

2-15-26 He Loves Me - The Godly Choice

Overview

God loves you **NO MATTER WHAT!** His love is not like a trade ("If you're good, I love you; if you're bad, I don't"). That's called **unconditional love** — it's forever and free! Sometimes when we do wrong things (sin), we feel far from God, but that's because sin separates us from God like a giant canyon, not because God stops loving us. The message teaches us to love others (and ourselves) the same way God does, like Jesus. It's hard at first because we're used to trading favors, but we can practice new ways — like training muscles to get stronger!

Big Ideas

1. **God's love never stops** — Even when you mess up, God still loves you lots! Feeling sorry (conviction) is good — it means God is helping you grow, like a parent corrects a kid they love.
2. **We sometimes think in "trades"** — Like "I'll be nice if they're nice to me." That's old habit (muscle memory). God wants us to love because people are special to Him, not because of what they do.
3. **Three super ways to love like Jesus:**
 - **See true value** — Everyone is super special because God made them! (Like the Good Samaritan helped a hurt man even though others ignored him — he saw the man mattered!)
 - **Know strengths and weak spots** — Some things people are great at, some things are hard. Don't get mad if someone struggles — help them instead, like being kind when a friend can't do something yet.
 - **Pick the best choice** — Choose what builds love and makes things better (like forgiving or helping), not just what feels fair or easy. It's like choosing to fix a friendship instead of staying mad!

Fun Questions to Think About

- When you do something wrong, do you feel like God still loves you, or like He's far away? How can knowing it's just a "sin wall" (not God leaving) make you feel better?
- Do you ever think, "I'll share my toy only if they share first"? Where do you do "trades" instead of just being kind?
- Think of a time someone was mean or messed up. Did you still want to be their friend? How can you love them anyway?
- Who is someone (maybe a brother, sister, or friend) who has a "weak spot" (like getting mad fast or forgetting things)? How does getting upset make it worse? How could being extra kind help?
- Imagine a big choice: Be right and win an argument, or say sorry and make things happy again. Which one feels better in the end?

Things You Can Do This Week

- **Feel God's big love** — When you feel bad about something you did, say sorry to God quick, then say out loud: "God still loves me SO much!" Give yourself a big hug.
- **Be a helper, not a judger** — Pick one person who frustrates you (like a sibling who breaks your stuff). Instead of getting mad, help them get better — maybe play nicely together or say something encouraging.

- **Remember true value** — When you want to call someone “dumb” or think bad about yourself, stop and say: “God made them special, and He made me special too!”
- **Choose the building choice** — In a fight or when hurt, ask: “Do I want to be right, or do I want us to be friends again?” Try forgiving fast or saying “I’m sorry” even if it’s hard.
- **Train your love muscles** — Do one kind thing every day with no “trade” — like drawing a picture for someone, sharing without asking for something back, or saying nice words to yourself in the mirror.

Fun Group or Family Talk Ideas

1. Tell about a time you felt far from God (or Mom/Dad) after doing wrong. How does knowing God’s love doesn’t go away help?
2. Which is hardest for you: Seeing everyone as special, helping instead of getting mad, or choosing forgiveness over winning? Why?
3. In the Good Samaritan story, a “not-friend” helped the hurt man when others walked by. Who is someone others might ignore that God wants you to be kind to?
4. Has anyone ever treated you like you weren’t important? How did it feel? How can family or friends remind you how special you are to God?
5. Share a time you expected someone to be good at something they’re not (like expecting a little brother to never spill). How could being patient and helping feel better?
6. Talk about “be right or be close/friends again.” Share a story where saying sorry or forgiving made things happier.
7. What’s one kind, no-trade thing you’ll try this week? How can your family cheer each other on and check in?