

I Can Love God Back

Teacher Pep Talk: God loves us! And you get to teach the children that they can love God back!! The amazing thing about this is that no one can EVER take that away from you!! You can love God all you want! He is big enough to take all of our love, from all of us, all of the time. And the REALLY amazing thing is that He never stops loving us. So, no matter how much love we give God, He gives us back MORE!!!

Before you take on this lesson, please read over these verses Matthew 22:36-37, John 15:10-11, and 1 John 4:19-21.

You will Need: A telephone (*can be a toy phone*) for an object lesson, copies of the coloring sheet for each child, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, yarn or stapler.

Memory Verse: *We love him, because he first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

Major Points: God loves us.
We can love God back.
We can talk to God through prayer.

Lesson:

God loves us.

- We have been learning that God loves us!
- The Bible tells us over and over how much God loves us!
- God shows us in many ways that He loves us. Let's list some. (*Wait for answers.*)
- God knows who we are and he cares about each of us.
- God gives a family to love us and take care of us.
- And God proved his love for us by sending his only son, Jesus, here for us.

We can love God back.

- It is a wonderful thing to know that God loves us!
- Did you know that God wants us to love Him back?
- Jesus said that the greatest of all the commandments was for us to love God!
- The Bible says: *We love him, because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*
- Let's say that together. (*Repeat verse x 2*)
- That means the reason we are able to love God is that He loved us first.

Object Lesson: **We Can Talk to God through Prayer**

- Bring out Telephone

- Children, what is this? (*A telephone.*)
- What do we use a phone for? (*To make calls, etc.*)
- We use a phone to talk to people: to tell them things, and to listen to them.
- Whom do you like to call on the phone? (*Parents, grandparents...*)
- Let's pretend to call someone on the phone! [**Demonstrate calling someone and talking to them on the phone.**]
- We can talk to God without a phone. It is called **prayer**.
- We can love God back. Prayer is just one way to express our love to God.
- Let's talk about other ways we can show God that we love Him. (*Prayer, Reading the Bible, Coming to Church, Obeying our parents, etc.*)

Let's pray and thank God that He loves us and we can love Him back.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for loving us!
Thank you that we can love you back!
Amen

Suggested Activities:

Play Telephone

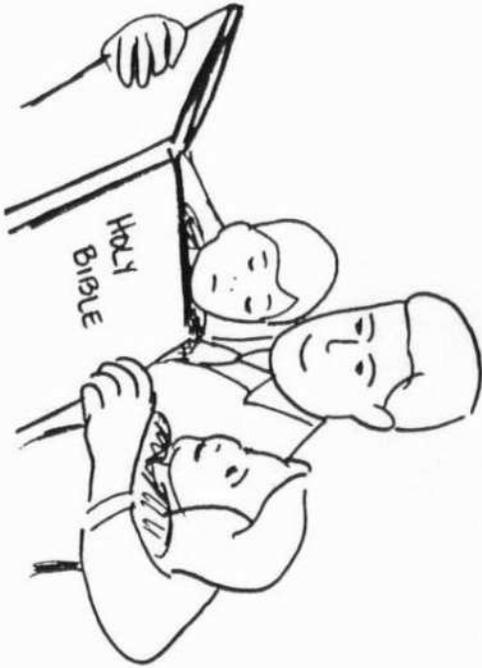
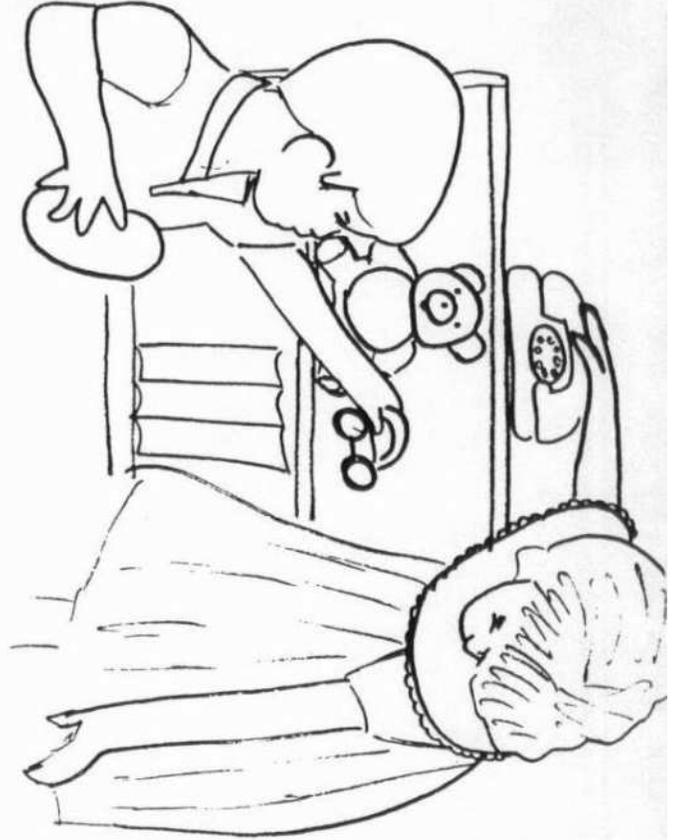
Using the pretend telephone, allow the children to "call" people they know and talk to them. Talk about the different parts of a conversation. (*Greeting; Expressions of love, news, needs, or feelings; Closing words and Good-bye.*) Point out that through **prayer** we can talk to God without a phone. We may want to tell Him important things in prayer. When we say "Amen" at the end of our prayer that means "Let it be so."

NOTE: You may wish to allow the children to "call" God on the pretend phone and tell Him one important thing.

We Love God Back

Discuss ways that we may honor God and His commands and show that we love Him. (Ex: Prayer, Reading the Bible, Obeying Parents, Coming to Church.) Have the children color the attached page representing four of these ways to honor God. After coloring the four pictures, cut the sheet into fourths; stack portions on top of each other; staple left edge to make a book. OR punch two holes in left edge and tie yarn through holes to bind into a booklet. Send these booklets home with the children.

Sing "Jesus Loves Me"



...He first loved us.



1 John 4:19 We love because...

