

WEEK 3

GOD IS LOVE GOD DEMONSTRATED LOVE

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

KEY IDEAS

1. God loved us so much He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sin.
2. Jesus took our punishment so we could be forgiven.
3. God is eager to forgive us when we repent and believe in Him.

KEY PASSAGE

Matthew 27-28

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God loved us so much He sent His Son Jesus, who willingly took our punishment and died for our sins so we could be forgiven.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

loved by the God who is ready to forgive sins.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

understand that the consequence of sin is death and Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to be forgiven of their sin so they can have a relationship with the God who loves them.

INTRODUCTION

God is love. Love is not just something God does for us, but God's very nature is love. We can only know what love is because God first loved us. God's love is perfect and never fails or changes. He demonstrated His love to us first by creating us to be in relationship with Him. Even when humanity sinned and rebelled against God, He loved us enough to send Jesus to redeem us and restore our place with Him. God loves us even when we do not love Him back! Jesus shows us that love is not just a feeling or emotion, but it is a commitment. He has shown us what love looks like through His Word. The greatest way God showed us His love and commitment to us is by sending Jesus to die in our place so that we could be with Him for all eternity.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by playing a short game of musical chairs. When a child is left without a chair, tell them that you will allow another person to take their place (ask if anyone would volunteer to make a sacrifice and give up their seat so the child who lost can keep playing; if no one volunteers, you do it). Play a few rounds, each time asking for a volunteer to make the sacrifice. Afterward, have children return to their seats and remind them that Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. He never committed any sins or did anything wrong, but He offered to take our punishment anyway because of His great love for us.

STORY

Summarize Matthew 27-28 or read the crucifixion story from the Jesus Storybook Bible.

Everything Jesus did in His ministry on earth led to this moment. His entire ministry had been focused on one thing: the Kingdom of God. Jesus had taught and performed miracles all to demonstrate that He was the Messiah, the One God had promised would come to save the world from sin. His ministry revealed the truth, that He was the King of the World. Now, on the cross, the King of Kings would give His life to redeem and restore His people so that we might be forgiven from sin, welcomed into God's family, and given a place in His Kingdom.

This is the greatest act of love that has ever been shown. God created us out of love, we rebelled against Him, and He paid the ultimate price so that we could be restored to Him even though we did not deserve it! God knew that the people He created would rebel against Him, so He always had a plan to rescue us. God's love never fails and never gives up. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by willingly leaving His throne in Heaven to come to the earth as a human, live a perfect, sinless life (as only He could), and take our punishment upon Himself. All of this He did so that we could be redeemed from our sin and restored to fellowship with God. When we repent of our sin, Jesus forgives us and in exchange He gives us eternal life. There is no greater love!

ACTIVITY

Use brown construction paper and tape it to the wall to form a large cross. Use red and white construction paper and cut out one heart of each color for every child in class. Give kids the red hearts first and help them write their sins on it. Help them tape it to the cross. Then, give each child a white heart. Explain that Jesus took our sin with Him to the cross and when we believe in Him, He forgives us and changes our hearts. Tape the white hearts over the red.

PRAYER

Thank God that He demonstrated the greatest love for us by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt. Ask God to help you understand how much your sin costs so that you might know His love for you.

SONG

Jesus Loves Me

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Romans 3:23, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:4-5

ACTIVITY

Place a penny (representing man) on a smooth, glass plate. Next, use a dropper to put just enough water on the plate to cover the penny (the water represents sin; you can use food coloring to make it red). Place a small votive candle in the center of the plate (representing Jesus) and light the candle. Cover the candle with an empty glass (make sure it is not wobbly so that air will be trapped inside creating a vacuum). The flame will go out as the water draws up inside the cup around the candle. Explain that Jesus paid the punishment of our sin on the cross. He took our sin upon Himself so that we might be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God the Father. **You may want to practice the experiment first to ensure it works for you!**

DISCUSSION

- How did Jesus show us love on the cross?
Jesus took our place on the cross because sin separates us from God and deserves punishment. The cost of sin is death (Rom. 5:12), so the only payment is death. Jesus took our sin payment and gives us eternal life when we repent of our sin and trust in Him for salvation. He is the only One who could pay for our sin because He is the only One who has lived a perfect, sinless life.
- What is a sacrifice?
A sacrifice is the act of giving up something for someone else. For example, when you give up your favorite toy so that your sibling or friend can play with it, you are making a sacrifice. God made the biggest sacrifice of all by giving up His Son Jesus, who willingly died for our sins.

PRAYER

Thank the Lord for showing us the ultimate kind of love by taking our punishment for sin upon Himself and dying in our place. Thank God that He loves us enough, even while we still sin, to sacrifice so much. Ask God to help you understand more about how much He loves you.