

# How to Help Your Child Feel Loved by God

## elementary ages

### Table Discussion:

*Welcome and introductions. What is a memory you have with your child that reminds you of the love you feel for your child?*

### Group Discussion:

*Is there a link between being secure with oneself and how much that person felt loved as a child? What do you think?*

### Point One: Learning how to receive love is the foundation for a child's spiritual formation

Ephesians 3: 16-19

- What does God passionately want for your child? John 3:16. Life with Him! This means...
- Where does feeling loved by God begin?
- Our model is to love our child the way God loves us!

### Example from Advocates:

*One couple shares how they have experienced the truth that God's love feels real when we feel loved by another...particularly loved by a parent when we are young.*

### Table Discussion:

*Was it at a young age or an older age that God's love felt real to you? Did you learn it from your parents?*

### Point Two: Help your child feel special in his or her unique personality and shaped by God's hands.

- Says, "You matter to me."
- Consider how God loves us by entering our world: Jesus!
- Link your actions of love to the truth of God's love. Examples:

### Example from Advocates:

*One couple shares.*

*First person briefly shares: I recall this example of loving our child by entering his/her world...*

*Next, the other spouse briefly shares:*

*I recall this example of how to link our actions of love to the truth of God's love for our child is...*

### Table discussion:

*Share from either of these:*

*I recall this example of loving our child by entering his/her world...*

*I recall this example of how to link our actions of love to the truth of God's love for our child...*

*What ideas are you now thinking about that you would like to try?*

**Point Three: Respect: Love them through their disobedience**

- God respects our right not to love Him. He does not force obedience.
  - He is clear about expectations
  - Consequences are enforced
  - He wants our hearts not just outward behavior.
- God loved us while we were sinners and sent Jesus.
  - His love shined brightest when He paid for our sin and took it on Himself.
  - His love changes hearts.
- How do we love our children the same way?
  - Need clear expectations and consequences
  - Show love because you love them, not just because of what they do!
- Pray a blessing over them!
  - Bedtimes...time to connect
  - Forgiveness times
  - Big steps and first times

**Example from Advocates:**

*One couple shares.*

*First person briefly shares: I recall this example of loving our child through an act of disobedience...*

*Next, the other spouse briefly shares:*

*I recall this example of how to link our actions of discipline to the truth of God's love...*

**Table discussion:**

*Share from either of these:*

*I recall this example of loving our child through an act of disobedience...*

*I recall this example of how to link our actions of discipline to the truth of God's love...*

**Wrap Up Group Discussion:**

*What are some of the new learnings or possible actions people are leaving with today?*

**Closing Blessing**



# What Kind of Animal Is Your Child?

## elementary years

- \_\_\_ Lion. Daring and unafraid in new situations
- \_\_\_ Beaver. Neat and tidy and notices little details.
- \_\_\_ Otter. Talks a lot and tells wild stories.
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever. Always loyal and faithful to friends.
  
- \_\_\_ Lion. Like to be a leader; often tells others how to do things.
- \_\_\_ Beaver. Sticks with something until it is done; doesn't like to quit in the middle of a game.
- \_\_\_ Otter. Likes to do all kinds of fun things.
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever. Listens carefully to others.
  
- \_\_\_ Lion. Ready to take on any kind of challenge.
- \_\_\_ Beaver. Asks lots of questions.
- \_\_\_ Otter. Enjoys being in groups; likes to perform.
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever. Likes to help others; feels sad when others are hurt.
  
- \_\_\_ Lion. Is firm and serious about what is expected.
- \_\_\_ Beaver. Likes things done the same way.
- \_\_\_ Otter. Full of energy and always eager to play.
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever. Is a peacemaker; doesn't like it when others argue.
  
- \_\_\_ Lion. Makes decisions quickly.
- \_\_\_ Beaver. Tells things just the way they are.
- \_\_\_ Otter. Always happy and sees the good part of everything.
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever. Patient and willing to wait for something.

### Score:

- \_\_\_ Lion
- \_\_\_ Beaver
- \_\_\_ Otter
- \_\_\_ Golden Retriever

Adapted from *The Two Trails* by John Trent and Judy Love