

I Can Love God Back

Teacher (parent) Pep Talk: God loves us! And you get to teach the children that they can love God back!! The amazing thing about this is that no one can EVER take that away from you!! You can love God all you want! He is big enough to accept all of the love, from all of us, all of the time. And the REALLY amazing thing is that He never stops loving us. So, no matter how much love we give God, He gives us back MORE!!!

Refer to Matthew 22:36-37, John 15:10-11, and 1 John 4:19-21.

You will Need: A cell or toy phone.

Major Points: God loves us.
We can love God back.
We can talk to God through prayer.

Lesson:

God loves us.

- We have been learning that God loves us!
- The Bible tells us over and over how much God loves us!
- God shows us in many ways that He loves us. Let's list some. *(Wait for answers.)*
- God knows who we are and he cares about each of us.
- God gives a family to love us and take care of us.
- And God proved his love for us by sending his only son, Jesus, here for us.

We can love God back.

- It is a wonderful thing to know that God loves us!
- Did you know that God wants us to love Him back?
- The Bible says: "We love him, because he first loved us."
- Let's say that together. *(Repeat verse x 2)*

Object Lesson: **We Can Talk to God through Prayer**

- Bring out Telephone

- What do we use a phone for? (*To make calls, etc.*)
- We use a phone to talk to people: to tell them things, and to listen to them.
- Whom do you like to call on the phone? (*Grandparents, Godparents, friends...*)
- Let's pretend to call someone on the phone! [**Demonstrate calling someone and talking to them on the phone.**]
- We can talk to God without a phone. It is called **prayer**.
- We can love God back. Prayer is just one way to express our love to God.
- Let's talk about other ways we can show God that we love Him. (*Prayer, Reading the Bible, Coming to Church, listening to our parents, being kind, etc*)

Prayer: Let's pray and thank God that He loves us and we can love Him back.

*Dear God,
Thank you for loving us!
Thank you that we can love you back!
Amen*

Suggested Activities:

Play Telephone

Using the phone, children pretend to "call" people they know and talk to them. Talk about things that happen during a conversation. (*Greeting; Expressions of love, news, needs, or feelings; Closing words and Good-bye.*) Point out that through **prayer** we can talk to God without a phone. We may want to tell Him important things in prayer. When we say "Amen" at the end of our prayer that means "Let it be so."

We Love God Back

Discuss ways that we may honor God and show that we love Him. (Ex: Prayer, Reading the Bible, listening to our parents, being kind to others, going to Church.)

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Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong
They are weak but He is strong!
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so!

