

GOD CREATED ME FOR LOVE

STORY: CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD CREATED ME FOR LOVE

Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Micah 7:18; John 13:34-35; 15:12; Ephesians 2:4-10; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:10-14; 4:8

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

BIG IDEAS

- God is love.
- God loves us.
- God demonstrates His love for us through Jesus.
- We are called to love others the way Jesus loves us.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 5:38-48

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches that to truly love someone is to love even those who don't love us. Loving others is a sign that God lives inside of us because we understand that He loved us first and loves us unconditionally.

STORY: CREATION

God created everything. Everything we see, hear, feel, taste, and that exists was created by Him. Not only did He create everything, but He created everything perfectly, including humanity. He created mankind in His very image and likeness to reflect His worth. All of creation was made just like He wanted and designed it to be. To His delight, God looked at everything He made and declared that it was good. All creation exists for God, is good, and was created to bring Him glory.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God created them with purpose for a purpose



Every child should:

- Live in a way that is honoring to the Lord



Every child should feel:

- Awe at the intentionality of God in giving purpose to our lives



Every child should want:

- To learn more about God's purposes for their lives

FAMILY DEVOTION: CREATED TO LOVE

Each of us understands love because God first loves us. We can love others because He has shown us what it means to love people. God loves us even when we are unlovable and He commands us to love all people—even our enemies.

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 13:34

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."

Love should be a distinguishing mark in the life of a believer.

- Those who repent, or turn away, from their sins and believe in Jesus are known as believers, or followers of Christ.
- A person's life should look different once they become a believer.
- They have been set free from the hold of sin and their hearts have been made new.
- A believer should be marked by a life of loving others no matter what.
- A follower of Christ should be one who seeks to love others always.
- Their lives should be an example of loving all people.

Jesus set the example of how we should love.

- Jesus lived a perfect life on earth in every way.
- His love for people shows us how God expects us to love others.
- Because Jesus loves us, we know how to love others.
- He loves perfectly because He is love.
- He is the beginning of all things and love comes from Him.

We should love others just as Jesus loves us.

- Jesus loves all people no matter what.
- His love is not conditional, based on our behavior, or anything else.
- Jesus loves those who hate Him.
- All people are born sinful and in rebellion against God.
- We reject Jesus because of our sinfulness, yet He still went to the cross and paid our sin debt.
- Jesus loves us faithfully and eternally.
- We should love others just as He loves us.
- We should strive to show people love no matter how they treat us.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 5:38-48

Jesus Teaches About Love

Opening Illustration:

Bring in several plastic cups and straws for each child. Allow the children to take turns racing each other as they blow a cup across a table with a straw. After each child has had an opportunity to race, lead them in a discussion about how God is our Creator, controls all things, and gives all things.

- How did you control what the cup did? (Each child controlled the cup by blowing through a straw.)
- Did the cup move on its own or when you blew on it? (It moved only when it was blown on.)
- You each controlled your cups with the straw just like God controls all of creation with His power.
- God is our Creator. He created everything and He controls everything.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS LOVE.¹**Love comes from God because He is love.**

- God has always existed. He is not a created being and therefore, He has always been.
- He has no beginning and no end. He is eternal and everlasting.
- Because He is the first, He is the beginning of all things.
- Love is from God because He is the beginning of everything.
- Love existed in God before the world and man existed.
- Love is not something that man made up or created.
- Love is from God.



Give each child a heart-shaped paper and markers. Ask the children to write down all the people they love. Allow some of the children to share the names of people they love if they want. Remind them that we love because God loved us. God is love.

God introduced love to the world.

- Man has the capacity to love because God created him to love.
- People have the ability to love because they are created in God's image.
- Being created in God's image means that we reflect Him. We have some of His characteristics like being able to love.
- We know what love looks like because God loved us first.

God shows us how to love.

- God first loved us. He loved us before we were ever born and He loves us no matter what.
- His love is everlasting and eternal.
- We know how to love because He loved us first.
- God created us to love and showed us how to love by loving us.
- He is the perfect example of how to love because He is love.

How do we know how to love? (God loved us first and gave us an example of how to love.)

1. 1 John 4:8: God is love. If we do not love others then we do not know God because He is love.

BIG IDEA: GOD LOVES US.²**God loves us perfectly.**

- God is a perfect being.
- He is unique in that He alone is without sin.
- He makes no mistakes and does no wrong because He is the first of all beings.
- Everything begins with Him because He is the only being who has always been and will always be.
- He is the supreme ruler of all things and His love is perfect.
- He shows love to us perfectly because He knows what love is.



Bring in a yardstick or large ruler. Ask the children to take turns measuring themselves. Help them to measure their height, their arms, legs, and feet. Talk with the children about how we all grow and then we stop growing, but God's love never stops. His love is eternal.

God loves us eternally.

- God's love never fails.
- His character does not change. He is forever and everlasting.
- His love for us is eternal.
- Because His love is unconditional, He will not stop loving us.
- Because His love is perfect and without fault, He loves us no matter what we do.
- He promises in His Word that His love will never stop.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God because He made a way for us to be with Him always through His Son.

God loves us while we are sinners.

- Jesus taught His followers to love their enemies and He showed them how to love their enemies by going to the Cross.
- Even though we reject Him and rebel against His commands, God loves us unconditionally .
- His love is perfect and not based upon our actions.
- He loves us because He is love and He chooses to love all the world.

How does God love us? (He loves us unconditionally and eternally.)

2. Romans 5:8; Psalm 86:15: God loves us while we are sinners. He continues to love us even when we disobey, reject and rebel against Him. His love is eternal.

BIG IDEA: GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE FOR US THROUGH JESUS.³**We are all dead in our trespasses.**

- Every person is born with a sin nature that is inherited from the first man and woman.
- Adam and Eve sinned against God, introducing sin and death into the world.
- We are all born dead in this sin because we are born slaves to it.
- We are not born good or with the capacity to do good.
- We are born rebelling against God and seeking to please ourselves.



Give each child a blank piece of paper and markers. Ask him or her to write a letter to someone he or she loves, such as to a friend or parent. In the letter, ask them to tell the person why they love them. Allow the children to use markers to decorate their letters. Remind them that God showed His love for us by sending His Son to pay our sin debt.

God loves us even though we are sinners.

- God would have been perfectly fair to condemn us all to death, but He chose to love us instead.
- We rebelled against Him. We sinned against Him. We rejected the love and perfect world He created, yet He chose to love us sacrificially.
- God does not wait for us to stop sinning. He doesn't wait for us to be good enough to love us.
- He loves us while we are sinners. He loves us in our sinful and rebellious state.

God showed His love by sending Jesus.

- God made the ultimate sacrifice for every man and woman. He willingly gave up His only Son to pay our sin debt.
- We owed a sin debt we could never pay because we are all sinful.
- God chose to love us even though we didn't love Him.
- He chose to send His Son to die for us and to make a way for us to be reconciled to Him.
- God shows us His great love through His Son.

How does God show His love for us? (He showed His love by sacrificing His only Son for us.)

3. Ephesians 2:4-5: God loves us and in His mercy, He justifies us through Christ.

BIG IDEA: WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE OTHERS THE WAY JESUS LOVES US.⁴**We should seek to love others because God loves us.**

- We know love because God first loved us.
- He created us and gave us the ability to be loved and to show love.
- He taught us how to love by loving us perfectly.
- We should seek to love others this way because God is our example.
- God commands us to show love. If we have repented of our sin and followed Him, we have His Spirit inside of us. He is inside of us and this means that we should love others.



Divide the children into small groups or pairs. Set a timer for one minute. Have the groups race one another by having one group member come up at a time from each group to write down one way we can love others as Christ loves us. Once the first group members have written down one way, they should return to their group and the next group member come up. Remind them that God commands us to love as He has loved.

Loving like Jesus means considering others as more important than ourselves.

- Jesus showed us what real love looks like.
- He willingly gave up His life so that we might have life.
- He didn't consider His own innocence more important than saving us.
- He allowed Himself to be crucified that we might be with God and might have eternal life.
- Even when we rejected Him and rebelled against Him, He still showed us what true love is like by dying on the cross.

Loving like Jesus means looking out for others' interests.

- We are born selfish and self-centered because we are born with sin natures.
- We are commanded to live differently once we've repented and believed in Jesus.
- No longer should we seek after our own interests first.
- We should consider other people's interests and needs more important than ours.
- Jesus set the example for us when He set aside His own deity and instead became like us that He might save us.
- He showed us what sacrificial love looks like by dying on the cross for our sins though He was sinless.

Why should we seek to love like Jesus? (God commands us to love others as He loves us.)

4. Philippians 2:3-4: We should consider others more important than ourselves. This is loving like God loves us.

HOOKS

**Pin The Hearts On The World**

Give each child a small paper heart and markers. Ask the children to write down one way to love others. Help them think of different ways to write on their hearts. Next, place a large circle to represent the world on the board or wall. Use a bandana to blindfold the children and play a version of Pin The Tale On The Donkey except use hearts. Once every child has a chance to go, lead them in a discussion about how God commands us to love others as He loves us.



- God willingly sent His Son to pay our sin debt, though we rejected and rebelled against Him.
- He commands us to love Him just as He loves us.
- We should seek to consider others as more important than ourselves.
- We should seek out ways to show love and to be loving.

**Loving Words And Acts Of Kindness**

Have the children sit in a circle. Play a game of Telephone with the children and use words that are loving or phrases that describe an act of kindness. Once you've played for a while, lead the children in a discussion about how God loves us and He commands us to love others.



- God is love.
- Love comes from God.
- He created us with the ability to love and commands us to seek out ways to love others.
- We should show love because God loved us.