

Adventures with GOD!

LOVE GOD (A.2.Winter.2)

Biblical Reference	Deuteronomy 6:1-5
Key Verse	Deuteronomy 6:5
Key Concept	God has showed me love and there's nothing for me to do but love God in return.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give concrete examples of how we show our love to God 2. Express why we love God 3. Give thanks to God for the love we have received

Life Application

When we observe the world that God made, our families, our bodies, all that we have, we recognize God's amazing love for us. Our response to God's love is simple: love God. Our love for God is always the result of knowing that God loved us first. The children in your class will understand both sides of love: being loved by God (as demonstrated in all that God has given and through the love of our families, friends, and other important people in our lives) and loving God with all our heart (obeying and following God). During this week they will have the opportunity to express their love for God through concrete actions.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Game	Illustrations cut out and colored	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Bible, illustrations, Bible verse, hearts	15 minutes
Bible verse	Paper, hearts	5 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, scissors	15 minutes
Prayer and snack		5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle.

Prayer: “God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen.” (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Game: Before the class, color and cut out the images found on the following pages. This is a “memory” game. When the children come, show them the pictures and ask them why they remind us that God loves us. Turn all the cards upside down to the images are not showing. Two children can begin to play, turning over two cards at a time trying to find two cards with the same picture. If they find the pair, they have to say why they think that God loves them. According to the number of kids in your class, you could make several sets of cards for everyone to participate.

After the game, spend some time singing together. Find songs that talk about God’s love and teach them with actions. Have instruments available that the children can play.

Bible exploration: Before class, make some big hearts that you will use during the story. Also, color the illustrations of things that God has given us to show us love.

Invite the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Take out one of the big hearts, put it on the floor in front of them. “When you see a heart like this, what do you think of?” (Allow them to answer) “I think of love.” “What is love? How do we show love to our parents?” (Let them express their ideas) Help them to think in specific things we do: hugs, kisses, obeying, etc. Take out another heart and put it next to the other one, say: “When I think of the people that love me I think in my mom, my dad, my brothers and sisters.” (Ask them, “who are the people in your life that love you?”). “Who do you think of?” (Allow them to answer) Pull out another heart and put it next to the others. “You know, who loves us more than anyone else in our lives?” (Let them think and then open your Bible to Deuteronomy 6.) Share how the Bible is a very special book, ask them what it is called. Tell them the different names we use: Bible, God’s word. We learn so many things from the Bible and one of the most important things we learn is that God loves us more than any other person. “How do we know that God loves us?” (Let them answer) “Think about some things that God has given us as gifts.” (Let them answer as you show them illustrations. They can think of other things that aren’t in the illustrations as well) “God loves us and God has shown us love in so many beautiful things like the birds, the flowers,

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our families, our bodies. You know something? If God loves us so much, what should we do? Love him too, right?! God loves it when we love him back.” The Bible story today is based on Deuteronomy 6:1-5. Have your Bible open to Deuteronomy explain that God spoke to the people of Israel through Moses. Through Moses God gave us the biggest and best commandment: “Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.”

Finish the time with a short prayer thanking God for love and saying that we love God back.

Take out another big heart and say, “I think we can memorize a very beautiful verse from the Bible. It says, ‘Love God with all your heart.’” Repeat if various times and add actions. You can also make up a simple melody and sing it together.

Craft: There are various craft options for this lesson. You may do more than one if time allows. While they are working remind them that God loves them and that we get to love God back.

Snack: For the snack, serve fruit or something that expresses what God has given us to enjoy (banana, grapes, apples, etc). Pray together and sing together about God’s love.

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle.

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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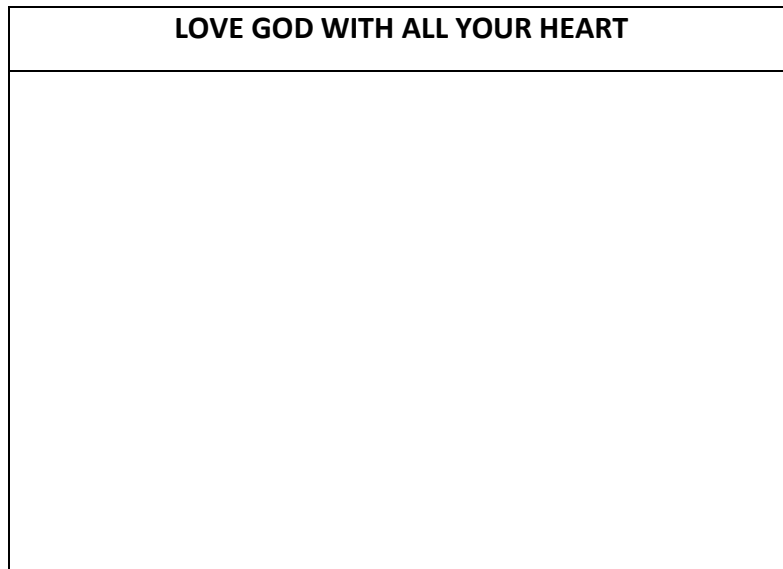
CRAFT

Sign

Materials: Colored paper (pink, red), and white paper, crayons, glue, scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut out squares of white paper ahead of time 5 inches x 7 inches ahead of time, along with strips of paper that say, "Love God with all your heart" and some small colored hearts.
2. Give each child a square paper and a strip of paper, along with some hearts. Have them glue the strip of paper along the top of the square paper and in the middle of the square draw a picture of themselves.
3. Then allow them to decorate around the picture with hearts or whatever other materials you have on hand.



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PATTERNS

Memory Game



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PATTERN

Memory Game

