

## Lesson 2.2: Loving God/Father

Ages 7-9

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### Goals:

1. Understand God's love for us and how to respond to it.
  2. Overcome obstacles preventing us from fully loving God.
  3. Learn practical ways to cultivate love and passion for God.
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### Welcome Time

- **Greet students warmly** as they arrive and engage them in light conversation.
  - Ask each student to share one way they showed love or kindness during the week.
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### Worship Time

- **Songs:** Choose songs like "Jesus Loves Me" and "I Love You, Lord."
  - **Prayer:** Begin with a prayer thanking God for His love and asking for open hearts to learn about Him.
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## Lesson

### Opening Activities

1. **Heart Matching Game:**
    - Prepare paper hearts with phrases about loving God and matching scripture references.
    - Students match the phrase to the scripture.
  2. **Discussion Starter:**
    - Ask: "What does it mean to love someone with your whole heart?"
    - Write their responses on a whiteboard or poster.
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## Memory Verse

### Matthew 22:37 (AMP):

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

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## Bible Story

### Introduction

Loving God is a lifelong journey requiring dedication, passion, and total devotion. It involves serving others, praying, and expressing gratitude.

**Text:** Mark 12:33, Ephesians 3:18

- **Summary:** Read and discuss how loving God surpasses all offerings and how deep and wide His love for us truly is.
  - **Visual Aid:** Show an image or video illustrating the concept of God’s immeasurable love.
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## Discussion Questions

1. How can we show love to God?
  2. What does loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind look like?
  3. What challenges make it hard to love God?
  4. How can we overcome these challenges?
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## Conclusion

Loving God is found in daily actions and small moments. By cultivating gratitude and practicing love, children can grow closer to God and reflect His love in their lives.

## Gospel Points

1. God’s love is unconditional and sacrificial.
2. Loving God requires total devotion and gratitude.
3. We express love for God by serving others.

4. God's love empowers us to overcome challenges and grow in faith.
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## Activities

### Suggested Activities:

1. **Prayer Bracelet Craft:**
    - Provide colorful beads and string.
    - Assign each bead a meaning (e.g., red for Jesus' sacrifice, green for God's creation).
    - Have students create bracelets to remind them to pray and love God.
  2. **Nature Scavenger Hunt:**
    - Go outside and find items symbolizing God's love (e.g., flowers for beauty, a rock for strength).
    - Discuss how each item reflects God's character.
  3. **Acts of Kindness Calendar:**
    - Create a calendar with one act of kindness for each day of the week (e.g., smile at someone, write a thank-you note).
    - Encourage students to complete the calendar and share experiences next week.
  4. **Love in Action Role Play:**
    - Divide students into groups and have them act out scenarios where they show love to others (e.g., helping a friend, forgiving someone).
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## Craft

### Heart of Devotion Collage:

- Provide paper hearts, markers, stickers, and glue.
  - Have students write or draw ways they can love God and paste them onto a large poster labeled "Our Love for God."
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**Closing Prayer:** [Click Here](#)

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## Snack Time

- Serve heart-shaped cookies or fruit with juice.
- Use snack time to reflect on ways God provides for us daily.

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**Take-Home Activities:** [Click here](#)