



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Spring Year 4, Lesson 51

Mother's Day "I Love You"

Primary Scripture: Psalm 118:1; John 19:25-27

Key Verse: Psalm 118:1, "Give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his love endures forever." (NIV)

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

Kids need love and need to express their love. This is especially true in their relationship with their mothers. On Mother's Day, kids need to be reminded of their mother's love. Mothers need to know, as well, that their children love them. Jesus remembered to show his love to his mother when he was on the cross. Jesus said, "I love you" to his mother by providing for his mother at the point of his death by giving John charge to take care of her. Greater than this is that he showed *eternal* love to her and *all* mothers by giving his life in payment for the debt of sin. As kids are reminded about the magnitude of Jesus' love, they, too, can express love for their mothers.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus gave his life for us on the cross—the ultimate expression of his love.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Jesus is in our lives so that we might have the power to love the same way he does.

Jesus through us: We, too, can show love and appreciation for our mothers by reflecting the kind of love that Jesus has.

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: a Mother's Day chocolate candy, a flower, a Mother's Day card

Hold up the Mother's Day gift of chocolate candy.

Today is a celebration day to say, "I love you" to a special person. Who is it? Yes, it is your mother, and Mother's Day is a time to remind her of your love. Think of the different ways to say, "I love you." One way is to speak it out—to say, "I love you, Mom." Another way is to give a gift, like this chocolate.

How long do you think this chocolate will last? In my house, it *might* last one day.

Hold up the flower.

What about this? Flowers are another way to say, "I love you." But how long do you think flowers will last? Three or four days?

Hold up the card.

Here is a Mother's Day Card. This is a wonderful way to say, "I love you." How long do you think it will last? Oh, it may sit in a special place at home for longer than a week—moms might even save it for years. It is a wonderful way to say, "I love you."

But did you know that the Bible says in Psalm 118:1, “Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (NIV)? His love lasts forever. The Lord’s love lasts forever for us, too.

Today when we remember that we love our moms, there is someone who loves them even more. God loves them even more. And he loves us, too. God gave his only Son Jesus, to die on a cross that we might be with him forever. His love lasts forever. Let’s give him thanks because his love lasts forever.

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!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

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

When Jesus was on the cross, the punishment for sin of the whole world was put on him. It must have hurt very much. But did you know one person he thought of, even while in pain, was his mother?

It says in John 19:26, “Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there.” (The disciple’s name was John.) “He said to his mother, ‘Look, here’s your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Look, here’s your mother!’” Jesus was making sure that his mother would be taken care of after he left. He gave his disciple John the responsibility of watching over his mother. He was saying, “I love you, Mother,” even during his last hours on the cross.

His love for his mother was even greater than that. Do you know how big it was?

Stretch your arms out as wide as you can.

His love was this big. Jesus stretched his arms out and paid the price of my sin and the sin of the whole world...including his mother’s. Because of that, Jesus’ love would last forever. His mother’s sins would be forgiven and she would be with him—and all believers—in heaven forever. That is the greatest show of love the world has ever seen. Though it cost Jesus his life, it was the greatest Mother’s Day gift one could ever give. Let’s take the time to think about how much he loves us, as well.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your love of the whole world. You gave your life for all of us. You gave your life for your mother and for us. We thank you for going to the cross to take away our sin so that we may have eternal life with you. We thank you for your presence that gives the power to love like you. Help us to love our mothers and make their day extra special. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

Put a hula hoop or string on the floor to make a circle. Show how the circle has no beginning and no end. It keeps going.

Notice how this circle has no beginning and no end. It keeps going. As you put your offering in the center, realize that God's love has no beginning and no end.

The offerings we give to the Lord help keep his love moving out to other people when used to help them.

Talk about your current mission project.



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.

The Great Chocolate Race:

Supplies: bucket for each group of eight, one wrapped chocolate candy per child

Divide the children into teams with even numbers of approximately eight in each group.

Have teams each sit in circles facing one another. Place a bucket of wrapped chocolate candy, one piece per child in the center of each group. Explain that the object of the game is to pass the candy one at a time around the circle and back into the bucket.

Round One:

Select one child to begin. He/she takes one piece of candy and passes it to the child on his right and this child will pass to the next person and so on around the circle. As soon as the first child passes one piece of candy, he/she picks up another and passes it. Have kids continue passing the remainder of chocolates in the same manner. Kids can have only one piece of candy in their hands at a time. When all the candy has been passed around the circle and is back in the bucket, the team stands up. The first group to stand wins the race.

Play one round of the game and announce the winner.

Round Two:

Play another round, but this time, have the losing teams each give the winning team one piece of their candy.

Round Three:

In the next round, have kids pass the candy to the left. Again have each losing team give the winning team one piece of candy.

Round Four:

Play one more round. This time, have the starter pass the first piece of candy to the left and the next piece of candy to the right and so forth. Chocolates will be going in both directions. Remind kids that they can only have one piece of candy in each hand at a time. It is possible that they may end up with one piece of candy in each hand and have to cross arms to hand them off.

Again the losing teams must forfeit one of their pieces of candy to the winning team.

After this, count the candies in each bucket to determine which team had the most and is the winner.

Now redistribute the candy so all the kids get a piece to eat. Bring kids together to discuss the following.

The circles that you were sitting in remind us of our families. Families are meant to pass love to one another. One person in our family that usually gives a lot of love is our mom. She is like the one holding the bucket and giving out the candy.

We want to make sure that love comes back to her, especially on Mother's Day. She continually gives from her bucket. We have to help fill that bucket back up.

What are some different ways that you can show your mom that you love her?

Take answers. Then say:

Today you can each make a special card that will remind your mom (or someone special) of how much you love her. It's a way of helping to fill up her bucket. Let's be thankful for how God has given us moms or other special people in our lives to pass his love on to us.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies: a pretend time machine (In advance, use supplies within your classroom to assemble such a machine. For example: use a chair, a music stand for a control panel, a box or table), and the book Love You Forever written by Robert Munsch—order from www.amazon.com or your local bookstore.

Begin by reading the Bible verse:

Psalms 118:1 tells us, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Then sit at your imaginary time machine. Say:

Let’s imagine this is a time machine. We are going to take an adventure in our time machine. Fasten your seat belts. Here we go!

Have kids close their eyes and imagine.

We are going back in time. Let’s go back five years ago. How old were you five years ago? Many of you weren’t even in school yet. Some of you may not have had younger brothers or sisters.

Now we are going back twenty years. None of you were born yet. Your mom and dad may not have even known each other yet. There were not any computers in homes and no cell phones.

We are now back 100 years. There were few cars, but many trains.

How about 200 years ago? What was life like then? Everyone walked or rode horses.

Now 600 years ago, America wasn’t discovered yet.

With each of the following questions, allow for a few answers, but watch your time.

1,000 years ago, people lived in castles and there were knights. What do you see there?

2,000 years ago was during the time of Jesus. What was going on then?

Now, let’s go back to the days of Moses or Noah. What were some of the activities going on then?

How about back to the Garden of Eden? What happened there?

Now even before the Garden of Eden, what was there? God was there. What else was there? God's love was there. The Bible says that God's love is everlasting. It never had a beginning. It has always been there.

God loved you even before you were born and even before the world was made. God's love goes back before the beginning of time.

Now, we are going to go forward in our time machine. Let's jump ahead to 20 years from now. What will it be like? I bet many of you may be parents. Will God's love still be with you?

It is now 50 years later. You are now grandparents. Will God's love be with you then?

How about 1,000 years from now? You will be with God in heaven. His love will be with you there.

The Bible says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." From the beginning of time to the end of time, God loves you.

He loves you so much that he gave you Jesus. You are able to be friends with him forever because of that gift.

He uses many ways to show us his love and one of those ways is by giving you a mom or a special person like a mom to show you his love. We want to be like God, and show his love to our moms for as long as we live.

Read the book, *Love you Forever*, written by Robert Munsch.

Application:

Supplies: a Mother's Day card printed on cardstock for each child (see appendix page), magazines, scissors, glue, markers or crayons, extra pieces of 8 ½ by 11-inch paper

Today you can make a special card for your mother.

Give each child a Mother's Day card. Have them fold the paper in half so the outside reads, "I love you more than..." and color it. Then say:

On the inside, I would like you to either draw pictures or cut out pictures from a magazine that you love your mother more than. For

example, you may cut out a mountain because you love your mom more than the size of a mountain. Or, you can cut out a picture of pizza, because you love your mother more than your favorite food. Or, you can cut out a picture of a night sky because you love your mother more than all the stars in the sky, etc.

If children wish, they can add more pages by folding a blank 8½ by 11-inch piece of paper in half and placing it inside the card.



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.

Let kids tell something about their mothers for which they are thankful to God.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

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:

- a Mother's Day chocolate candy
- a flower
- a Mother's Day card

Offering:

- hula hoop

Learning Game:

- bucket for each group of eight
- wrapped chocolate candy, one per child

Bible Presentation:

- make a small time machine using supplies within your classroom—for example: use a chair, a music stand as a control panel, a box, or table
- the book *Love You Forever* written by Robert Munsch—order from <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0920668364/griefnet>

Application:

- a Mother's Day card printed on cardstock for each child (see appendix page)
- magazines
- scissors
- glue
- markers or crayons
- extra pieces of 8½ by 11-inch paper

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.

Dear Mom,

I Love
you more
than...