

BECAUSE I BELONG TO JESUS



A Guide for Conversations
with Kids about Holiness

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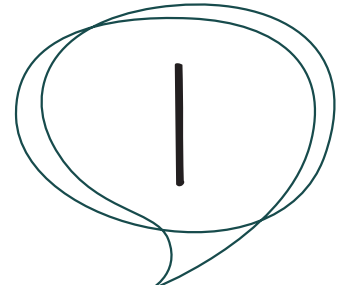


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A CONVERSATION ABOUT GOD'S LOVE AND THE GOSPEL



A Little Fun to Get Started

Valentine Cards

No matter what time of year it is, it's always a good time to tell people you love them. Think about someone you love. Use craft supplies (construction paper, crayons, stickers, and so on) to create a Valentine card for a family member. As you work, talk about what love means and why you love that person.

Key Words

*Consequences
Offering
Worship
Gospel
Grace*

Bible Passage

Context: John's Gospel examines the identity of Jesus Christ. He took care to highlight Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus during which Jesus explained the new birth. In the course of that conversation, Jesus prophesied His sacrifice of love for us:

John 3:16, KJV


For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16, ICB


For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

Bible Foundation


The Super Exciting Really Amazing News

 **How do most stories usually start?** They often begin with “once upon a time.” How do most stories usually end? Usually they end with “and they all lived happily ever after.” That’s because we have ideas about how time starts in the beginning and finishes in the end.


The greatest story ever told is unlike other stories. The Bible is where we find this great story, and at the end of your Bible, it says that from the very beginning of the story, God already had a plan for the end. That plan was to love people and save them (Revelation 13:8).

 **Do you remember the first two people God made?** He made Adam and Eve, and He wanted to live with them in the perfect garden. But they made a bad choice and picked something they wanted in the moment, even though they knew God had said not to. God knew that their bad choice would bring them harmful consequences. Have you ever made a choice that led to bad consequences?

God loved the people and gave them a plan to know Him. For many years after that, people would know God and worship Him by bringing an offering or a gift to His house (In those days churches were called tabernacles or temples.) But God had a better plan.

 **Do you remember what is special about Christmas?** Christmas is the time we remember how Jesus came to save us. At just the right time, God became a human and was born in a manger. The name *Jesus* means “the God who saves.” Sure enough, when Jesus got older, some people began to realize from the miracles He did and the things He taught that He was God. That made some people worship Him, but it made other people very angry.

One day the angry people took Jesus away and punished Him, even though He had done nothing wrong! They hurt Jesus and He died. But it was all part of His plan. Do you know how bad choices have consequences? Jesus knew that someone had to pay the consequences for all the mistakes that people would make for all time. So Jesus paid the consequences, even though He had made no mistakes.



But three days after Jesus died, He came back to life! He taught all the people who loved Him how to know Him even better: they could receive Him in their hearts. He promised He would fill them with His Spirit (the Holy Ghost) and that one day, they could live with Him in Heaven.

Here is the super exciting really amazing news: that promise is still for us today! Jesus loved us so much, that He gave His life to save us. We call that good news the gospel. Because of the gospel, our lives have hope and happiness. Jesus loves us, and we can know Him.

Think about that. Jesus loved us so much that He died for us.



Does that help you understand how much Jesus loves you? If He loved us that much, He loves us even when we make mistakes.

Bible Passages

Context: Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth on matters of holiness and matters of Christian living. In this portion of the letter, Paul shared the report of a church that gave generously and encouraged the Corinthians to do likewise. He provided context for his call to generosity by explaining the ultimate generosity of Jesus Christ:

II Corinthians 8:9, KJV

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

II Corinthians 8:9, ICB

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. You know that Christ was rich, but for you he became poor. Christ did this so that by his being poor you might become rich.

Context: The writer to the Hebrews explained that Jesus provided a better covenant (or way of being in relationship with God). In this specific portion of the letter, the writer compared Jesus' sacrifice to the method of a high priest offering sacrifice to the people. In the Old Covenant, people humbly and fearfully hoped the priest would approach God successfully on their behalf. Now through the New Covenant, believers have the hope of encountering God personally:

Hebrews 4:16, KJV

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16, ICB

Let us, then, feel free to come before God's throne. Here there is grace. And we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it.

God loves us, not because we do things to earn His love but simply because He loves us. God loves you, no matter what!

The word *grace* means the love, mercy, and goodness God shows us even though we don't deserve it. It was because God had grace for us that He died to save us. And even today we can receive grace when we make a mistake. In those moments, we follow Hebrews 4:16 and go to God and ask for His grace. When we do, He forgives us and helps us make a new start. God is gracious and loves us so much. What exciting and amazing news!

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Review

So let's review what we've discovered:

- God loves us.
- Jesus gave His life for us.
- We cannot earn God's love.
- Out of His grace He saved us.
- We can seek that grace today when we make a mistake.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your favorite part about the amazing news of the gospel?
2. How does it feel to know that God loves you no matter what?
3. Even though we can't do anything to make God love us more, what are some things we do because God loves us?

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the gospel.
- Ask God to help us understand that He loves us no matter what.
- Pray that we will always seek God's grace anytime we make a mistake, knowing that He loves us and wants to help us make a fresh start.



BIG IDEA: WHEN WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE BY REPENTING AND BEING BAPTIZED, HE WASHES AWAY OUR SINS AND FILLS US WITH HIS SPIRIT; THEN WE BELONG TO HIM.