

Praising God Together

Opening

Gather the children in the worship center and open with thankfulness to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for His great love.

Teacher: **Because of God’s love, our sins are forgiven through Jesus. Because of God’s love, we are God’s children. Because of God’s love, we are blessed in so many ways. Because of God’s love, we share God’s love with others.**

Listen to what the Bible tells us about God’s love in First John chapter 4:

(V. 7) **“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.”**

(V. 9) **“In this the love of God was made [known] among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.”**

(V. 11) **“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”**

(V. 19) **“We love because He first loved us.”**

Practice and then use the following litany.

Teacher: We love . . .

Students: because God first loved us.

Teacher: We forgive . . .

Students: because God first forgave us.

Teacher: We are kind to others . . .

Students: because God first was kind to us.

Teacher: We share . . .

Students: because God first shared with us.

Sing “Because of Love” from the song sheet on Reproducible 1 or read it rhythmically as a poem. Add these actions as indicated by the numbers: (1) raise right arm high, (2) also raise left arm, (3) extend both arms out to the side welcomingly, (4) bring arms in to give yourself a hug, and (5) place both hands over your heart.

Optional song choices from *Little Ones Sing Praise*: “Love, Love, Love” (pp. 30–31) and “We Love” (p. 54).

Conclude your devotions with this prayer. **Dear Jesus, thank You for living a perfect life, for dying for us on the cross, and for coming again to life at Easter. You lived for us. Help us to live for You. We need Your strength and power because we cannot do this on our own. But we know that with You, all things are possible! Lead us and guide us, so that we may follow You and live as Your disciples in all we think and do and say. We pray in Your holy name. Amen.**

Taking It Home

Dear Parents,

Your child has been learning about a saving plan—actually there are two of them. The most important saving plan is God’s plan to send Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and arose at Easter to take away our sins and give us the promise of eternal life in heaven. Out of thanks and gratitude, we now live for Him as His children and disciples.

This leads to the second saving plan, which is the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program through LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund). This program supports many values of a Christian family. The money that children invest in this program provides low-cost loans to help build, improve, and expand facilities for Lutheran churches and schools, and also for church workers. These quarters and dollars are loans, not gifts or offerings, that help the Church to grow and spread the Good News about Jesus. Out of gratitude for the blessings God gives to us, we share with others, especially those who share the Gospel.

Another family value that the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program supports is the concept of investing. This plan teaches your child to invest for the future rather than demanding immediate gratification. It helps children set long-term goals, waiting patiently while delaying the outcome and while also serving the needs of others. Use the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program to teach your children about investing money, investing in the future—their future and the future of the Church. Help them to see that the stamps they purchase are a receipt or guarantee that the money will be returned eventually, with interest. Help them to see that they are part of a bigger picture as their money works for them but also for the kingdom of God!

Use the activity sheet labeled Reproducible 6-A to review the two-part saving plan. Use a scissors to cut out the letter strip on the solid lines. Accordion-fold on the dotted lines, back and forth. Hold the strip sideways to view every other letter—the letters s-a-v-e. Then hold the strip from the other end to view the letters y-o-u. This tells about God’s saving plan. He sent Jesus to “save you!”

Now reverse the process as a reminder of the other saving plan. Look first at the letters y-o-u and then at s-a-v-e. This reminds us that “you save” money through investing in the K.I.D.S. Stamp Program as your money does the work to help others.

May God bless you abundantly! May you share abundantly from these blessings!



Count on Jesus

Family Talk

- Discuss the fact that in the following sentences, the word *count* means different things: (1) numbering, (2) valuable, or (3) trust.
 1. *K.I.D.S. Count!* Count your blessings. What good things has God given you in your home, your neighborhood, and your nation?
 2. *K.I.D.S. Count!* Kids are important to Jesus. Read about this in Mark 10:13–16.
 3. *K.I.D.S. Count on Jesus!* You can trust Him always to be near with His grace and blessings. What else do you trust Jesus to do?
- K.I.D.S. stands for Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship. This is not just about money. Discipleship and Stewardship are about using all that you are and have to help others and to give glory to God. How can you use your hands to do this? How can you use what you say? How can you use your time? Talk about what is special about each person in your family. How can each person use those special abilities to serve the Lord? The Bible tells us in Colossians 3:17, “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
- We have so much to be thankful for. This gratitude gives us a happy heart. Use the activity sheet labeled Reproducible 6-B to learn what God grows in a happy heart. Cut out the double heart and fold it on the center line. Use tape to seal the bottom tip of the heart to form a pocket. Cut out the nine word boxes. Talk about each word and what it means for our lives as you put each one into the Happy Heart pocket. Read more about this in Galatians 5:22–23.
- Pray together: **Dear Lord, fill our hearts with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Give us the true happiness found only by God’s**

grace in the forgiveness, life, and salvation we have through faith in Jesus.

Lead us to live as Your disciples, helping others, being thankful for what we have, and honoring You, our Lord and Savior, in all we think and say and do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

