



GLOSSARY

ASK: Ask a question that will help them to think about how this information makes a difference in the life.

SHARE: Talk about your own experience as a disciple of Jesus.

EXPLAIN: This is a piece of information that will help to explain the topic.

Why Does God Love Bad People?

'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.'
1 John 4:7a (NIV)

Chat

ASK: Have you ever made a bad choice? Do you think God stopped loving you after you made that choice?

Activity

Ask your child "Will God still love me if I..." for each of the statements below... (The answer is 'yes' to all of them!)

Will God still love me if I...

- Make a mistake?
- Tell a lie?
- Hit my friend?
- Kick the dog?
- Move to a different country?
- Make a new friend?
- Eat a banana?

EXPLAIN: God loves us! He loves every person. Sometimes He doesn't like the things we do or the choices that we make but He never stops loving us. The Bible says that God loves us so much that He has made us "alive with Christ" and that He saves us because of his wonderful kindness (Ephesians 2:4-5).

EXPLAIN: The Bible also says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8) and that means that God loves us ALL the time. He can't stop loving us because He is love. Every person makes good choices sometimes and bad choices sometimes. These choices don't make us good or bad people. They just mean that we don't get it right all of the time. God want us to make choices that show we love him and love other people. But God's love stays with us whatever choices we make.

SHARE: Share a time when you made a bad choice.

EXPLAIN: Everyone makes bad choices sometimes, even people in the Bible. The story of Adam and Eve is right at the beginning of the Bible. God told them that they must not eat the fruit from one tree but they ate the fruit anyway. Adam and Eve had to face some consequences for their choice and God was disappointed that they had disobeyed him. But, God still loved and cared for Adam and Eve.

Samson was given special strength from God. He thought that the strength came from his long hair and he made some bad choices. Things didn't go too well for Samson but he learned that he got the strength from God not his hair because God loved him. God kept on loving him even after his strength was gone.

Saul was being really MEAN to people who loved Jesus - Christians. But God didn't stop loving him. God talked to him and changed his name to Paul. He asked Paul to start doing the right thing and show other people how to do the right thing as well. Paul tells us about God's love in the Bible He says that He "wants you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is." (Ephesians 3:19 CEV)

ASK: Can you think of a time when someone you love made a bad choice? Do you still love them?

EXPLAIN: We might find it really hard to love someone after they have made a bad choice or been unkind to us. God loves people even if they make a bad choice and He forgives them as well. He wants everyone to try and forgive and love people that make bad choices too. Sometimes it's hard to forgive but that's why we can ask God to help.

Activity

Get a bowl or container to represent Gods love. Get the child to write down names of people they know on slips of paper and ask about each name and whether God loves them. Choose the name of a person that you know your child finds it really hard to love. Explain that even if your child finds this person hard to love, God still loves them because God is love. He loves EVERYONE!

Application:

When you make a bad choice this week, or someone is unkind to you, remember that God still loves us all.

Prayer

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything you are sorry about?

Is there anything you would like Jesus to help you with?

Who would you like to pray for?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving everyone so much and for forgiving us for the bad choices we sometimes make. Please help me to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others for their bad choices. Amen.

Journal

Draw a time when someone made a bad choice whether it was you, someone you know or someone from the bible. Then draw a heart over the top and write God inside it to show God still loves them.

Little Chats - Why Does God Love Bad People

Journal

Draw a time when someone made a bad choice whether it was you, someone you know or someone from the bible. Then draw a heart over the top and write God inside it to show God still loves them.

Prayer

Draw some pictures or write words to answer these questions:

What would you like to talk to Jesus about?

What are you happy about?

Is there anything that is making you feel sad?

What can you thank Jesus for?

Is there anything you are sorry about?

Is there something you would like Jesus to help you with?

Who would you like to pray for?

Dear God, thank you for loving everyone so much and for forgiving us for the bad choices we sometimes make. Please help me to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others for their bad choices. Amen.