



The
LOVE
of God

SESSION 7



Prep

Plan on spending 10 minutes without your kids to familiarize yourself with this session.

Begin with prayer, asking God for His wisdom and guidance. Read through the session to:

- Be sure to understand the Big Idea and the Key Verse
- Preview the video
- Select the best questions in the **TALK** section and activities in the **DO** section for your family

Understanding the Love of God

Background information from the Bible about God's character.

"God's love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created that compels Him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love."

(Chip Ingram, *The Real God*, page 213)

1. Holy disposition – Holy means "other" and "set apart." God doesn't love like people love. His love is perfect and infinitely better. God's love is unconditional. This is difficult for us to understand because human love is all about "ifs," "maybes," and "because." I love you if you do this... or I love you because you... God loves us because of who He is, not for what we do for Him.

For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. (Psalm 117:2 NIV)

2. Affection and correction – God is affectionate and gracious when we are good, and He is affectionate and gracious when we are evil.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NIV)

3. Highest quality of existence – God sent His Son, Jesus, so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him. Jesus lived a perfect life, died for crimes He didn't commit, and defeated the grave by raising from the dead.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)



Big Idea:

**GOD'S LOVE WILL ALWAYS
FIND US.**

God's love for us is perfect. We can't gain more of God's love—He loves us fully, it's not possible for Him to love us more. We can't lose any of His love—He loves us unconditionally, no strings attached. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love: He sent His Son to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and defeat death through the resurrection—all so that we might be found and have a relationship with God.



Key Verse:

PSALM 23:6 (NIV)

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.

Watch

Set up the video for your family:

"We're going to watch a video that tells a story to teach us something about God. Let's pay attention and see if we can discover what the story says about God."

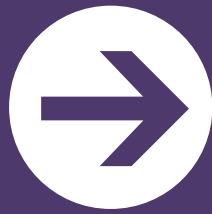


LOST AND FOUND



Choose a few questions to best help your family talk about the video.

- What did you like most about the story?
- What was the point of the story? What did it teach about God?
- This video is a beautiful story of a boy searching for his lost toy. After much searching he finds it! How do you think this story relates to God's love and what He has done for us?
- Read the Big Idea and Key Verse.
- What's your favorite possession, the thing you love the most? What would you do if you lost it? How far would you go to get it back?
- The Bible says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10 NIV) How does this verse relate to the story in the video?
- God's love for us is constant, and it's not based on anything we do—good or bad. How does this concept help with your faith?
- God loves the lost—people who don't believe in Jesus—so much that He sent His Son so that anyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. What could it look like for you to be loving to people who don't believe in Jesus?



Do

Ideas to help your family understand God's character for the rest of the week.

Print the **"TAKEAWAY"** sheet (included in this guide) and put up a few around your house (refrigerator, bathroom mirror, etc.). Encourage your kids to read the verse every morning and every night. One option is to memorize the verse as a family.

Morning Questions (at breakfast or on the ride to school)
(pick one for each morning):

- In the video, the narrator said, "You are much more valuable to God than anything you own." How does that make you feel? What does that mean for you?
- What's a practical way you can show love to someone today?

Questions for the evening in the car on the way home from school or dinner time
(pick one for each evening):

- What could it look like to show someone love tomorrow who is difficult to get along with?
- In your opinion, how is God's love different than human love?

Stories are powerful! Think through a few stories of God's love and share a couple this week. Be vulnerable, as this will encourage your kids. Here are a few prompts to get you thinking: Love is giving someone what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost. How have you experienced this kind of love? What made that experience personally powerful and meaningful?

Play hide and go seek with your kids. Give away a prize for the person who stays hidden the longest. When the time is right, say the following in your own words: "This was just a silly way to have fun and serves as a reminder that no matter what we do in life, God's love will find us."

Play a version of the “Price is Right” with your kids. Print out ten different items (pick at least one really expensive thing) and have everyone guess the price. Give away a prize for the person who scores the highest. In your own words, say, “You are more valuable to God than anything in the world. He sent His Son Jesus to pay the highest price for you, so that you might be found in Him.”

If your kids have a mobile phone, text them a few times this week. Here are a few suggestions:

- God’s love will always find us.
- “Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life.” (Psalm 23:6 NIV)
- I’m praying for you today. As much as I love you, remember that God loves you more! His love is unconditional. He will always love you!
- God’s love is not based on anything we do. He loves us simply because He made us. He is a good Father!
- Loving others the way God does isn’t easy. Try to show love to the “unlovable” today.



Takeaway

Print this out, put it in a place where your family can read it once or twice a day.



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