



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 44

In Worship God Says, "I Love You" and We Say, "I Love You" Back

Primary Scripture: Mark 12:30

Key Verse: Mark 12:30, "So love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

We often say, "Kids, let's worship," but what does that actually mean to a child? In Mark 12:30 and Deuteronomy 6:5, we learn that loving God is not just a head thing or a heart thing, but it is a whole body experience. It is loving God through our songs, our play times, our thoughts, and with every ounce of strength we have. In teaching kids to worship, we need to first help them see how wonderful their God is and then respond using their whole bodies.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus loved us so much on the cross. What amazing love! He came and loved us first and continues to come and love us.

Jesus in us: When Jesus lives in us, we can't help but respond with our whole lives. Our heart, soul, mind, and strength are engaged in active worship to our wonderful Savior.

Jesus through us: When Jesus is living in us, every breath we breathe, every step we take, and every person we talk with becomes a way to express our love for our wonderful Savior.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- Valentine card

Show a Valentine. Interview two or three children asking them to think of different ways that people show love to one another. (Sending cards, saying, "I love you," giving presents, giving hugs, etc.)

We show God that we love him in many different ways. too. We do it by telling him so in worship. We do it when we sing or pray to him and tell him that he is wonderful. We show him love when we obey him. We do it when we help others. We can show God that we love him with *everything* we do.

It is important to show God love in worship. We can also do it all during the week in everything we do. Let's worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- *red marker*
- *wet wipes*
- *cross with a trash bag attached to it*

Have you done anything this week that showed you didn't love Jesus? Most people who love Jesus would never *want* to do anything to show they didn't love him.

Jesus said, "*If you love me, you will obey my commandments*" (John 14:15). Sometimes we don't obey his commandments. Sometimes our actions don't show God that we love him. Does that mean God will stop loving us? No. But it does mean we want to change and do what God commands so we can show we really do love him.

How do we do that? First let's think of any unloving actions we have done this week against other people or against God. Close your eyes and think to yourself. Can you think of any unloving act you have recently done to someone else? Can you think of any way you have not respected God or God's house? Let's talk to God right now about the things we might have done to disobey his commands.

After a moment of silent confession, conclude with:

We ask you to forgive us in Jesus' name.

The next thing we are to do is to realize how much God still loves us, even when we are unlovable. Look at it this way.

Use a red marker to make the following point.

Let me write with a red marker on the palms of my hand. Red is a Valentine color, the color of love. I will write some words that remind me of some of the unloving things I have done.

Write on the palm of your hand some unloving things you have done.

Red is also the color that reminds us of the blood of Jesus. Because of his love, he poured out his blood for us when he died on the cross. That's when he showed how much he loves us.

Use a wet wipe to wipe the ink from your hand.

Jesus took all of our sins on himself. Those sins were taken to the cross, placed on him, and taken away.

Deposit the wipe into a plastic waste bag hanging on the cross.

And I throw this away because God has taken care of my sin so I don't have to feel dirty with it anymore. I really can feel how much God loves me.

Give children a wipe and have them clean their hands and deposit the wipe in the waste bag on the cross.

After God showed us his great love in this way, I really want to love him with everything I am. I want to love God with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *red marker*
- *sheet of paper or poster board*

Use the red marker to draw a large heart on a sheet of paper or poster board. Place this on the altar. Explain that just as Jesus showed his love for us by giving us all of himself, we can love him by giving all of ourselves to him. One of the ways we show this love is to give him our offerings. Let the kids come forward to place their offerings in the heart as a sign of their love for God.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- *stickers representing the heart, the soul, the mind, and strength—hide these around the room before Kids Church*
- *large piece of butcher paper cut into a heart large enough to have a child traced within it*
- *marker*

Have a child come forward to lie down on a large piece of butcher paper cut into a heart shape. Trace the outline of the child onto the heart-shaped paper. Holding the paper up for all to see, read Mark 12:28-30.

One of the scribes went to Jesus during the argument with the Sadducees. He saw how well Jesus answered them, so he asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of them all?”

Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. So love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’”

God tells us to love the Lord with our whole self. This paper heart represents our whole self. Hidden around the room are four stickers that can help us label our person with the different ways we are to love our God. Let’s see who can find them and bring them forward.

Once the stickers are found, stick them to the large heart. The strength sticker might be placed on one of the arms, the soul sticker might be placed under the heart, and so on.

Let’s think about how we might best love God with our whole self. Think about each one of these words. I’m going to start with the last word, “strength.” What does it mean to love God with all my strength? That means we love God with some of the actions our body can do. Let’s discover some of those things in our learning game.

Option 1: Large Group Game for STRENGTH

Have children form “a large circle lap sit.” First have the kids form a circle and connect to one another by rubbing another’s back at the shoulder area. Ask them if they ever imagined Jesus giving someone else a back rub. It makes good sense because we know that Jesus showed love to people and did so at times by the way he touched them.

Perhaps rubbing another persons’ back might be a way to use your strength to show God’s love. When you use your strength to love others, it can be like loving God.

Next, draw the circle tightly together by asking kids to step sideways toward the center. Have them continue to hold the back of the person in front of them. Explain that if every person bends down at the same time, every person would be sitting on a lap while having another person sit on his lap.

The entire group must sit at the same time if it is to work. You might want to practice by having them bend down slowly as you count to three ending with “sit.” Then say:

We can use our strength to help hold others up and encourage them. As we show our love and concern for others, it becomes a way we can love God.

Object Lesson for STRENGTH

“Shoe Shine by the Pastor”

Supplies:

- *foot washing or shoe polishing supplies*

A special guest is coming to worship with us. Look, our Pastor came to worship.

Pastor loves you kids so much that he decided to pick one of you and wash your feet (or shine your shoes) as a way to communicate how very special you are to him. Wow!

Pastor washes feet or shines shoes. Then ask the child whose feet were washed (or shoes shined):

Did you feel pretty special when Pastor washed your feet? Who remembers a story about foot washing in the Bible?

If children can’t remember, tell how Jesus washed his disciples’ feet the night he was betrayed.

Think how special the disciples felt when Jesus knelt down in front of them and washed their feet. Can you close your eyes and imagine that? Pretend you are there. How would you feel?

Jesus loves us so much that there is nothing he would not do for us. Wow, the King honored us by bending down in front of us and washing our feet.

You can love God with your strength just like Jesus did and our pastor does. When you serve others in Jesus' name, it is the same as loving God with all your strength. What are some things you can do to use your strength to help others and in that way love God with all your strength?

Option 2: Object Lesson for MIND

Supplies:

- *phylacteries made from two small boxes, each on a headband and an armband*
- *copy of Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Make and wear your own phylacteries (prayer boxes religious leaders in Jesus time wore) by taping one small box to a headband and another to an armband. Inside both place a copy of Deuteronomy 6:4-9.



Have kids guess what the boxes are or what's in them. To give clues, read the scripture reference emphasizing verse eight. Point out that one box is near the head and reminds us to love God with our entire mind. The other box is placed on the left arm toward the inside so it is close to the heart. That reminds us to love God with our whole heart. Explain by saying:

God wanted his people to love him with all their heart and with all their soul and with their entire mind. Do you know how the people in Bible times remembered that they should love God with their mind? They wore headbands called phylacteries. The phylacteries were headbands with little cubes of leather that had the Bible passage we just read in it so they would always remember it. One worn close to their hearts reminded them to love God with all their hearts.

To love God with our entire mind means we can read the Bible to learn more about what God says to us and to learn whom he is. Let's practice that right now.

Give kids a 3 x 5-inch note card and markers.

Think of a word or a phrase that describes how wonderful God is and write it neatly on your card. These will be praise cards. We will later glue these on a large banner.

Option 3: Object Lesson for SOUL

Supplies:

- *clear plastic wrap*
- *markers*

What does it mean to love God with all of our soul?

Have a volunteer come forward.

Can anyone tell me where this person's soul is? It's with his body, but it can't be seen. The soul is the deepest part of a person even if you can't see it.

Take some clear plastic wrap and carefully wrap the volunteer. It is a good idea not to wrap his arms tight to his body, as this would be very dangerous if the person were knocked over.

This plastic wrap reminds us of a soul. You can't see it, but every living person has one and each one is unique. All of your personality and gifts are wrapped up in your soul. It is even the part of you that becomes alive when you meet Jesus as your Savior.

Let's take a marker and write some things on the plastic. These would be those special personality traits this person has.

Talk about personality traits of the volunteer and write them on the plastic wrap.

We can use our souls to love God by using our unique gifts to give glory to him. One of those special gifts God has given is music. When we sing to God our soul can say, "I love you, God" in a very personal way.

Sing the song, "I Love You, Lord" by Laura Klein (House of Mercy Music, 1986).

Option 4: Object Lesson for HEART

Supplies:

- *long roll of butcher paper for a banner*
- *glue sticks*

What does it mean to love God with our whole heart? It means that we will love him with our feelings. Let's do that right now. Everyone close your eyes and picture God and the whole universe in his hands. He is so big and powerful.

Next, picture him looking at you and being delighted just to see you and know you. Feel how much he loves you. He gave his Son for you so you could be with him face to face in perfect happiness in heaven. Since you feel how much he loves you, whisper it back to him. Say, "I love you, God." Can you feel your love for him?

Let's make a banner expressing our love for God.

Write "I love you, God!" on a long roll of butcher paper. Then glue the large heart with the child's outline onto it. Have the children glue their praise cards to the banner as well. Then say:

We want to show others that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We will display our banner somewhere in the church.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Kids can come forward to tell about their favorite way to show God that they love him.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- Valentine card

The Power of the Cross:

- red marker
- wet wipes
- cross with a trash bag attached to it

Offering:

- red marker
- sheet of paper or poster board

Learning Game:

- stickers representing the heart, the soul, the mind, and strength—hide these around the room before Kids Church
- large piece of butcher paper cut into a heart large enough to have a child traced within it
- marker
- foot washing or shoe polishing supplies (optional)
- phylacteries made from two small boxes, each on a headband and an armband
- copy of Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- clear plastic wrap
- markers
- long roll of butcher paper for a banner
- glue sticks

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.