

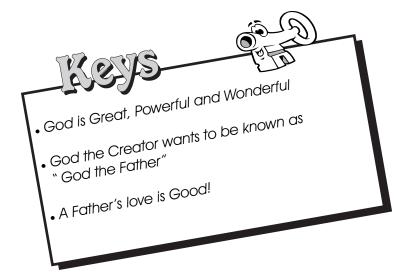
"See how great a love the Father has for us...." I John 3:1



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for the teacher

As our children begin to discover the nature, love, and character of God, they will discover that the realm of His Kingdom is based on a personal relationship with a loving Father. What a privilege it is to present the revelation that "God is Good". The wonderful truth is children will eagerly pursue and follow that which they perceive as being good!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Psalms 90:2b Psalms 139:7-10 Genesis 1:1 Exodus 15:26 Psalms 22:28 Matthew 28:18 Isaiah 40:11 Jeremiah 31:34 John 4:24 Zephaniah 3:17 John 5:19-20 John 14:1 John 14: 27 John 15:16 Romans 8:15 Philippians 4:19 James 1:17 1 John 3:1 1 John 4:16

Thoughts

to Ponder



Object Lesson



ITEMS NEEDED:

- A small globe or picture of one "Throne" setup
- Graduation cap or a picture of a brain
- King's crown Spray can of air freshener
- A box labeled: "God is"
- Plush heart
- Watch or clock Several flags of different nations Ball of twine

PREPARATION:

Place all items in box and set on "Throne". Print each reference verse from lesson below on paper and hand these out to children who are able to read.

TEACHING

A lot of people have different ideas about who God is and what He is like. Many know God as the Creator: He made the heavens and earth. (Take out globe and read Genesis 1:1). God is an amazing creator. With just words He spoke and the universe was created. Whole worlds were formed from the blast of His voice for billions and billions of miles in every direction: stars, planets, the earth, and everything in it. When you look around you'll see what the Creator is like. Just like an artist, God shows us who He is in what He has made. He likes color, and He likes things that are different. He's certainly not boring. Actually, He is pretty funny. Look around and see how funny-looking some of the things are that He has made.

Most people also believe that:

- God has all power and authority. (Read Matthew 28:18). No armies, kings, or weapons are greater.
- He rules and reigns over all the nations. (Take out crown and read Psalms 22:28). Every nation on earth is His! (Place flags at foot of "Throne").
- He is all-knowing, having knowledge of the past, present and future. (Take out graduation hat or brain picture). He knows everything about you; there are no secrets.
- God is everywhere. There is no place where He cannot be found and you cannot escape His presence. (Read Psalm 139:7-10). (Take out air freshener & spray over globe and throughout classroom).
- God is a spirit. (Read John 4:24). He's not bound to any location. He can't get sick or die.
- God is eternal and everlasting. (Read Psalm 90:2b). He existed before time (show watch or clock) and He will have no end. (Take string and have a volunteer unravel it and go out the room).

What an amazing God!! But the greatest truth about God is that HE IS LOVE! (1 John 4:16) (Take out plush heart).

If you took the smallest, tiniest piece of God, and squeezed it with all your might, what do you think would come out? LOVE!! The kind of love God has for His children (you and me) is a father's love. His Son, Jesus, always referred to God as "Father". Read: John 5:19, 20. In the same way, Father God wants to be a daddy to every child. Whether you have a great father here on earth or not, you have a wonderful Heavenly Father.



Object Lesson ADOPTED INTO A



ITEMS NEEDED: "Throne" set-up

- Plush dog or other stuffed animal Heart-shaped signs labeled:
- "ADOPTION", "JOY", "PLEASED"
 - God heart bucket

PREPARATION:

Put signs in God Heart bucket and place bucket and plush dog on a table in front of the class.

TEACHING

A true father has children on purpose. You are not an accident or a mistake. The Bible says you were chosen by God (John 15:16) and were adopted into His family (Romans 8:15).

(Take out "ADOPTION" sign).

Have you ever had a chance to get a new puppy, or some kind of pet? Maybe you went to a place where you had to choose which one you wanted. There may have been several and it was hard to decide which one would be yours. Then, finally, you chose one. How happy you were when you got to take home your "choice"! The pet was now yours and belonged to you and became part of your family (have some of the kids hug plush dog and place it on the throne).

That is what it means to be adopted. You were chosen.

(Take out "JOY" sign)

Your Papa God is so proud of you, and you bring Him such great joy. In Zephaniah 3:17, it says that God rejoices over you with joy! Your Papa God is so proud of you, because you bring Him such great joy (take out "JOY" sign). Zephaniah 3:17, also says that God rejoices over you with singing. He even jumps and spins around with joy while He sings songs about you!

(Take out "PLEASED" sign).

Father God is also pleased with you. That means you already have His approval you don't have to earn it, it is a free gift!



Support Lesson

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Candy bar, or a piece of bread Stethoscope or toy medical instrument "Throne" setup
- Large gift-wrapped box labeled
 - "GOOD THINGS"
 - Small blanket
 - A large eraser
 - Child volunteer
 - Umbrella

PREPARATION:

Place items in gift box, have child volunteer sit on "throne", and set box in front of class.

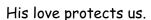
TEACHING

God is not only your Father, but He is a GOOD Father! (Read James 1:17).

The Father's love means provision (Read Philippians 4:19).

(Take bread or candy bar out of box and hand to child).

He will provide or give what you need.



(Take umbrella out and hold over child)

He is like a shepherd that cares for and protects His lambs (Read Isaiah 40:11).

Because of His love, we don't have to fear the devil, what others think about us, or

failing in what we try to do.

Because we are loved by the Father, we can receive forgiveness for our sins (Show eraser and hand to child).

He never reminds us of the wrong things we've done in the past.

"I will remember your sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34.

The wrong things we have done are erased.



God's love means healing.

(Take out stethoscope)

Exodus 15:26 says, "I am the Lord that heals you" (Place stethoscope around child's neck)

The Father's love brings us peace.

(Take out blanket and wrap around child volunteer)

John 14:27 says, "My peace I leave with you".





Support Lesson

The greatest moment in your life happens when you become one of God's children. The Bible says when you come into His Kingdom, all of Heaven gets very excited. It is like a big party. You will get to enjoy God's love for the rest of your life... and even longer. It is so easy to be "adopted" into God's family... just tell God you want to be one of His children.

Invite the children to come forward if they would like to receive Jesus into their heart, and become adopted into His family. At this point you can explain John 3:16; that Jesus, God's Son, came to show the goodness and love of the Father. (Read John 14:6) Let the children know that Jesus is the way, truth and life. If we confess our sins and accept Jesus into our heart, we will receive His forgiveness, and become one of God's children. Have them repeat this prayer and mean it with all their heart:

"Dear God, thank you for making me. Thank you for loving me. Jesus, I thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I am sorry for the wrong things I have done. Father I receive your forgiveness. Jesus, I invite you to come into my heart right now, so that I can become a child of God. Father, I love you. I thank you that I get to live forever in Heaven with you. Amen"





A Class Act! See his Love





PREPARATION:

Have the children sit or lie down on the floor (far enough from one another so they cannot touch each other).

Explain that we are about to invite our Heavenly Father to come and be with us. As the music begins to play, encourage the children by saying: "The Father wants to show us what His love for us looks like."

- Let's quietly ask Papa God to come, and that He is welcome here.
- With our eyes closed, invite the Father to pour out His love all over you.
- Begin to "soak" in this shower of His goodness, love, joy, acceptance, and peace.
- What does it feel like? Doesn't being close to your Father feel good?
- Thank Papa God for what He's given you. Give Him a big hug.

After a while, interview the children and have them share what it is like to be "soaked" and "saturated" with the Father's love. Let them know that because of the Father's love, they can come to Him anytime. It also means they can do great and mighty things, because they are awesome children of an awesome Daddy!!



Heaven to Home What we Learned Today

Dear Parents:

Our Memory Verse this week:

"See how great a love the Father has for us..." I John 3:1

Today we discovered:

- That God is such a wonderful Heavenly Father.
- That even though He is the Creator, full of power and authority, He is above all, LOVE.
- The type of love He has is a Father's love. This means He wanted us, chose us, and adopted us into His family.
- His love says that He is proud of us, full of joy, and that we already have His approval.
- He's a good Father: provides for us, protects us, heals us, and covers us with His peace.
- An invitation was given for children to become a child of God.
- We also had an opportunity to be still, or "soak" in the Father's presence, where He
 poured out His love. It was a great experience!
- Ask your child what it felt like to be in the Father's presence.

Parent's Points to Ponder:

As our children begin to discover the nature, love, and character of God, they will discover that the realm of the Kingdom of God is based on a personal relationship with a loving Father. What a privilege it is to present the revelation that "God is Good". The wonderful truth is that children will eagerly pursue and follow that which they perceive as being good!

Home Activity:

Get a plain piece of paper (construction paper is good to use), glue sticks and old magazines. Have your child tear out magazine pictures that show what God is like to them and use these to create a collage on

the paper. Have them write on the bottom or back of the page how the Father's love makes them feel. This is a good activity for a family time to talk about what God is like. This can be a great family project (have everyone join in the fun and make their own collages!).

If possible, place a bulletin board in your child's room to display the collage and other projects they will be doing throughout this year. You may want to refer to the board as "Heaven's Window".

Encourage your child to "soak" at home. All it takes is a quiet place and some soft, instrumental worship music. (Please feel free to join your child in this soaking time).

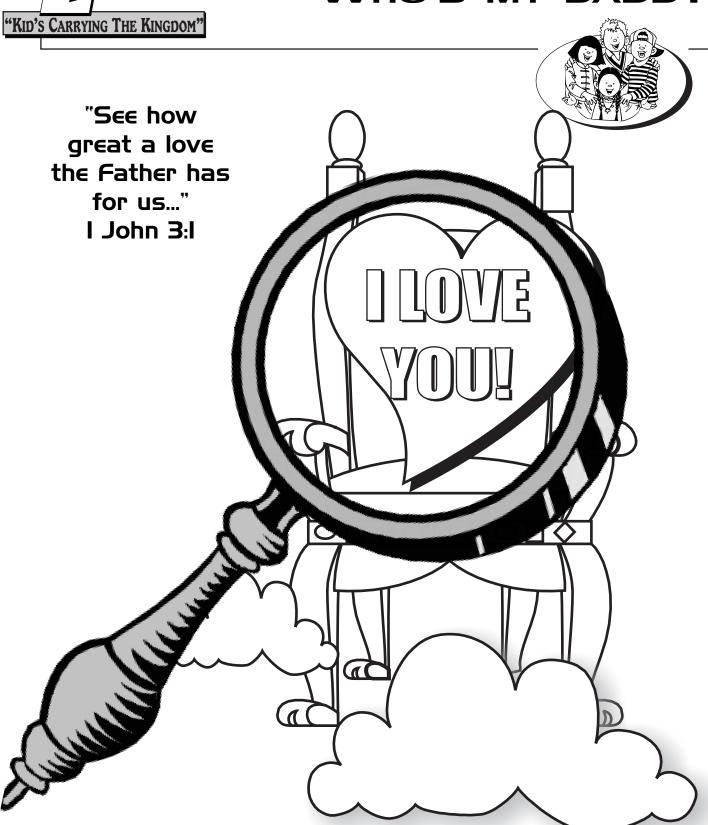
Genesis 1:1 Zephaniah 3:17 John 14:1,6, 27 Philippians 4:19 I John 4:16 Study: Jeremiah 31:34 John 5:19-20 Romans 8:15 James 1:17

A Parent's Blessing:

(<u>Your child's name</u>), I bless your spirit to hear and receive these words from I John 3:1, "...see how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God..." I bless your spirit with a hunger and desire to know the true nature, love and character of God. And in your discovery, you will know that His Kingdom is based on a personal relationship with a loving Father. (<u>Your child's name</u>), I bless your eagerness to seek after, dwell in and possess a Kingdom ruled by a "good Father". I speak, and agree with Heaven, these words over you in Jesus' name. Amen.



Memory Verse Who's My Daddy





Activity Page

Match the picture with the description of what God is like. Write the Letter on the line next to the correct description.









____ All knowing



____ He is everywhere



____ He is our protector



_ He forgives all sins



He is our healer



_ He is King and He rules



He is LOVE!