

Loving God

Faith focus

God loves us, and we love God.

Introduction

God's incredible love is the focus of this module. We are created by God, known by God, loved by God. In return, we love God and the ones God created. Love is difficult to explain in words, but we know love when we experience it. Because love is hard to explain, and because twos mostly communicate nonverbally, this module expresses love in other ways. Let love show in your tone of voice, in your facial expressions. Sign "love" when you say the word or experience love with the twos.

The heart is a visual symbol for love in our culture. Many twos are beginning to read symbols. In this module, you will use heart shapes to communicate love while telling the Bible story or in the Create area of Responsive play. The gestures with hearts during storytelling may communicate more to twos than the words you say.

Theme song

"Hosanna, Jesus loves . . ."  track 6

Preparation

You will use motions more than figures to tell the Bible story in this module. See Tell-It-Again, page 122, for a list of figures you will need. *Note: For instructions on how to prepare photo figures of the children in your group, see p. 15.* Check session supply lists and preparation instructions carefully for other story props.

Create soft blocks for building. Here are some ideas:

- Soft sponges of various sizes
- Cereal boxes stuffed with newspaper and taped shut. (*Open boxes flat, then re-tape inside out, so outside is plain.*)
- Paper bags stuffed with newspaper. (*Place stuffed bag inside second bag, covering opening; then tape shut.*)

Contact parents/caregivers about bringing in an ultrasound image of their child.

Learn the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for "love."

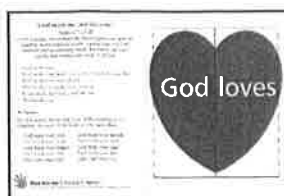


Cross both arms over chest. Hands may be closed or open, but palm side should face you.

GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Wee Wonder CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- Story figures
- Storytelling props (see session supply lists)
- Prepared activity cards
- Responsive play materials (see p. 122)

Prepare the activity cards:



Session 1



Session 2



Session 3



Session 4

Gather materials for Responsive play

CONNECT

Act out loving relationships as inspired by a home setting.

All sessions: baby dolls, child-sized dishes, child-sized cleaning tools, large crate from module 5, housekeeping items—doll beds, play kitchen, etc.

BUILD

Build loving relationships with others while building with softer items.

All sessions: soft “blocks” for building; heart-shaped sponges, boxes, or paper hearts

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Session 1: photo figures of the children on craft sticks, block of Styrofoam

Session 2: large blanket

Session 3: Bible, paper heart

Session 4: Jesus figure, paper heart

EXPLORE

Explore self through mirrors, magnifying glasses, pictures, and the senses.

All sessions: various mirrors (hand-held, free-standing or full-length Plexiglas), magnifying glasses, photos of children, fetal ultrasound images

Sessions 2–4: small towels or cloths

CREATE

Create with fingerprints and handprints.

Session 1: washable inkpad, paper, wet paper towels, magnifying glass (*optional*)

Session 2: large paper hearts, crayons

Sessions 3–4: paper, crayons, heart stickers

READ

Read about God's deep love.

God Knows All About Me by Kate Toms

God Loves Me by Daphna Flegal

God Loves Me More than That by Dandi Daley Mackall

God made me and loves me

Psalm 139:13-15

Faith formation for twos

Psalm 139 can be a powerful passage even for those who have heard it many times. Imagine experiencing it for the first time as a two-year-old! Although this session's story is very simple, you can convey the wonder and awe of the psalm through your attitude and expressions. Twos are adept at reading tone of voice, facial expression, and attitude. This is how they absorb meaning as they are learning vocabulary.

Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Psalm 139.
- Practice the American Sign Language (ASL) sign for "love" (*see module introduction, p. 121*).
- Practice telling the Bible story using photo figures of the children in your group on craft sticks. (*See p. 15 for how to make these figures.*)
- Prepare a healthy snack.
- Prepare the activity card:
 1. Cut on solid lines to form doors. Fold doors open on dotted lines.
 2. Cut rectangles of mirror paper to fit in white section. (*Mirror paper is available at craft stores. You can also use aluminum foil, but the reflection is not as clear.*)
 3. Apply glue in shaded area.
 4. Fold page in half on remaining dotted lines. Press glued edges together.
- Gather materials for Responsive play.

Environment for twos

Twos have difficulty waiting in the way adults often wish they would. Have an activity ready for the children to join as soon as they arrive. Invite children to participate when they arrive, but honor their choice to hang back and watch. Some children learn best by observing. Some need time to acclimate to a new situation. But always provide something for the children to do.

FAITH FOCUS

God loves us, and
we love God.

AT A GLANCE

Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or "Exploring our hands" activity
- Song ("Hosanna, Jesus loves . . .")

Share the Bible story

- Chant ("God loves . . .")
- Song with the Bible ("Jesus loves me")
- Story (Psalm 139:13-15)
- Praise prayer
- Action rhyme ("And God loves you!")
- Activity card: "God made me"

Responsive play Sending

SUPPLIES

- Wee Wonder CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- For "Exploring our hands" Gather option: mirrors, magnifying glasses (*see Explore, p. 126*)
- Story figures: photo figures of children on craft sticks
- For telling story: block of Styrofoam or container of sand (large enough to hold all photo figures)
- For activity card: mirror paper or aluminum foil, glue, plastic lid, paintbrushes (*optional*)
- Responsive play materials (*see p. 126*)

MODULE 6 THEME SONG

Hosanna, Jesus loves . . .
 Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
 Yes he does, yes he does.
 Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
 Yes he does, yes he does.
 Hosanna, Jesus loves ____,
 Yes he does, yes he does,
 And he wants ____ to love
 him too.



track 6



track 1

Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. Choose one of these options for children to do as they enter the room:

Option 1: *Snack.* If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.

Option 2: *Activity, "Exploring our hands"*—Gather children in the Explore area of Responsive play. Expand the children's awareness as you look at hands (*and other body parts*) with magnifying glasses and mirrors.
3. When you are ready to tell the story, sing "Hosanna, Jesus loves . . ." from the *Wee Wonder* CD. Sing each child's name as you gather for the Bible story. You may choose to sing one name for each line, or one name for the whole verse.

Share the Bible story

1. Say the following phrases, using the ASL sign for "love" each time you say the word. Point to yourself on "me" and to the children on "you."

God loves me, and God loves you.
God made me, and God made you.
2. Sing "Jesus loves me" along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. As you sing, make the ASL sign for "love" and the ASL sign for "Jesus." (*See p. 271 for words to the song.*)

Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so . . .

Hold up the Bible, with today's story marked. Say,
"This is the Bible."

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.
"Here is the story."

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.
3. Share the Bible story.

Story figures: photo figures of the children on craft sticks

Other props: container of sand or block of Styrofoam

Set the scene: Place photo figure sticks in container of sand or block of Styrofoam so figures stand upright and all are visible.

Tell the story.
4. Carefully place the story figures in the Tell-It-Again box. Then pray the following prayer, using the motions:

I praise you, God! (*jump with arms outstretched*)
God, you see me! (*hug self*)
God, you love me. Amen. (*make ASL sign for "love"*)
5. Action rhyme. Stand to say the rhyme and do the motions:

God made your eyes. (*touch eyes*)
God made your nose. (*touch nose*)
God made your fingers. (*wiggle fingers*)
God made your toes. (*touch toes*)
And God loves you! (*make ASL sign for "love" and point to children*)

BIBLE STORY: Psalm 139:13-15

God made you. (*Gently touch each child's figure, saying names.*)

God made your head, your arms, your body, your legs. (*Touch body parts as you name each one.*)

God made every part of you.

God made you inside your mommy. (*Cup hands over photo figures as if they are in a womb.*)

It was dark, but God could see you. (*Remove hands.*)

God made you.

God made your mouth. (*touch mouth*)

God made your teeth. (*show teeth*)

God made your legs. (*touch legs*)

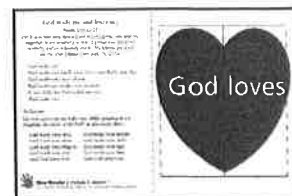
God made your feet. (*touch feet*)

And God loves you! (*make ASL sign for "love" and point to children*)

6. Activity card: "God made me." Give children pieces of mirror paper (*or foil*) to glue inside the heart. Squeeze white glue on a plastic lid, for children to apply with fingers or paintbrush. Print the child's name below the mirror. Say:

"God made (name). God loves (name)."

Show children how to open the "heart doors" to see themselves.



Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.

Responsive play (See p. 126.)

Using the suggestions, set up areas for "free play" around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

Sending

As each child leaves, kneel at the child's level. Offer a hug for the child to accept or refuse. Say:

"(Name), God loves you so much."

Option: Sing "Holding hands together" from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

Responsive play

CONNECT

Set out baby dolls and housekeeping items for children to act out loving family relationships.

Faith Link: "We love people in our family."

Supplies: baby dolls, baby blankets, child-sized dishes, child-sized cleaning tools, sturdy crate

Tip: The crate from module 5 could become a baby bed, a table, or a stove.

BUILD

Set out soft blocks for building, along with various hearts and heart shapes.

Faith Link: "God made your arms. You can build with your arms."

Supplies: soft blocks (see *module introduction*, p. 121, for options), heart-shaped sponges, heart-shaped boxes, hearts cut from paper or cardboard

Tip: Talk about the parts of the body you see children using as they build with the blocks.

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Story figures needed: photo figures of the children on craft sticks

Additional props: block of Styrofoam

EXPLORE

Set out self-exploration materials, children's photos, and fetal ultrasound images.

Faith Link: "God made you when you were inside your mommy."

Supplies: various sizes of mirrors, magnifying glasses, photos of the children, fetal ultrasound images

Tip: Ask parents/caregivers in advance for copies of ultrasound photos of the children. *OR*, search for fetal images on the Internet to print.

CREATE

Invite children to make ink fingerprints on paper. Write on each child's paper, "God made (name)."

Faith Link: "God made your fingers. Each finger makes a special print."

Supplies: washable, child-safe ink pad, paper, wet paper towels, magnifying glass (*optional*)

Tip: Draw children's attention to the "lines" in their fingerprint. Once the ink is put away, the children could look at the prints (*and their fingertips*) with a magnifying glass.

READ

Read about God's deep love.

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