

# Adventures with GOD!

## PEOPLE IN GOD'S KINGDOM KNOW HOW TO LOVE OTHERS (B.2.WINTER.5)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 5:43-48
Key Verse	1 John 3:18
Key Concept	I am a part of God's kingdom and I reflect God's love to others.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell who it is that God calls us to love</li> <li>2. Act out two situations when it's difficult to show love</li> <li>3. Draw the way that our king wants us to act always, even with our enemies</li> </ol>

### Life Application

We have learned that the king has given love to the people in God's kingdom and that this love is then reflected in two directions: towards God and towards other people. God desires for each person in the kingdom of God to love as God has loved us. God loves us. Our response is to love other people with a sincere love, a pure love, one that isn't just pretend. In this week the children will do an activity that will allow them to show love to others.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible reading	Bible	5 minutes
Bible exploration – part 1	Costume and actor	5 minutes
Bible verse	Paper, pattern, scissors	10 minutes
Bible exploration – part 2	Bible, actor, costume	5 minutes
Dialogue		5 minutes
Craft	Tape, hearts, glue, scissors, markers, ribbons	15 minutes
Project		5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

*NOTE: Today we will teach the Bible story in two short sections: 2 minutes of reading the story, an activity, 2 minutes of reading the story, activity, etc. Each time the King enters, everyone should stand.*

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the 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.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Matthew 5:43-48) two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

**Bible Exploration (part 1):** You can say, "Attention, attention, everyone in the kingdom of God. The king wishes to talk to us about the laws that we follow when we are a part of the kingdom." In this moment have someone enter who is dressed as a king. Have this person look at the children and say, "My people, how easy it is to get along with someone you like and who treats you well, but I want you to show love to everyone, even people who don't treat you well. Pay back evil with good. This is the type of love that should exist in my kingdom."

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**Bible Verse:** To teach the verse, 1 John 3:18, have it written on a piece of paper, and as you read it together begin to cut it into the shape of the heart. The children can do the same thing if you give them paper, markers and scissors.

**Bible Exploration (second part):** “Attention, attention please.” The king will say, “My people, just as I love you you should love others. I want other people to know me and desire to be a part of my kingdom, because of how my love is reflected through you.” (The king exits)

“Do you all remember Moses? When he went up to the mountain, God gave him something very special for the people of Israel. Do you remember what it was? Yes, the 10 commandments. What is a commandment? It’s an order or something we are to follow. Can you tell me some of the commandments that God gave to Moses?”

Have the king enter again with two tablets in the shape of a heart and say, “I am so glad that you are learning about people like Moses and the laws that I gave through Moses. It’s very important that you know what the Bible says about me. Here I have a commandment that I want you to follow in my kingdom, they are the 10 commandments summarized: Love God with all your heart, mind and strength, and love others as you love yourselves.” (The king exits)

**Dialogue:** Begin a dialogue about the situations when it’s hard to love others. “What does it mean to love people around us? What does it mean to love others who might not treat us well or who we might not get along with?” (Have them give tangible examples.” Pray together asking God to help us love with the same love that God loves us.

**Craft:** There are a couple options for crafts. For one of them, give each child 4 hearts cut out of poster board and in each one have them write a phrase:

1<sup>st</sup> heart – Because the love of Jesus is in me

2<sup>nd</sup> heart – I love God

3<sup>rd</sup> heart – I love my neighbor

4<sup>th</sup> heart – I love my enemy

Another option is to write the Bible verse in the hearts, one phrase on each heart. Glue the hearts on a long piece of ribbon or crepe paper.

Another possibility is included in the instructions in the following pages.

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**Project:** Each child can decide what he or she will do during the week to show God's love to others. They can share their toys, wash the neighbors car (with help), visit someone who is sick.

While you are talking about what they will do, the king enters and asks if they know what the greatest commandment in the kingdom is and how they will follow it. Have them repeat the verse to the king and share their ideas.

There is also a fun take home sheet to send with them. It includes ideas of how they can share God's love. Encourage them to report back next week if they followed any of the suggestions.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

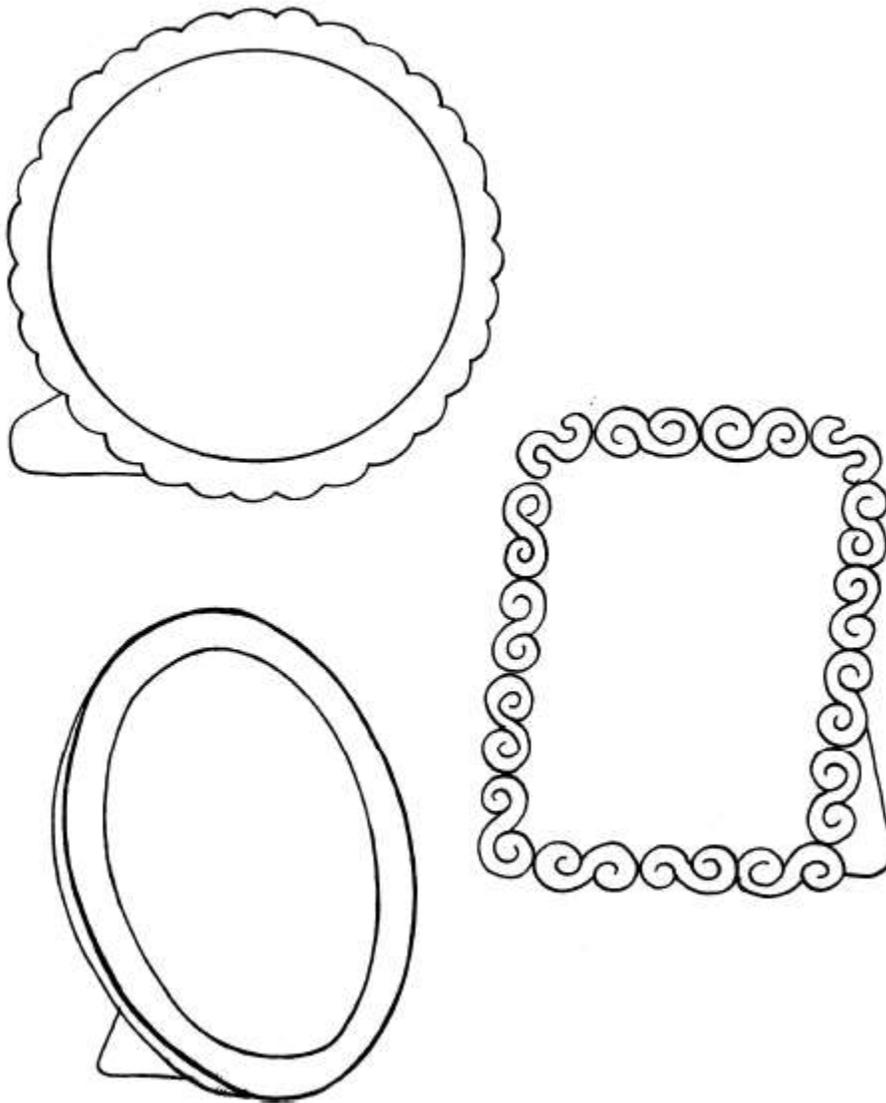
**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

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## ACTIVITY

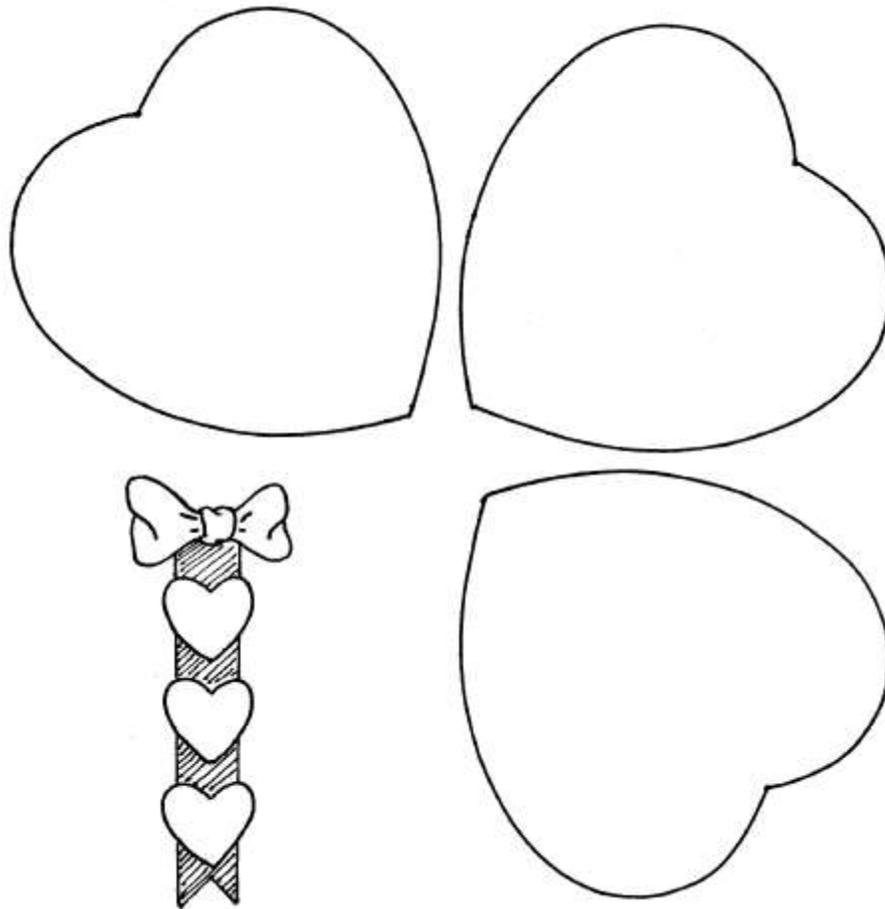
You can show the love of the king in many ways. Draw three different ways you could show God's love to others.



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## CRAFT

Cut out 3 hearts and color them. Write the Bible verse on them, or as suggested earlier in the lesson something that reminds us of God's love and our opportunity to love others. Then, glue it on a long piece of ribbon.



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## ACTIVITY

Send this sheet home with the children as an encouragement of ways they can show God's love.

