd have been here by now," she said, while putting her hand on his shoulder.

"Come now, we're having your favorite meal: coleslaw and fried chicken!" she exclaimed.

Donald grabbed his pillowcase and headed for dinner. He got in line, took a tray, and sat down to eat with 50 other kids who probably didn't really like coleslaw. After dinner, he threw his trash away and sat down to hear the cafeteria cleaning assignments, just like he'd done a thousand times before.

Just then a pleasant-looking couple walked into the dining hall with the home director, Mr. Stark. The lady wore a smart-looking, yellow dress and heels, while the man had the coolest umbrella with a wooden duck on the handle.

Mr. Stark motioned toward Donald. An older boy sitting next to Donald jabbed him in the ribs, "Get over there, Mr. Stark is calling you."

Donald's heart pounded like a big, bass drum. He grabbed his pillowcase and wondered if this could be his foster family. He slowly walked toward the couple.

"Mr. and Mrs. Goodman, this is Donald. Donald, I'd like you to meet your foster family. Do you have your things together, son?" Mr. Stark asked.

Donald lifted up his pillowcase and felt a smile creep back to his face. He quickly told this smile to go away; it was too soon to be happy. After all, people only wanted to keep babies, not boys, and he was even missing some teeth.

Mrs. Goodman gently reached for Donald's hand and led him to their shiny, red car, which had that new-leather smell. "I heard that today is your birthday," said Mrs. Goodman.

"Yep. Seven," Donald answered, holding up seven fingers.

"Well, then, this calls for a celebration! Mr. Goodman, this boy needs some birthday cake and presents!" she exclaimed.

"Yes, ma'am. Cake and presents coming right up," he said.

Donald could hardly believe it. He pinched his arm to see if this was a dream. Ouch! Nope, it was real all right. How could they be so nice? They just met him.

Mr. Goodman pulled into the parking lot of a fancy bakery. Inside, Donald ate the most amazing birthday cake. Chocolate fudge with tons of delicious icing and seven birthday candles! He'd always wanted to blow out birthday candles.

"Make a wish," Mrs. Goodman said.

It didn't take Donald long, he knew exactly what he wanted to wish for: bubble gum and a dog. He took a deep breath and blew with all his might, the candles flickered out. Now that was fun!

"What did you wish for?" Mr. Goodman asked.

"You don't have to tell us if you don't want to share, Donald," Mrs. Goodman added.

"Ummm, it's OK. I wished for some bubble gum. I've heard it's really good."

"Anything else?" Mr. Goodman pried.

"A dog; I've always wanted a dog," Donald answered.

"Hmmmmm. Bubble gum and dogs," Mr. Goodman thought, and scratched his head. "We'd better get going, Mrs. Goodman, we've got important things to do."

With that, Mrs. Goodman grabbed Donald's hand and they drove to a pet store. Donald just sat there.

"Well, what are you waiting for? Let's get you a dog," Mr. Goodman said. NOW, he must be dreaming. Another pinch. Ouch! Nope, still awake. Before they reached the door of the pet store, Donald spotted a bubble-gum machine! Happy birthday to him! "How about that?" Mr. Goodman said, pulling out a quarter.

Within 30 seconds a huge, blue gumball tumbled into Donald's hand. He put it in his mouth and chomped down. It was delicious! How could anyone outlaw gum?! Before long the teeth he still had were bright blue. "Too cool," he thought.

Donald's eyes were huge as he entered the pet store; he'd never seen so many animals in one place. Lizards, hamsters, fish and bunnies, but the dogs were best. Most of them were sleeping, but one little, silky-eared puppy stood looking at him. He put out his hand, and the puppy licked the glass. *Now* there was no stopping Donald's famous smile. It was back in full force.

"That's him! Look, he likes me!" Donald jumped.

"He certainly does. What will you name him?" Mr. Goodman asked.

Donald paused, and thought, "Bubble Gum. I'll call him Bubble Gum."

After Mr. Goodman paid the pet-store lady, the Goodmans, Donald and Bubble Gum got into the car and went home. Bubble Gum sat on Donald's lap and licked his hand the entire way home.

By the time Donald and Bubble Gum settled in at the Goodman's house, it was time for bed. This was the first time Donald remembered not minding bedtime. On the big, clean bed in Donald's bedroom was a pair of nice, new pajamas. He'd never worn anything so comfy in his life! He put them on and climbed into the crisp, cool sheets, pulling the fluffy comforter up to his chin. Just then Mr. and Mrs. Goodman entered the room. They sat at the edge of Donald's bed, holding hands. "Donald, we wanted to talk to you before bed," Mr. Goodman said.

Donald's heart sank. So, this *was* all too good to be true. Oh well, at least he'd been able to have birthday candles, gum and a dog, if only for one day.

"How would you like to live with us…forever?" Mrs. Goodman asked.

"Forever? But I thought people only wanted to keep babies," Donald answered.

Mrs. Goodman smiled and looked at Mr. Goodman. "Remember how you knew Bubble Gum was the dog for you the moment you saw him? That's exactly how we felt the moment we saw you. God told us you were just right for us," Mr. Goodman explained.

"But how could you want me? I don't even have my front teeth," Donald asked.

Mr. Goodman replied, "Easy. We know how much Jesus loves you. And His love is the biggest and greatest love. It's unstoppable. Jesus doesn't mind if you have all your teeth, or whether you're a baby or a boy. That's the kind of love we have for you. So what do you say? Can we be your parents?"

Donald's throat tightened as he felt a tear run down his face. But it wasn't a sad tear. This was a best-birthday-of-your-whole-life tear. Bubble gum, a dog and now a real family, forever. Donald smiled so hard it made his cheeks hurt. He threw his arms around Mr. and Mrs. Goodman's necks and squeezed as tight as he could.

"I think that's a yes!" Mrs. Goodman said.

"Well, it's late, and we need to get some rest. We'll see you, son, in the morning," Mr. Goodman winked.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodman turned to leave the room, switching off the bedroom light.

Donald spoke up, "Can I ask just one more question?"

"Sure."

"What should I call you?" Donald asked.

"I think most kids call their parents Mom and Dad," Mr. Goodman grinned.

The End

Story by Jennifer Drennen