

WEEK 2

GOD IS LOVE GOD LOVES US PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE



THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

KEY IDEAS

1. God loves us with an everlasting love.
2. God loves us even when though we are sinners.
3. God's love is a free gift.

KEY PASSAGE

Luke 15:11-32

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God's love is freely given and cannot be earned.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

amazed that God loves us even though we are sinners.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

explain that God's love is a free gift.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to know the God who loves them perfectly.

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 Marco Polo. After a few rounds, lead them back to their seats and explain that just like "Marco" eagerly searched for the hiders, God eagerly calls out to us because He loves us. Unlike "Marco" in the game, God's eyes are never closed and He is fully able to see us in our sin. God does not lose us, but He patiently and lovingly calls out to us until we turn from our sin and find salvation in Him.

STORY

Read Luke 15:11-32.

God's love is perfect and unfailing. We cannot know love apart from God. Jesus shared this truth with His followers when he told them the parable (story) of the Prodigal Son. In this story, a man had two sons. His youngest son did not make wise choices. Instead of doing what was best for him and his family, he made selfish choices that pleased himself but hurt his father. He took the money his father had given him for his inheritance and spent it all on foolish things. After he had spent all his money, he didn't even have enough left for food or shelter and found himself living among pigs! He knew he had done wrong and decided to return to his father and repent of his sin. He expected his father to be angry at him. But all that time his father never stopped loving him. In fact, he waited patiently and eagerly every day for his son to return home. When his son finally did return, he rushed out to meet him, hugged him, and threw him a party. This was not the greeting the son expected.

The love this father had for his son teaches us how much God loves us, too, when we are lost in our sin and living to please ourselves. God desires that we should turn to Him, repent, and be forgiven! God is eager and willing to forgive us when we repent of our sins.

ACTIVITY

Help kids create a pair of binoculars using toilet paper rolls and hot glue. Let them decorate their binoculars. Discuss how the binoculars remind us of how the father eagerly watched for his son to return home. He loved his son so much that he waited eagerly every day even though his son had done wrong. God eagerly waits for us to turn from our sin and turn to Him when we do wrong, too.

PRAYER

Thank God that He is a patient, loving Father who eagerly waits for us to return to Him and leave our sin behind. Ask God to help you see that He is greater than our sin and His love never fails.

SONG

Jesus Loves Me

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Isaiah 30:18, Hosea 12:6, Psalm 86:5

ACTIVITY

After dinner one night take your child for a special treat. As you enjoy your treat, spend time telling your child all the things you love about them. These should not be things that are tied to obedience or good works they might do but instead things that make them who they are. Remind them that God loves us even when we are unlovable. His love cannot be earned because He freely gives it. God always loves us just like you always love your child.

As a family, spend time making cards for inmates in your local jail. Remind your child that God loves the unlovable, and He tells us to love others, too.

DISCUSSION

- Share a time with your child when God's love felt very real to you. Make a list of ways God has shown love to your family.
- Reread the story of the Prodigal son together. Share a time when you messed up and returned to God by repenting of your sin. Explain that God is eager to forgive us when we sin. He will always accept us.

PRAYER

Thank God that He is eager to forgive us when we repent of our sin. Thank God for loving us when we act so unlovable. Ask God to help you remember that He loves you and is ready to forgive you when you mess up if you ask for His forgiveness.

The Prodigal Son Hidden Hearts

Find and circle the 12 hearts which are hidden in this picture.

