

2-22-26 He Loves Me - Unconditional Love Transactional Action

Overview

God loves you **always**—no matter what you do wrong or right. That's called **unconditional love** (like a big hug that never stops!). But the things we **do** (our actions) show if our love is real. Jesus wants us to choose kind, helpful choices that **build up** friends and family—like fixing things when they're broken. Sometimes people don't want to fix things, so we might need to love them from far away (with safe boundaries) while still hoping they change someday. God helps us with His Holy Spirit to forgive, be kind, and make good choices!

Big Ideas

1. **What you DO shows what you LOVE** If you love Jesus, your mom, or your friend, you show it by kind actions (like helping, sharing, obeying). Bible example: Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey what I say” (John 14:15—easy version). It's like: If you love soccer, you play it a lot! Actions prove the love.
2. **Love gives lots of grace and forgiveness** Grace means being extra kind even when someone messes up (like God is kind to us!). Forgive again and again (Jesus said “seventy times seven”—that's like A LOT!). Try to fix problems nicely: Talk kindly first, ask a grown-up for help if needed. Ask the Holy Spirit for help to be patient and kind.
3. **Sometimes love from a distance is okay** Not everyone wants to be friends or fix things (like the rich man who walked away from Jesus, or Judas). It's smart to have safe walls (boundaries) to protect your heart. But build a **gate** in the wall—so if they say sorry and change, they can come back in! God always wants friends to get along again when possible.

The main goal: Choose the kind choice that **builds up** people—like Jesus does for us!

Fun Questions to Think About

- What do you do a lot? (Play games? Help at home? Hug your family?) Does that show who you love?
- Has someone hurt your feelings? What would it look like to forgive them (maybe say “It's okay, I still like you”)?
- Have you ever tried to say sorry or fix a fight with a friend? What happened?
- Do you have anyone you need to love from far away right now (like not playing with a mean kid for a while)? How can you leave a “gate” open?
- How can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you be kind when it's hard?

Things You Can Do This Week

- Pick one person (mom, dad, sibling, friend). Do 3 kind things for them this week—even if they were grumpy (like share a toy, draw a picture, say “I love you”).
- If someone hurt you, pray: “Jesus, help me forgive them. I'm okay now.” Then let it go!
- If there's a fight, try talking nicely first (or ask a grown-up to help fix it).
- Think about boundaries: If someone keeps being mean, it's okay to play somewhere else for a bit—but pray they can be nice again someday.
- Every day, pray a quick prayer: “Holy Spirit, help me love like Jesus today!”

Fun Group or Family Talk Ideas

1. Tell about a time someone was mean or broke a toy. Was it hard to still like them? How did you feel?
2. Read James 2:14–17 super simply (or have a grown-up tell it): Faith without doing good things is like saying “I love you” but never hugging. Where do you need to show love with actions?
3. How do you know when to keep being nice vs. take a break from someone? (Like Jesus let the rich man walk away, but He still loved him.)
4. Jesus loved a rich man but let him go when he wouldn't follow. Share a time you had to stop playing with someone. Did it hurt? Do you feel okay now?
5. What's a “gate” in a wall? Draw a picture of a wall with a gate. How can we have safe space but still hope for friends to come back?
6. End with a fun prayer circle: Everyone says one person's name they want to love better (more hugs, more forgiveness, safer space, or open gate). Say “Jesus, help us build up our friends!”