



God Is in Our Hearts
A Lesson on Forgiveness and God's Love
PreK, TK and Kindergarten Lesson

Goal:

To introduce children to the concept of forgiveness and how much God loves them.

Materials:

One heart-shape for each child— (use red construction paper, cut the heart in so that the heart can be moved apart and put back together again.) Put the child's name on the one half and GOD on the other half of the heart.

- Red construction paper
- Stickers
- Glitter
- Glue sticks
- Crayons/markers

Lesson:

Have the children gather in a circle on the floor.

Play and sing:

["Jesus Loves Me"](#)

Explain that God loves each one of us because we are special to him. Tell the children that when we love someone, we feel it in our hearts and it is a joyful feeling.

Have the students watch the [Story of the Prodigal Son](#) Animated video of the great Bible story of forgiveness (26 minutes). If possible show it to them through a screen-share, and pause it at times to explain that what is happening in the video is an example of forgiveness and God's love. Or watch [shorter version](#) (2.5 minutes).

Discussion:

Let the children know that God is in the hearts of every person. (Use examples such as Mom, Dad, siblings, aunts/uncles, friends, people in other countries or seen on the news, people who don't have

friends or who are homeless) Go around the circle naming each child, and tell him/her that God is in his/her heart.

- Discuss that when someone hurts us or when we hurt someone else, they/we are displeasing to God because God is in each of our hearts.
- Discuss how the children might feel when someone takes a toy or candy away from them (sad.)
- Show the children the heart fastened at the bottom with God and the teacher's name written on it. Explain how the heart is hurt/broken (apart) when God is sad with us.
- Forgiveness puts our hearts back together and makes us happy. Give examples.

Activity:

Give each child a heart with his/her name and GOD written on it. Have the children each decorate their hearts with stickers, glue, etc.

After the children finish decorating their hearts, ask them to name things that might displease God (saying mean things, taking what isn't theirs, not sharing. With each example, move the pieces of the heart apart.)

Next ask them what might make God happy (sharing, playing with someone who doesn't have anyone to play with, helping Mom or Dad. With each example, move the pieces of the heart together.)

Pray the prayer below with the children to thank God for loving us and being in our hearts.

PRAYER

We thank you, God, for all the wonderful things you have made for us—the trees, the grass, and the flowers, the sky, the birds, and all the animals.

We thank you, God, for giving us people to love us— Mom and Dad, brothers and sisters; for grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles, cousins and friends.

We thank you, God, for loving us and for being in our hearts to see can love others too.

Amen