

# Why I Believe God LOVES Me

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## Teaching Objective

That the child will be able to confidently present to others the truth that God loves us.

## Main Truth

God loves me.

## Proof Verse

“God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8.

**Training for  
Christian  
children 8-11.  
Use in shorter  
segments for  
primaries.**

## Teaching Schedule

Session One  
Introduction  
Lesson/Invitation  
Review Proofs

Session Two  
Review Proofs  
Lesson  
Skits  
Practice Witnessing

## Visual Aids and Other Teaching Helps

### Preparation

1. Fill five colorful gift bags as follows:
  - #1--A boxed puzzle, 500 or more pieces, showing an outdoor scene if possible to suggest creation. Use one you do not intend to assemble again.
  - #2--Poster from center of magazine. (Open staples to remove, then reclose staples.)
  - #3--Enlarge and copy page 44 on bright pink card stock. Cut out heart halves. Place in bag.
  - #4--Poster prepared with blanks for the mystery message “God answers prayer” and marker.
2. One 9j x 12j sheet of construction paper (various bright colors) per child. Have half-heart patterns available so early

- arrivals can fold each page and trace half a heart on the fold to prepare for the introductory activity. Have a variety of colored, broad-tip felt markers and masking tape on hand.
3. Draw sad faces on a small lunch bag. Write the following messages on separate pieces of paper and place inside the bag:
  - God doesn't love me! I asked Him for a new bike and I didn't get one!
  - God doesn't love me. I've done too many bad things for Him to love me.
  - God doesn't love me. At least He's never done anything to show He loves me.
  - God doesn't love me. I just can't stop telling lies and God doesn't love liars.
4. Photocopy witnessing tool on page 43 and cut as directed.
5. (Optional) Cover hearts 4 and 5 on side B of poster by attaching similar heart-shaped pieces of red construction paper with reuseable adhesive. Remove pieces when you teach session 2.



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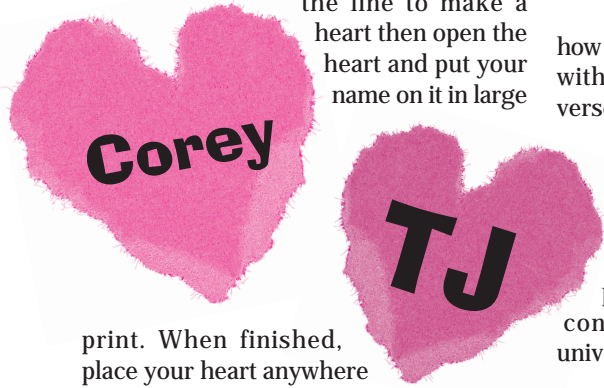
# Session One

1

## Introduction

(Give each child a folded sheet of construction paper with half a heart drawn along fold.)

We're going to start today by decorating our room. Carefully tear along the line to make a heart then open the heart and put your name on it in large



print. When finished, place your heart anywhere on our walls. (Show a heart you have torn so children will realize it will look uneven.)

## Lesson

Think of someone in your family who loves you. How can you tell if someone really loves you? (Allow for response.) It's wonderful to be loved by people, but their love isn't perfect. What are some things people do that show their love isn't perfect?  
b Make promises and forget to keep them.  
b Don't take time to listen to you.  
b Forget to tell you they love you.

There is one person who loves you perfectly. Who is He? (God.) It is easy to say God loves you but it is very important to know why you believe He loves you. Someone might say to you, "Why would God love you? You're so mean (or ugly, or dumb)." And you may begin to wonder, Does God really love me? He does!

Satan wants you to think thoughts like, You blew it! God can't possibly love anyone who did what you did. Or, You're not good enough for God to love you. Or, You're not smart enough. You're not rich enough, not strong enough, not handsome or pretty enough. But God loves (read some names from wall). God loves all of us.

When something happens to make you doubt God's love you need to be sure you have several ways to finish this statement, "I believe God loves me because P " We're going to open these bags one at a time and discuss five ways you can know God loves you.

The first thing we need to remember is God created us in His own image.

Let's think back to the time of creation for a few minutes.

(Remove puzzle from bag #1.)

Some people have strange ideas about how our world was made. They don't agree with Genesis 1:1. Who can quote that verse?

How do some people think the world was made? (There was a time when a big bang—an explosion—came out of nowhere and all the stars and planets were thrown into place.) Yes, these people say there is no God, no one in control. Just bang and there was a universe!

It would be something like this. Suppose I want to put this puzzle together instantly. Here's my plan. First I'll remove the cover of the box. You all count to three and yell "Bang!" At that point I'll throw all these pieces in the air and when they land they will all go together and form a picture. Right? Is it possible that could happen? (No!) Do you think I should try it? (Yes! Throw the pieces in the air so they land on your students. It will take a minute or two for them to return the pieces to the box and for you to regain order!)

Obviously it didn't work. If we repeated this experiment over and over enough times would it eventually work? (No!) This puzzle had only \_\_\_\_\_ pieces, but think of all the pieces in our solar system—the planets and zillions of stars. They didn't fall into place because there was a big bang with no one in control.

God had a plan for making this world and He had a plan for making you!

It was hard for us to do a good job of tearing one heart out of a piece of paper, even with a line to follow! But God designed you and me perfectly—after His own image. (Have someone read Genesis 1:26.) How are we like our creator? (We have power over plants and animals. We were created to be able to think and make decisions—we can even decide to believe the truth that God made the world or foolishly think it all came together with a bang! Best of all we can love God and talk to Him.)

We are the only part of God's creation that is like Him. People created in the image of God have a special kind of life. We will live forever with God in Heaven

or apart from Him in a place of punishment, depending on what we choose to believe. It's amazing that God would let us decide something this important!

The names on those hearts on the walls are names of special people God created in His own image. You can say, "I believe God loves me because Q (He created me in His own image)."

2

The second reason we can know God loves us is He gave his only Son to die for our sins.

(Pull poster from bag #2 and show side A.)

Here's a proof verse that tells why you can believe God loves you. (Read Romans 5:8 together.) God didn't just say He loves you, He showed His love for you by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for you. Did God show He loves you because you are such a great, fantastic, wonderful, lovable person? No! He loves you even though you are a sinner. You disobeyed His laws. You did not love Him with all your heart. This soldier reminds us that we all have gone our own way. We sinned against God.

You deserve to be separated from God forever in a place of punishment. But God loved you so much He had His own perfect Son take your punishment for sin. Jesus died in your place. He bled and died on the cross as the full payment for all the wrong things you have done or will ever do. What great love!

This verse is for \_\_\_\_\_ (point to one of the hearts and put that name in the blanks). Let's read Romans 5:8 as though it was written just for \_\_\_\_\_. "But God commendeth his love toward \_\_\_\_\_, in that, while \_\_\_\_\_ was yet a sinner, Christ died for \_\_\_\_\_." (Do this with several names.) As soon as you can, say the words without looking. (The final time use the word us in place of a name.)

You can say, "I know God loves me because He gave His only Son to die for my sins."

Perhaps you've never told God you believe Jesus died for you and that you want Him to be your Savior. God says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). If you want to be saved from your sin, come

and talk to me after class and I will help you call on the name of the Lord.

### 3

A third reason you can know God loves you is He tells you over and over in the Bible that He loves you.

What favorite verse in the book of John tells that God loves you? (Quote John 3:16 together.) There are many, many more verses in the Bible that tell about God's great love. We're going to take a few minutes to find some of them.

(Take all the heart halves out of bag #3 and spread them on a table. Let the kids see how quickly they can match up the halves. Have the class break into eight small groups, or singles if class is small, and each group take a set of matched halves to report on. The groups can ask their question and get answers from the class if time permits, then give the answer from the Bible.)

How long will God love you? Jeremiah 31:3 (Forever.)

What does God call you? 1 John 3:1 (A child of God.)

Why does God love you? 1 John 4:16 (God is love.)

How did God prove His love for you? Romans 5:8 (Christ died for you.)

How much does God love you? Ephesians 2:4-5 (With great love.)

Why is it hard to understand God's love? Ephesians 3:17-19 (It is greater than anything we know.)

What can separate you from God's love? Romans 8:38-39 (Nothing.)

What kind of love does Jesus love you with? John 15:9 (The Father's love for Jesus.)

Finish this statement, "I believe God loves me because" (He tells me over and over in the Bible that He loves me.)

(Review the previous two reasons in the same way. Review verse and repeat invitation to receive Christ.)

## Session Two

(Review the first three reasons we believe God loves us, using poster side B.)

### Lesson

### 4

A fourth reason we can say with great confidence that God loves us is--well, let's see if you can find the answer! (Pull poster with blanks from bag #4. Ask three volunteers to take turns guessing a letter until they miss. Add letters with felt-tip marker. Continue until someone guesses the phrase, God answers prayer.)

We can know God loves us because He hears and answers our prayers (1 Pet. 3:12).

Hannah is a woman in the Bible who had a very special need. Can someone tell us what her prayer was and what answer God gave her? (She was married but did not have any children. She prayed and God gave her a son, Samuel. His name means "asked of God.")

Can you tell something you prayed for and God said yes? (Allow several to respond. Give a short testimony from your own life.)

If you ask God to do something and He doesn't do it, does that mean He doesn't love you? (No!) Sometimes you ask God for something that involves other people and He lets them make choices. Can you think of some prayers that might not receive yes answers because of the wrong choices others make? (Let children respond.)

b "God, please don't let my parents get a divorce."

b "God, please stop my brother from beating me up."

b "God, please make the kids on my bus stop swearing."

It makes God sad when people choose to disobey Him. But God still shows He loves you by giving you peace in your heart and wisdom to know what to do. Remember, He is there with you in a hard situation.

Sometimes God answers no because He knows what you're asking for would not be good for you. By saying no He's showing He really does love you.

Sometimes God says no because He wants you to trust Him more--to depend on Him. That's why Paul in the Bible got a no answer. Three times Paul asked God to take his problem away. God told Paul,

"My grace is sufficient for you." That means God would help him get through it. Paul realized his problem made him trust God more. It helped him be humble instead of proud.

Can you think of a time when you prayed but God said no? (Let a couple of children answer and share a short personal testimony about one of your no answers if time permits.)

How do you know God loves you? (Because He hears and answers my prayers.)

### 5

The last reason we know God loves us is He lives in us to help us every day.

We have these wonderful promises in Hebrews 13:5-6. God says, "I will never leave you" and "the Lord is my helper."

Let's see what is in bag #5 that will show how God is your helper.

### Skits

(Remove skits from bag #5. Recruit appropriate actors who will portray the actions while you read the skits. Pause at asterisks to allow time for the acting.)

(Use poster to review the five statements about God's love briefly.)

Now you are ready to give an answer to someone who might ask, "How do you know God loves you?"

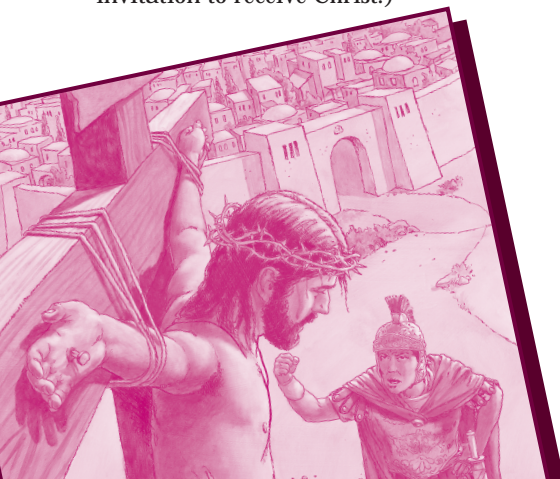
(Hold up the lunch bag containing slips described under number three of "Visual Aids and Other Teaching Helps.")

This sack contains some things your friends might say. I need a volunteer to come and choose one statement. Then tell me which of our five proofs you could use to help the person who doesn't believe God loves him. (One or more of the proofs would be appropriate for some.)

God does love you. Do you believe that? What does Romans 5:8 say? (Quote together.) Let's take a moment to thank God for His great love. (Give children opportunity to pray.)

### Practice Witnessing

(Conclude lesson by providing a tool and instruction on how to witness. See page 43.)



## (SKITS for “Why I Believe God Loves Me”)

### Skit #1: (Teacher and Jennifer)

Jennifer had homework to do—lots of it. (\*) She asked God to help her do her best. (\*) The next day the teacher collected the homework papers. (\*) Then the teacher smiled, (\*) announced a surprise quiz and wrote three math problems on the board. (\*)

Jennifer grabbed a clean sheet of paper from her notebook, (\*) took a deep breath (\*) and started copying the problems from the board. (\*) The teacher folded his arms in front of him (\*) and stood quietly, watching the students work. No one could tell, but as Jennifer was working on the problems (\*) she also prayed, asking God to help her.

The teacher collected the papers a few minutes later. (\*) Jennifer smiled (\*) and even though she was looking at her teacher, (\*) she was thanking God for helping her study the night before so she was ready for this quiz.

Jennifer believes God lives in her to help her every day.

### Skit #2: (Leon and Tasha)

Leon and Tasha were doing dishes together. Leon was washing. (\*) Tasha dried the dishes (\*) and put them back in the cupboard. (\*) When Leon was handing a clean plate to Tasha (\*) it slipped out of her hands, fell to the floor and shattered. (\*) Leon pointed at Tasha and said, “It’s your fault!” (\*) Leon got madder and madder. (\*) Tasha closed her eyes and tried hard not to cry. (\*) Silently she prayed, God help me to do the right thing. When she opened her eyes (\*) she looked at the dish on the floor, (\*) looked at Leon (\*) and quietly said, “Maybe it was my fault. Should I get the broom?”

Leon calmed down, (\*) looked at the dish (\*) and then at his sister. (\*) With a big sigh (\*) and a little smile (\*) Leon said, “Okay, bring the dust pan, too, and we’ll clean this up. It was just an accident.” Tasha took a deep breath (\*) and smiled.

Tasha believes God lives in her to help her every day.

### Skit #3: (Tony and Eduardo)

Tony stared at the computer screen. (\*) You could tell by his face that something was wrong. (\*) He pushed three keys. (\*) Nothing happened so he pushed two more keys (\*) and another one. (\*) Nothing happened. He hit the computer table with his fist. (\*) Nothing happened except his fist hurt! He took a deep breath (\*) and thought.

Closing his eyes (\*) he prayed, God, I’ve got to get my homework done. I don’t know why this computer isn’t working right, and I don’t know what to do. Please help me. He opened his eyes. (\*) More calmly now he tried pushing other combinations of keys (\*) but nothing worked.

Tony was still staring at the screen when his brother Eduardo came home, (\*) threw his books on the sofa (\*) and started bouncing his soccer ball. (\*) Eduardo stopped bouncing the ball (\*) when he heard Tony call, “Eduardo, come here! I need your help!”

Eduardo put the ball on the sofa with his books (\*) and went to where Tony was working. Tony pointed at the screen, (\*) explained his problem and pushed some of the same keys as before. (\*) Eduardo thought for a moment, (\*) pushed a few keys and waited, (\*) pushed a few more and waited again. (\*)

At the same time Tony silently prayed, Please, God, help Eduardo find the problem. Nothing worked. Eduardo was still thinking and pressing keys (\*) but finally said, “I think I can help, but I’m starved.” He pointed toward the kitchen (\*) saying, “Come on! Let’s get a snack and then we’ll work on this.” Eduardo headed toward the kitchen. (\*) Tony smiled, thanked God for his brother and followed him. (\*)

Even though he still has a computer problem, Tony believes God lives in him to help him every day.

## How to Lead a Child to Christ

1. Show him his NEED of salvation; that all persons are not going to Heaven; that no one in himself is good enough to go and the result of sin is forever separation from God (Romans 3:23; Revelation 21:27; John 8:21, 24).
2. Show him the WAY of salvation. Salvation is a free gift because the Lord Jesus took our place on the cross, was buried and rose again from the dead (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).
3. Lead him to RECEIVE the gift of salvation, even Jesus Christ, by trusting Him as his personal Savior (John 1:12; Revelation 3:20).
4. From the Word of God, help him find ASSURANCE of his salvation (John 3:36; Revelation 3:20; Hebrews 13:5).
5. Lead him to CONFESS Christ (Matthew 10:32). This confession should be made to you, other workers, later to his friends and as circumstances permit, in a public church service.

## CEF Training Courses Are Coming to You!

Two excellent courses on Teaching Children Effectively (TCE<sup>t</sup>) taught at the Childrens Ministries Institute in Warrenton, MO are available at over 200 extension sites around the country. Below is a sampling of the courses to be offered this winter. For additional locations contact your local Child Evangelism Fellowship director.

Canada, AB, Three Hills, beginning  
January 11, 2000–TCE2–403-443-2792  
DC, Washington, beginning February  
1, 2000–TCE1–301-336-0140  
GA, Atlanta, beginning January 27,  
2000–TCE1–770-251-9205  
PA, Havertown, beginning March 3,  
2000–TCE1–610-449-9564  
PA, Schuylkill Haven, beginning  
February 28, 2000–TCE1–570-739-4425