

**Right Relationship Concept:
Unconditional Love, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation
(Primary)**

Learning Objectives:

- To teach children that God loves us unconditionally.
- To help children understand that Jesus tells us to love God and our neighbors.
- To explain that imposing conditions for love is not what God intended for us.
- To teach children that God forgives us when we are sorry and wants us to forgive too.

Outline:

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. God Loves Us Unconditionally (Core)**
- III. How Do We Show Love to One Another? (Core)**
- IV. God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive (Core)**
- V. Closing Prayer

Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard, chalkboard and chalk or flip chart and markers
- Pens, pencils for class members
- Handouts:
 - PreK – Grade 1: “Showing Love”
 - Grades 2 - 3: “Love Your Neighbor”
 - PreK - Grade 3: “Showing I’m Sorry”
 - PreK – Grade 3: “Who is Truly Sorry?”
- Activities:
 - “Showing Love”: pens or pencils
 - “Love Your Neighbor”: pens or pencils
 - “Showing I’m Sorry”: pens or pencils
 - “Who is Truly Sorry?": pens or pencils

I. Opening Prayer

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Jesus, you teach us that God loves us. We thank you for the love you give us each day.

Help us to love God above all things and love each other as you love us.

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

II. God Loves Us Unconditionally

Discussion

Say:

“God is love.

God loves us.

God does not say, “I love you because. . .” or “I’ll love you if. . .”

God loves us unconditionally.

God wants us to love him with our whole heart, soul, and strength.

God wants us to love each other in the same way he loves us.

God never wants anyone to hurt us nor does he want us to hurt others.”

- **Say:** *“Jesus shows us how to love God and each other. Jesus tells us to love God unconditionally and to love each other just as he, Jesus, loves us. How did Jesus show his love? Jesus showed his unconditional love for his Father by doing what his Father asked him to do. What did he do? He freely offered up his life for us so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with God. Through his obedience and sacrifice, Jesus also shows God’s unconditional love for us. Because of God’s love and forgiveness, we can have a relationship with God as a beloved son or daughter and we can have a relationship with each other as brothers or sisters in Christ.”*

- **Say:** *“There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve God’s love. Through our baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him. This means we should love God and each other unconditionally. This means we should not try to make anyone do something special to deserve our love nor should we ever have to “prove” our love to someone else.*
 - *No one has to look or dress a certain way to deserve to be loved.*
 - *No one has to do what we ask of them to deserve to be loved.*
 - *No one has to be famous or popular or talented to deserve to be loved.”*

- **Say:** *“Every person deserves to be loved because God made them and loves them.”*

- **Say:** *“If someone says to us:*
 - *‘I will not play with you if you do not do what I want’ or*
 - *‘I only love you because you are (pretty, or strong, or smart)’ or*
 - *‘You have to prove to me that you deserve to be my friend’*

- *These messages do NOT express unconditional love. They are not what God wants for us.”*

III. How Do We Show Love to One Another? (Core)

Discussion

- **Ask:** *“How do we show the love we have for one another?”* Write the answers on the white board. If ‘forgiveness’ is not specifically mentioned, suggest it as a way of showing our love.”
- **Say:** *“We show love in many way:*
 - *we show respect for one another;*
 - *we use kind words;*
 - *we follow the rules;*
 - *we pray for one another;*
 - *we pray together;*
 - *we help others;*
 - *we forgive each other.”*

Activities

Grades PreK - 1: “Showing Love”

Circle the pictures that show love.

Grades 2 - 3: “Love your Neighbor”

Check the boxes of ways you can show love. Discuss.

- **Ask:** *“What are some other ways you can show your love?”*

IV. God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive (Core)

Discussion

Say: *“Through Baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him. Throughout his life, Jesus forgave the sins of many people. When he was dying on the cross, he forgave the thief who was sorry for what he had done. Even though they were not sorry for their actions, Jesus even asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him. Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do something wrong and ask the forgiveness of the person or persons we have hurt.*

- *Jesus also wants us to forgive others when they hurt us even if they are not sorry for what they have done.*
- **Say:** *“God forgives us and asks us to forgive others. When we are sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive us, God does forgive us. God asks us to do the same thing for other people. Forgiving others can be hard but we can pray for God’s help to forgive others like God forgives us.”*

Activities

PreK – 3: “Showing I’m Sorry”

- Have the students circle the persons who are showing they are sorry. Discuss: giving a present; praying; being charitable; making a valentine; writing an apology.

PreK – 3: “Who is Truly Sorry?”

- Discuss the pictures as follows.
 - **Say:** *“These two children were asked to clear the snow from the front porch. They played in the snow instead. One of them was sorry for not completing the chore.”* **Ask:** *“Can you tell which one? How can you tell?”*
 - **Say:** *“These two boys were asked to help clean up.”* **Ask:** *“Which one is doing something to make things ‘right’? How can you tell?”*
 - **Say:** *“These two children played in the leaves instead of raking them up as their parents asked.”* **Ask:** *“Which one is trying not to sin again? How can you tell?”*

V. Closing Prayer

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.