

CHAMPS



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

9/5- 9/6

GOD IS A LOVING AND FORGIVING GOD

PURPOSE

Children learn that God is a loving and forgiving God.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Invite a child to give the opening prayer.

LESSON:

God loves us (no matter how bad we have been.)

- Have you ever been bad? (Wait for answers.) How bad have you been? (Pause and then go on...) Have you ever been so bad that you got in trouble? Have you ever been so bad that you got sent to "time out?" Have you ever been so bad that... your parents wouldn't love you anymore? (No!)

- Last week we heard of a man's son who went far away from home and then was very, very bad. Then we heard about what happened when the son was sorry and came home...

- But first I must tell you that God loves us very much! In fact, God loves us no matter what we've done or how bad we have been! When Jesus was telling this story, he wasn't talking about our fathers here on earth; he was talking about our Father in Heaven. He was trying to show us how God loves us unconditionally. He loves us no matter what we do. He is sad when we do wrong and turn away from him, but he never rejects us and anxiously waits for our return. David said it perfectly when he wrote in Psalms 86:5, "You are kind and forgiving, O Lord, abounding (overflowing) in love to all who call you."

What I want you to go home with today, is knowing that you are loved unconditionally by our Father God. In fact, we all need to know it! In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus assures us that God will always take us back; that there is nothing we can do that will keep God from watching for us and receiving us when we return to Him. We are His children, and He loves us. Because we know this we can offer the same and forgiveness to those that do wrong against us. What is something that has hurt you that we can pray about and forgive today?

OUTSIDE ACTIVITY:

HIDE AND SEEK

Encourage your children to play hide and seek in a large indoor or outdoor area. When a person is found, the seeker gives the child found a hug (or high five) and then those 2 continue looking for the rest.

Everyone participates in a group hug or group high five once everyone is found!