Ch 1: God’s Love for Man

**Steps to Christ**

**Part 1:** If there is one thing, we can be sure of, it is that God loves us. God shows us His love in several ways, including through nature, other people who care for us, and the Bible.

**Discussion questions (There are no incorrect answers):**

1. What are some ways that your parents, grandparents, or other family members show their love to you? How are these things similar to what God does for us?
	1. Making me food
	2. Buying me things I like
	3. Protecting me from harm
	4. Comforting me when I am upset or sad
	5. Telling me they love me
	6. Playing and spending time with me
	7. Other
2. What are some of the ways in which God shows His love to us?
	1. Nature
	2. The bad things that happen
	3. The Bible
	4. The singing birds
	5. Other
3. What is your favorite Bible story or text that shows God’s love for us?
	1. Baby Jesus being born in Bethlehem (Luke 2)
	2. Daniel in the Lions den (Daniel 6)
	3. Peter in Prison (Acts 12:5-17)
	4. Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39-45)
	5. John 3:16
	6. Psalms 23
	7. Romans 8:38,39
	8. Other
4. Satan wants us to believe that God is not love. What are some of the lies about God’s love that Satan tries to get us to believe?
	1. That God causes bad things to happen
	2. That God stops loving us when we sin
	3. That if we do certain things God will love us more
	4. Other

**Activity**:

Go for a walk outside and look for things in nature that help you understand and remember God’s love and care for you.

**Day 2**

While there are many ways for us to understand something about God and His love for us, the best way for us to understand what God is like and how much He loves us is to look at Jesus.

**Discussion questions:**

1. Jesus showed us what God, His Father, is like in everything that He did and said. What are some things that Jesus did on earth? What do they teach us about God’s love?
	1. Healed the sick (Mathew 8:1-17)
	2. Offered forgiveness (Luke 7:47-48)
	3. Died on the cross
	4. Fed the 5000 hungry people
	5. Went to parties and weddings
	6. Told stories to teach people
	7. Other
2. If your sister or brother did something wrong, would you be willing to take their punishment for them? Jesus died for all our wrongs; how much do you think He loves you to be willing to do that?
3. Jesus died on the cross because God loves you very much! Nothing you can do can make God love you any less. Discuss some things that you have done that have made you doubt God’s love for you.
	1. Lying
	2. Stealing
	3. Fighting with someone else
	4. Other
4. Love and selfishness (sin) cannot coexist. God is trying to restore humanity to a world where love reigns. What are some things that you look forward to having in a perfect and loving world?
	1. Eternal happiness
	2. No more pain
	3. No more getting sick
	4. Other

**Activity:**

Find some pictures of when you or your children when they were newborns or at least very young (infant, toddler). Tell your children about when they were first born or first became part of your family. Describe how excited you were and how much you immediately loved them just because they were your children. Compare this to how God loves us because He made us to be His children. Explain that God wants each of us to be part of His family forever, just as much as you want your children to always be part of your family.

**For young children:**

God loves you with all His heart. He made you to be His son/daughter and Jesus died for your sins so that you can live with God in heaven someday.

Story: Jesus told a story about a shepherd that lost one of His sheep. He loved the sheep so much that He stopped doing everything else just to look for that one sheep. When He found the sheep, He had a party to celebrate. God loves each one of us just like that shepherd loved His sheep. It makes Him so happy when we decide we want to be part of God’s family.

Song: My God Loves Me (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcqRBSv9XEM>)