

Sunday School resources for getting back to church

WITH GOD TOGETHER

Tackling emotions through the Psalms



LESSON 1: PSALM 136
“God loves us forever”

faithin**kids**

With God Together

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We recommend the International Children's Bible for use with children during the lesson. Our leader's notes use the New International Version.




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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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God loves us forever

PSALM 136



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Big Idea:

God's love for us is great, certain and continuing. He loves us forever.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who are overjoyed by God's endless love for them.



Preparation

Pray and read the Bible passage. Read **Where are we going?**, **Look at the Passage** and **Win my heart first** to give you a better understanding of the passage and the **Big Idea**. Spend some time thinking through how this makes a difference to your life.

Read the lesson plan for the age group you will be teaching. Use a **Get Going** or **Brain Break** idea from a different age group if it is better suited to your children.

Prepare your lesson. Think through the **Take 10 minutes to focus!** questions before preparing your

Teaching Time. Use a suitable Bible translation for the **Teaching Time** for your age-group. We use the International Children's Bible which can be found online at www.biblegateway.com. Keep the **Big Idea** in your mind to help you teach it clearly in every part of your lesson. Use the blank **Lesson Template** to plan the different sections. Collect/draw/print/make what you need.

Pray for the children in your group to grasp the **Big Idea** and to live it out in their lives. Remember that you have the Holy Spirit's help as you teach God's word!



Where are we going?

We're going on a journey through the Bible's songbook because sometimes life hits us with big emotions. The psalms teach us to be honest with God and to tackle our emotions with truth about him.

Our children may not have experienced these big emotions yet, but it's likely they will one day. So, we teach them big truths about our big God now. He doesn't promise a quick fix but he always gives us himself. He also gives us his family to remind us of truth

when we struggle to believe it.

We need this psalm when the big emotion of apathy looms over us. When we feel indifferent to God's love, this psalm overwhelms us with reasons to know he loves us forever. Just as God's people sang this psalm together, we're going to speak this truth to each other until our hearts are rejoicing at God's personal, powerful and forever love.



Look at the Passage

Psalm 136 is a song God's people sang as they walked together up the hill to his temple to worship. Like the most amazing roller coaster ride, it thrills us with God's love throughout history. With each twist and turn, we are reminded with a simple chorus that, 'God loves us forever!'

v1-3 The reason to ride. The psalmist invites us to hop aboard for a big look at our good God whose love for us makes us thankful.

v4-9 A wild ride across creation, taking in the spectacular sights of the moon, stars and the earth. The psalmist shouts, 'Our wonderful creator loves us!'

v10-16 Soar across the adventure of God rescuing his people from slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt (Exodus 11-14). The psalmist declares, 'Our powerful rescuer loves us!'

v17-22 Hold onto your hats as we fly over fierce battles and powerful victories, including the defeat of Kings Sihon and Og in the wilderness (Numbers 21). The psalmist cries, 'Our mighty warrior loves us!'

v23-26 Land safely in the care of the one who hand feeds his creatures. God is powerful, but not distant. His care is personal and intimate. The psalmist whispers, 'Your caring father loves you!'

What a ride! We step off the roller coaster with weak knees and a list of reasons to say, 'Wow! God loves us!' You may feel a bit daft as you read the psalm and repeat 'His love endures forever.' But we are a bit daft because we forget. We let our worries and feelings crowd this out. If we don't feel loved by God, we don't believe it. That's why we need this truth, that God loves us forever, repeated until it plays on a loop in our heads and our hearts. Only then will it bring us joy and thankfulness.



Win my heart first

God loves you with a deeply personal, fiercely strong and powerfully protective love. But it doesn't always feel that way. When life is relentlessly hard, we might feel like it makes no difference. When we have money in our pocket and a plan for tomorrow, we might think we don't need it. We need this psalm when our feelings speak louder than the truth. God's love is described, again and again, so we will grasp the difference it makes. It frees us from seeking love from others, because we're loved by him. It eases the ache of our loneliness, because we're known by him. It shifts

our eyes from ourselves back to God when we feel like we don't need his love.

We have an even greater rescue to remember than the psalmist had. A fierce battle was fought on the cross to secure a home for us in heaven. God's love brought us into a family who remind each other of the truth when we struggle to feel it. The more we sing of his love, the more it will produce an infectious joy and thankfulness that will overflow to our church family. Together, let's sing, 'His love endures forever!'



Question for my heart

For your heart, before you prepare the lesson.

How do you feel about God's love today?

If you were writing your own version of this psalm, what would you include? What is it about creation that makes you say 'WOW!?' What story of God's rescue do you gratefully remember?



Bible Story Idea

This has been written as an all-age slot to introduce the whole church family to what the children are learning today, but it could be adapted for the children's classes.



Helpers Needed

2 Volunteers to hold the string and one to hold up the large heart.



Props

Long piece of string, clothes pegs, 3 pictures of faces (smiling, anxious/sad, uninterested), 3 cut out hearts the same size as the faces, one larger cut out heart, building blocks (write 'JESUS' on one of them), 4 PowerPoint slides of the following pictures: space/planets; Egyptian pyramids; soldiers/army; group of people.



What to Say



What to Do

It's wonderful to be together and see one another. Take a moment to look around - smile, wave! Enjoy knowing you are part of God's wonderful family.

Encourage everyone to wave at each other.

I wonder how you felt about coming to church this morning. Perhaps you were here: you felt excited, happy and looking forward to being back at church!

Peg the smiling face to an extreme end of the string.

Or maybe you're down this end: a bit on edge or just wishing you could stay at home.

Peg a sad/anxious face to the other extreme of the string.

Or maybe you're here in the middle: feeling like it makes no difference if you're here or not.

Peg an uninterested face to the middle of the string.

No matter how we feel today, God has something brilliantly wonderful to say to all of us. He says, 'I love you forever!'

Hold up a heart.

To the guys down here, he gets it. He knows how you feel and he says, 'I love you - yes YOU - forever!'

Attach a heart over the sad/anxious face.

To the ones hanging out in the middle. God says 'Hey! I see you there. I love YOU forever!'

Attach a heart to the uninterested face.

To the people who are feeling pretty good, he says, 'Don't forget! I love YOU forever!'

Attach a heart to the smiling face.



What to Say



What to Do

Whatever we feel, God says to all of us, 'I still love you forever!'

Today we are stepping into Psalm 136. It's a song God's people sang about his great love. The person who wrote it wanted us to remember that God's love never stops - it continues forever.

I'll read a line of the psalm, then all of you will say, 'His love continues forever!'
(Get the congregation to practice saying the line together.)

Volunteer holds up the large heart when the line is said - repeat throughout the psalm.

Fasten your seatbelts as the psalmist takes us for a roller coaster ride! We start as high as the moon. Point to the sky! Are you ready?

The psalm says:
'He spread out the earth on the seas.
His love continues forever.
He made the sun and the moon.
His love continues forever.'

Get everybody to copy your actions: Mime putting on a seatbelt.
[PowerPoint 'space' visual]
Point up - hold the action as you read the verses.

Wow! The great creator God who made the moon, the stars and the earth also loves us forever!

Next stop on our ride - we're looping back through history. Point behind you!

The psalm says:
'He brought the people of Israel out of Egypt.
His love continues forever.
He parted the water of the Red Sea.
His love continues forever.'

[PowerPoint 'Egypt' visual] Point behind you - hold the action while you read the verses.

Look around at the pyramids and remember how God rescued his people from being slaves to Pharaoh! God did amazing things for his people. This powerful rescuing God also loves us forever!

Next, we swoop over danger - hear the armies marching, see the battles raging. Stamp your feet!

The psalm says:
'He remembered us when we were in trouble.
His love continues forever.
He freed us from our enemies.
His love continues forever.'

[PowerPoint 'soldiers' visual] Stamp your feet - keep doing the action while you read the verses.

God fought for his people and beat many enemies to protect them. This mighty, winning God also loves us forever!

continued →



What to Say



What to Do

We're slowing down, take a deep breath. Wrap your arms around you like a big hug.

The psalm says:

'He gives food to every living creature.

His love continues forever.

Give thanks to the God of heaven.

His love continues forever.'

Our great and good God also remembers little you and me. He cares for his animals. He cares for us. He gives all of us what we need. This caring Father God loves us forever.

[PowerPoint 'people' visual] Wrap your arms around yourself - stay like this while you read the verses.

The guy who wrote Psalm 136 was totally convinced that God will love us forever. So he wrote down reason after reason, fact after fact. What he saw in the world around him, what he knew from history - it all reminded him of God's powerful and forever love.

Stack up a pile of blocks as a visual of 'reason after reason' and 'fact after fact'

We have the same story as the writer because we're in God's family with him. But we have more because we have Jesus! Our rollercoaster ride of God's love takes us past the cross where Jesus died to save us. That's the biggest way God showed us that he will love us forever.

Put the JESUS block on the top of the pile.
Stand with your arms stretched out wide.

When we're at church, we celebrate God's forever love. We read the Bible, sing songs and talk to each other to remind us. We do this because we don't always remember it or feel like it's true or that it makes a difference to our lives.

But, however we feel, God loves us forever!

Look around you and tell each other, 'God loves YOU forever!'

Point to the faces and hearts on the string.

Let's pray to thank God for his forever love...

Pray.

(Suggestion: finish with a song to remind each other of God's forever love.)



Lesson Overview



10 minutes
to focus



Get
Going



Teaching
Time



Brain
Break



Heart &
Hands



10 Minutes to Focus

When preparing, keep these questions in mind and check your planning to see that you are ready to engage your group. Take that clarity into your **Teaching Time** so that you get the **Big Idea** across.



Get Going

Focus the children's attention on the theme of the session using a game or activity. Light, not manic, so that the children can be calm afterwards, with their minds ready.



Teaching Time

Teach the key content of the lesson in an engaging way. Place emphasis to point clearly to the **Big Idea**. If you have used the **Bible Story Idea** already, you may not need to cover the whole story again. If not, you can adapt it to use here with your group or tell the story in another way, perhaps using the suggestions below. However you do this **Teaching Time**, conclude with a simple explanation of the **Big Idea**.



Brain Break

A chance to rest the children's minds before **Heart and Hands**. Get children moving. Finish by linking the activity to the **Big Idea** so that this time serves the Bible story.



Heart & Hands

Small group discussion:

The vital chance for the children to reflect on the story, so that its truths impact their hearts. They do the talking, not the leader. All the children need to be given the opportunity to respond. Ask each question to multiple children. The questions will lead the children to see how their heads (thoughts), hearts (feelings) and hands (actions) are shaped by the Bible story through the work of the Spirit.

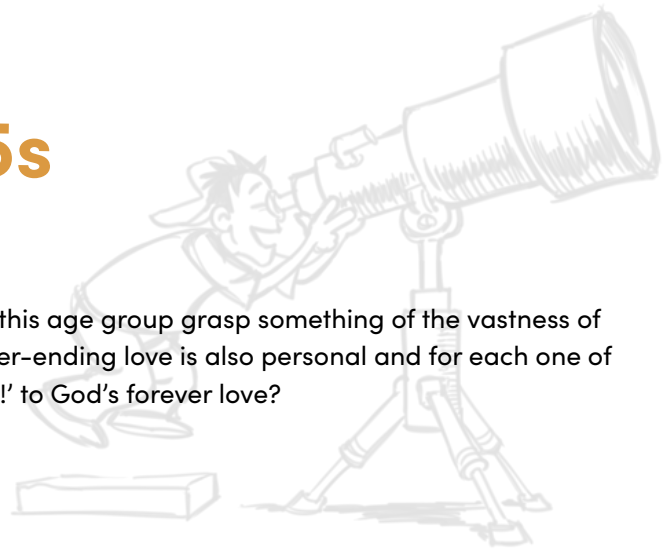


Explorers

3-5s



Take 10 minutes to focus! We want to help this age group grasp something of the vastness of God's love. How will you show them that his never-ending love is also personal and for each one of them? How will you help your children say 'Wow!' to God's forever love?



Get Going

Big Love

You will need: 2 mats, plastic animals and items to represent stars, the moon, different parts of creation (e.g. shiny cupcake case stars, a mop head waterfall, tinsel comet, paper plate planets etc.).

Hold up the items and talk about how God made everything in the sky and on the earth. God loves everything he made. Then talk about how big the sky is. Can the children reach up and touch the sky? It goes on and on forever. God's love is like that - it goes on and on forever.

Place the 2 mats on the floor as space/sky and land. Let the children take turns putting the items on the different mats. Play some music as they do this, have fun and encourage creativity. Take a moment to enjoy what you made together. Point to different items and talk about how God loves the things he made. Remind them that his love goes on forever.

Link: Today we are learning about God's love. It goes on and on forever. He loves everything he made - he loves us forever too!



Teaching Time

You will need: Use the creation scene from **Get Going**, picture 1 (see **Appendix**), some bread rolls and heart post it notes.

Explain that you are looking at a psalm which is a song in the Bible. People sang it together to remember that God loves them forever.

God's wonderful love goes on and on forever!

Look and Listen:

- Look at picture 1 (child looking at the sky). Ask the children what they can see.
- Listen to the psalm: read Psalm 136:7 *'He made the sun and the moon. His love continues forever.'* Talk about the things God made - the sun, moon and stars. When we see these things we say, 'Wow! They are amazing!' God makes good things. His love is wonderfully good like that. Talk

about how big the sky is - can they touch the sky? It goes on and on forever. God's love is bigger than the sky - it goes on and on forever.

Do:

- Let them fetch different things God made from the creation scene. Be amazed by the good things God made. Talk about how these amazing things help us to enjoy God's love. He made the grass that grows - his love goes on forever! He made the stars that shine - his love goes on forever!

God loves us forever!

Look and Listen:

- Look at some of the toy animals from the creation scene. Ask the children what the animals like to eat.
- Listen to the psalm: read Psalm 136:25 *'He gives*

food to every living creature. His love continues forever.' Talk about how the great big God who made the sun, moon and stars also cares for the animals and birds. He gives them food to eat. God also cares for us everyday. He gives us what we need. God loves us forever!

Do:

- Pretend to feed the animals and birds - throw bits of bread roll onto the creation scene. Talk about how God cares for the animals every day and he cares for us every day. He knows what we need. His love keeps going every day and never runs out - WOW!



Brain Break

Going on Forever

You will need: a lightweight ball.


Get the children to kneel in a circle. Show them how to use one hand to pat the ball around the inside of the circle. Ask them to join in to keep the ball rolling

God loves ME forever!

Remind them that God's love goes on and on. He sent us Jesus so we'd know how much he loves us. Everyday, God is there loving us. Give them different scenarios and say together, 'God loves me forever!' E.g. When I wake up/go to sleep/play/feel happy/feel sad/eat lunch - 'God loves ME forever!'

Finish by giving each child a heart shaped note with their name on it. Make it personal say, 'Zayn - God loves you forever!'

all the way around the circle. Keep it going - ask them how long they think it can keep going for e.g. for a count of 10 or 20. Could they keep it going forever?!

 **Link:** We have learned today that God's love for us goes on and on forever - it will never stop! Wow!



Heart & Hands

Craft Time - Make a Forever Love Loop

You will need: Craft sheet A for each child (see Appendix), crayons, glue and stickers.

Prepare in advance: Cut out the strips of paper.

Let the children colour and decorate the 2 strips. They can also draw themselves on the strips to remember that God loves them forever. Once decorated, fold each strip on the dotted line and glue it together so that you have 2 double sided strips. Stick sections A and A together (face to face) so that one side says, 'Thank you God for loving me' and the other side says, 'forever and ever and ever.' Then, twist the strip before sticking sections B and B together (face to face). The full sentence 'Thank you God for loving me for ever and ever and ever' will go on continuously as you feed the loop through your fingers. This is your opportunity to make things personal - show each child how the writing goes on and on, say, 'God loves YOU -

Nikita - forever!' Use this craft time to reinforce the **Big Idea** of the lesson to get them ready for **Think Time**.

Think Time

Use Picture 1 of the girl amazed by the night sky. Point to different parts of the picture and ask the children to tell you what they learnt about God's love.

Big Question: Who does God love? *Me!* How long will he love you for? *Forever!*

A follow up question: What does that make you want to say to God?

Prayer

Dear Father God, your love is big and beautiful like the stars. Thank you that it goes on and on every day and doesn't stop. You are so good to us - we want to say thank you...

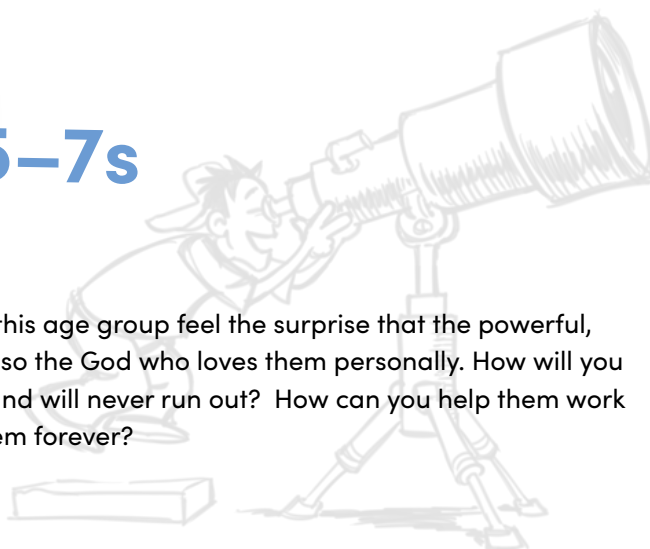
Say together: Thank you God for loving me forever. Amen.



Discoverers 5-7s



Take 10 minutes to focus! We want to help this age group feel the surprise that the powerful, creator, warrior God described in the psalm is also the God who loves them personally. How will you show them that God's love is certain every day and will never run out? How can you help them work out their own list of reminders that God loves them forever?



Get Going

Never Stopping Circle

You will need: a lightweight ball.

Stand in a circle. A leader stands in the centre with the ball. Throw/roll the ball to each child and say an example of God's love from the psalm e.g. 'He parted the sea.' The children throw/roll it back and respond, 'God loves us forever'.

You could also ask them to come up with their own examples that show that God loves them and the leader responds with 'God loves us forever.'

Link: The psalm we are looking at today is a song God's people sang. It's a list of things that reminded them that 'God loves us forever.'



Teaching Time

You will need: Psalm 136 written or printed out so the children can follow as you read. A large piece of paper with a big roller coaster line drawn on it that starts high, does a backwards loop, goes up and down a bit and lands safely on the ground (or print the psalm illustration (picture 3) – see **Appendix**). Coloured pens/pencils.

Explain that Psalm 136 is a song in the Bible. It's filled with ways God showed his love. His people sang it together to remind themselves and each other about God's forever love.

Read and Explain: Tell the children that you are going to take a roller coaster ride through the psalm. They must spot what you travel past on the adventure and draw, write or colour in on the roller coaster sheet.

Read the Psalm enthusiastically, say the repeated line together and pause between the sections.

- Start high - Creation (v4-9) - heavens, earth, waters, sun, moon, stars.
- Loop back - History (v10-15) - rescue from Pharaoh, parting of the Red Sea.
- Over the bumps - Battles (v16-22) - beating the bad guys, throwing the enemies out of the

Promised Land.

- Safe landing - Care (v23-25) - God provides for the small things every day, even the birds and the animals.

Enjoy the ride and be amazed together by the ways God showed his forever love. Either run a toy car across the track on the picture or pretend you're on the roller coaster and do actions for the children to copy (see the **Bible Story Idea** for action ideas).

Explain that when the psalmist thought about all these things - how big the world is, how God rescued, protected and provided for his people - he knew that his great big God loved him forever. He had so many reasons to say again and again, God loves ME forever!

Make it Personal: What reasons do you have to know that God loves you forever? Add them to the sheet.

- Think about the different parts of creation - mountains, sea, lakes, trees, desert etc. What makes you say, 'Wow!'
- The Bible tells us about how we were rescued. How did God rescue us?
- How does God care for you each day?

Talk about how being rescued by Jesus is our best reason to know God loves us forever. He loves us today, tomorrow and every day after that. Sometimes we forget this. God's people used to sing this psalm together to

remember how loved they were. At church, when we are together, we can remind each other. We have other people who help us know that God loves us forever. Look around at each other and say, 'God loves YOU forever!'




Brain Break

Going on... forever?

You will need: Balls, bean bags, blocks, hula hoops.

Set some challenges to see how long the children can do them for - can they do them forever?! Challenge suggestions - star jumps, hula hooping, throw a ball back and forth to a partner, toss bean bags around

a circle, build a tower to reach the sky or count to the highest number that exists.

 **Link:** We tried, but we couldn't do those things forever. God's love for us is forever - he never stops loving us. He's loving us now and will keep on loving us every day and forever - wow!



Heart & Hands

Worksheet A is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

Did you spot it?

- What were some of the big adventures that happened in the psalm?
- What was the big thing the writer of the psalm wanted everyone to remember?
- What was the big rescue in the psalm?

Work it out

- How did God rescue *you* to show you his forever love?
- How do you know God loves you? What would you put in your list of reasons?

Live it out

- What will you remember about God's love when you feel like it has stopped or run out? How does it help to remember that?
- How can we remind each other that God loves us forever?

Prayer

Say a thank you prayer together. Think of one sentence to say about something that God has made or done that makes you say WOW! Thank him for loving you forever. Pray it together: 'Father, thank you that you... Thank you for loving me forever.' Amen.

Craft Time

Make a Forever Love Loop. Use the craft if you have time available after your discussion.

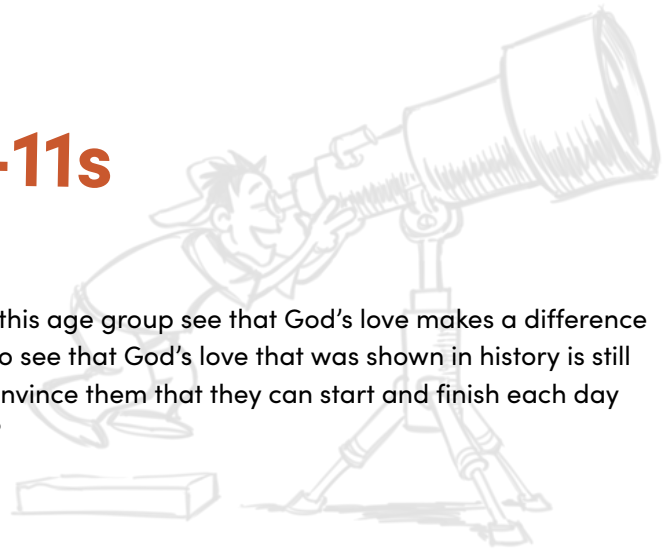
You will need: Craft sheet B for each child (see **Appendix**), crayons, glue and stickers.

Prepare in advance: Cut out the strips of paper.

Let the children colour and decorate the 2 strips. They can also draw themselves on the strips to remember that God loves them forever. Once decorated, fold each strip on the fold line and glue it together so that you have 2 double sided strips. Stick sections A and A together (face to face) so that one side says, 'Thank you God for loving me' and the other side says, 'forever and ever and ever.' Then, twist the strip before sticking sections B and B together (face to face). The full sentence will read 'Thank you God for loving me forever and ever and ever.' Once the loop is made, children cut along the dotted line in the centre of the paper strip. It remains one piece but becomes a larger loop and the text still continues 'forever.' Use this craft to remind the children how God's love goes on and on forever like the writing on the loop.



Adventurers 8-11s



Take 10 minutes to focus! We want to help this age group see that God's love makes a difference to their lives each day. How can you help them to see that God's love that was shown in history is still being shown in their lives today? What would convince them that they can start and finish each day confident that God says, 'I still love you forever'?



Get Going

Show Me Love

You will need: Paper and a pen for each child.

Children fold their paper into quarters. In two of the quarters, ask them to think of a family member and a friend and write down how love is shown to them by those people e.g. 'they wash my socks' and 'they share their sweets with me.' In the remaining quarters, they

think of the same two people but write down how they show love to those people e.g. 'I make my mum cups of tea' and 'I invite them to watch movies at my house.'

You could ask the group if any of them want to read out any of their answers.

Link: Today we are going to see how God has shown his love. His love can be known by what he does.



Teaching Time

You will need: Each verse of Psalm 136 on a separate piece of paper (roughly the size/shape of a playing card). Have a final card with 'Jesus' on it.

Start by asking your group to think/say/move to where they would place themselves on a line to show how convinced they are that God loves them.

Read

This psalm was sung by God's people as they climbed up a mountain to worship God at the temple. They reminded each other of how great God was and how much he loved them.

As you read the psalm, get everyone marching on the spot. Read the first part of each verse and they reply with, 'God's love continues forever'.

Explain

Explain that God's love can be known by what he does. This psalm is full of reasons to know that God will love us forever - each reason is written on a card. Look at a section at a time and do a brief study on the verses.

- **v4-9: Creation cards.** What does he describe? Think about your favourite part of creation e.g.

space/deserts/oceans/mountains/trees/waterfalls etc. What part of creation makes you say, 'Wow! That's so cool!?' *He's telling us that creation shows us God's greatness and wisdom.*

- **v10-15: Rescue cards.** This is the story of the Exodus when God rescued his people out of Egypt. What parts of the story does he mention? *He's telling us that God's love is greater than powerful nations on earth.*
- **v16-22: Victory cards.** What does God's love do for his people? *He's telling us that when God fights for his people and wins, it shows how powerful and strong his love is.*
- **v23-25: Family cards.** Who does God remember? How has he shown that? *He's telling us that God's love can be seen in the everyday things like giving his creatures food.*

Apply

Deal out the cards. Explain that God gives us many reasons to be sure of his love. Then he played his top trump card - JESUS! We can be sure that God loves us, because Jesus lived, died and rose again so that we could enjoy God's love forever.

Explain that God's people sang this psalm together and to each other. When we're alone or no one else is living for Jesus it can be hard to believe we are loved by

God forever. Can they think of ways to remind each other of God's forever love when they meet at church/kids' club?



Brain Break


Keeps on Going

You will need: 2 or more footballs/tennis balls.

Split into 2 groups. Each group lines up and passes a ball to the person behind them - alternate between under (between their legs) and over their heads. When the person at the back receives the ball, they have to run to the front and pass the ball back. Keep going until

the person who started at the front makes it all the way round to the front again.

Make it harder by adding a different ball - football has to go over, tennis ball has to go under etc.

 **Link:** We could have played the game forever, but eventually we would have given up. God's love for us is forever. It keeps on going and will never give up.



Heart & Hands

Worksheet B is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

Did you spot it?

- What were the events in the psalm that remind us of God's love for his people?
- What was repeated in the psalm?

Work it out

- What would you put in your list of reasons that God loves you forever?
- What is the best reason you have for knowing that God's love is forever?
- How is God's love like the love of a friend, or a parent? How is it different?

Live it out

- Look at the picture of the boy in the Sunday School class. How do you think he feels? What could his friends say to help him know it's amazing to be loved by God forever?
- Think about the different things you do in a day.

What difference does it make to know God is loving you at every moment? Why?

Extra Stretch

- When is it hardest to be sure of God's forever love? Why?
- When you are sure of someone's love, how does it change the way you feel or behave? How could being sure of God's love change tomorrow for you?

Prayer

Pray together - ask God for help to know, remember and believe that he loves us forever. Thank God for Jesus - the best reason we have to know we are loved.

Craft Time

Make a Forever Love Loop Bracelet. Use the craft if you have time available after your discussion.

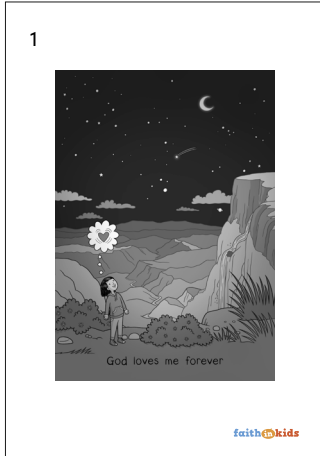
You will need: 1 thin strip of coloured paper (2cm wide x A4 length) per child, pens and glue/staplers.

Write 'God loves ME forever' on one side of the paper strip. Then flip the strip over so the writing is upside down when facing the table. Write 'God loves ME forever' on the back of the strip. Then, twist the strip before sticking the ends together - the writing will be continuous.



Appendix

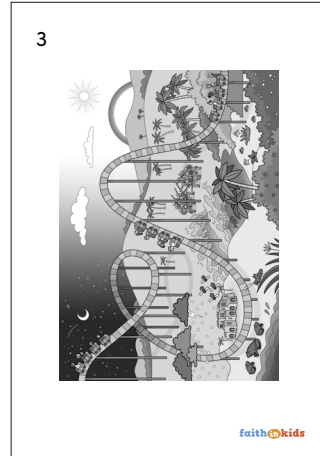
The following pages can be copied, printed and used to accompany this lesson.



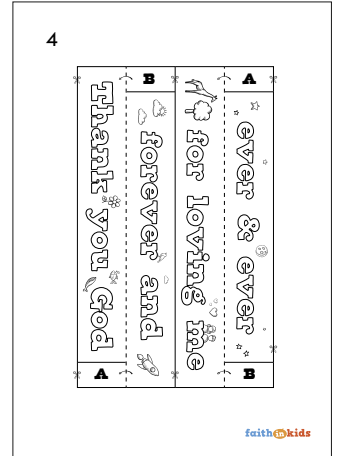
p17



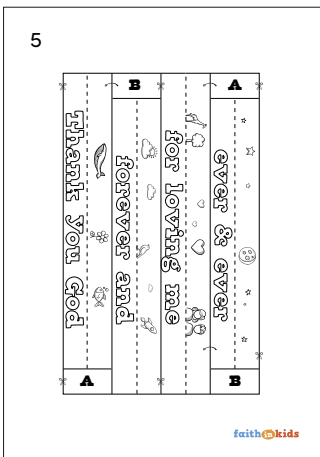
p18



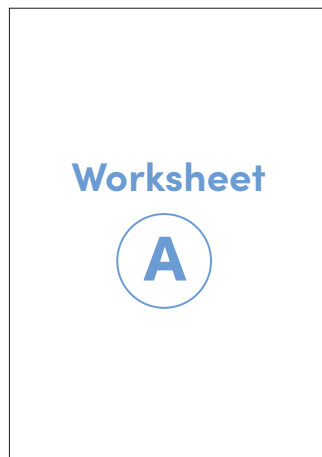
p19



p20



p21



p22



p23



p24



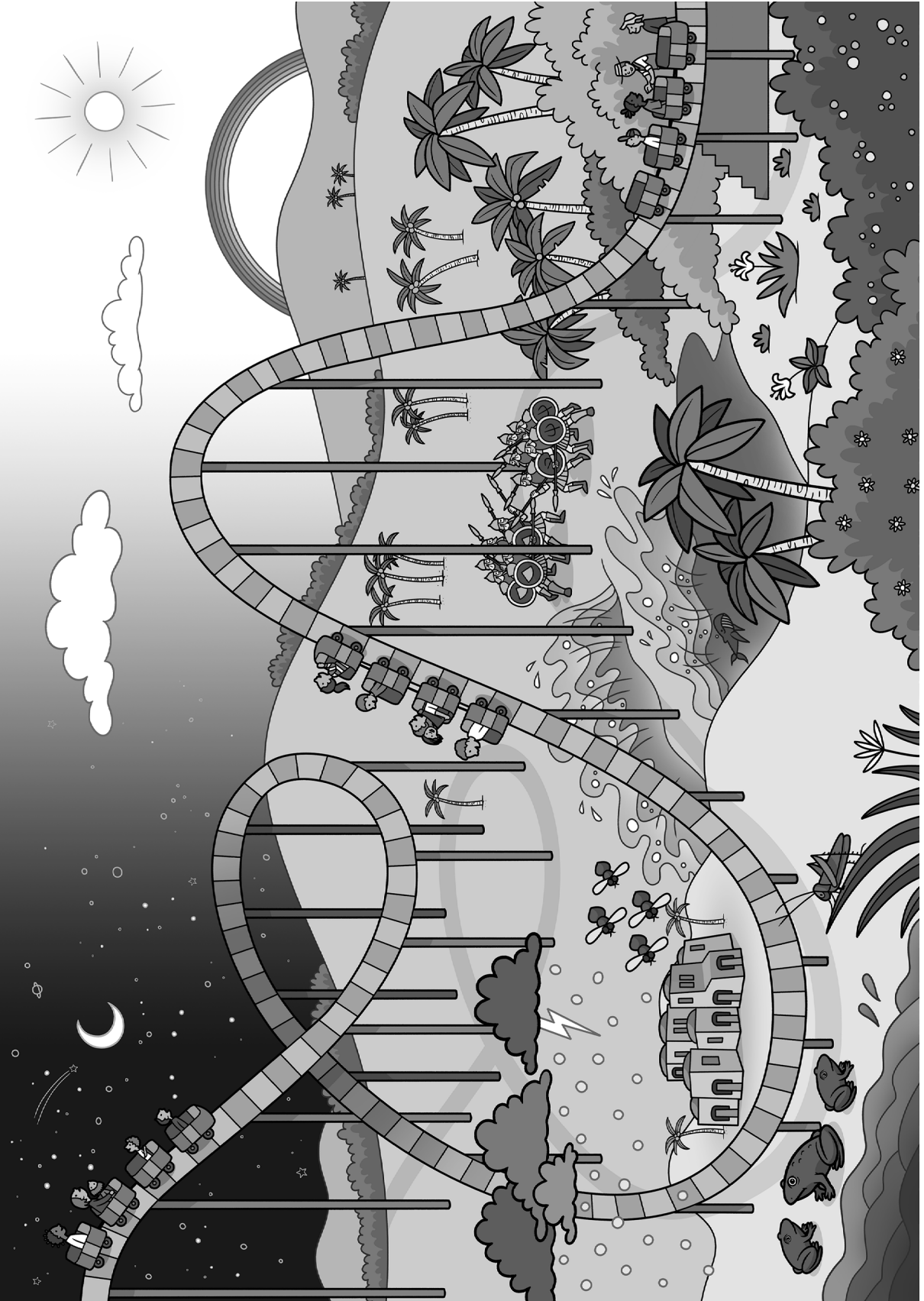
p25




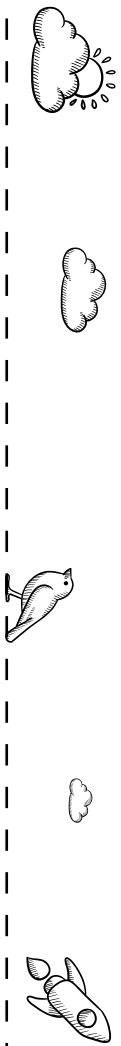


God loves me forever

God's love continues forever!





<p>A</p> <p>Thank you God</p>	<p>B</p> <p>forever and</p>
<p>for loving me</p>	<p>A</p> <p>ever & ever</p> <p>B</p>

<p>Thank You God</p> 	<p>A</p>
<p>B</p> <p>forever and</p> 	<p>A</p> <p>for loving me</p> 
<p>A</p> <p>ever & ever</p> 	<p>B</p>



WITH GOD TOGETHER

Lesson 1: God loves us forever

PSALM 136



Did you spot it?

Circle the adventures in the picture.

Draw a heart around the BIG RESCUE in the picture.



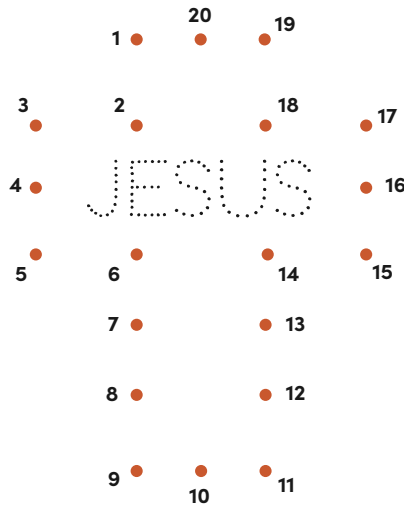
Write the first letter of each word to finish the sentence...

God loves us _____!
      



Work it out

How did God rescue you to show you his FOREVER LOVE? Connect the dots by number...



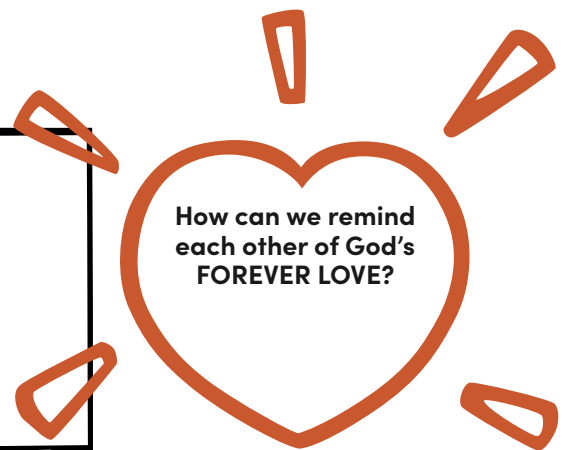
Write or draw how you know God loves you forever...



Live it out

Draw a person who feels like God's love has run out.

What do they need to know about God's love?



B

WITH GOD TOGETHER

Lesson 1: God loves us forever

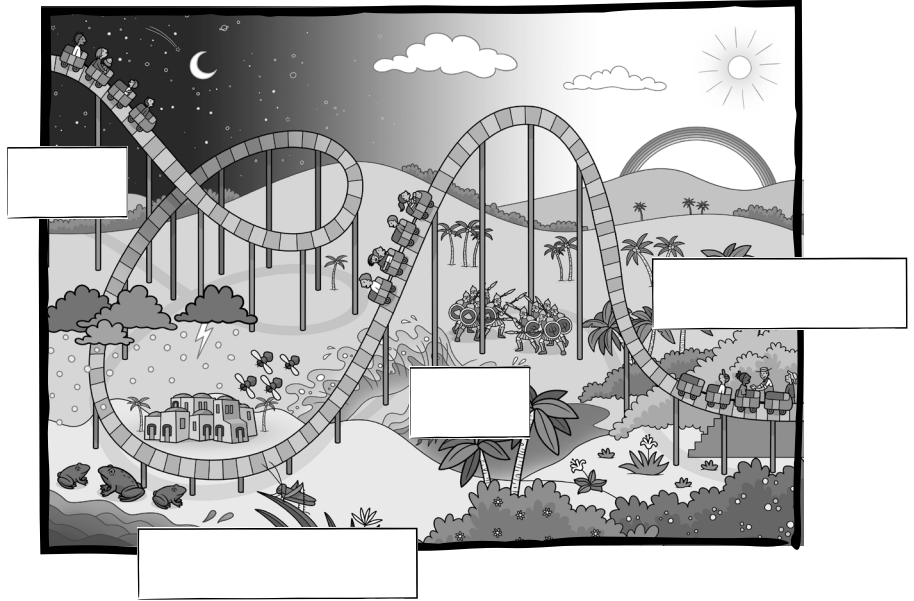
PSALM 136



Did you spot it?

Use these words to label the events that happened in the psalm...

Care for creatures Battles
Creation Rescue



What was repeated in the psalm? Finish the sentence...

GOD'S LOVE... _____



Work it out

Write or draw how you know God loves you forever...

My 'God LOVES me FOREVER' Psalm

His love continues forever

His love continues forever

His love continues forever

What's the best reason you have for knowing God loves you forever?

Think of someone who loves you...

Colour in the odd number squares...

2	14	7	23	40	12
8	22	41	29	28	6
27	9	31	5	33	19
21	35	15	37	45	11
38	4	1	31	42	18
16	44	25	17	24	36
28	34	39	3	46	30
32	20	13	43	10	26



How is it different?



Live it out



What could you say to a friend to help them know it's amazing to be loved by God forever?

Write 3 different things you do in a day...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What difference does it make that God loves you in those moments?



Take Home Truth

WITH GOD TOGETHER

Lesson 1: God loves us forever

PSALM 136

On the rollercoaster of life we experience many different emotions. The Psalms teach us to take them to God. Use these questions to get a conversation started about today's lesson with your child. Pick a time that sets you up for success – maybe in the car on the way home or before bedtime. Make yourself part of the conversation and share your own ideas – this is not a test!

Dear Parent,

We know that coming back to church might be an adjustment for your whole family. No matter what changes, God stays the same. He loves us, children and parents both.

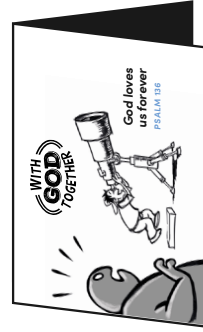
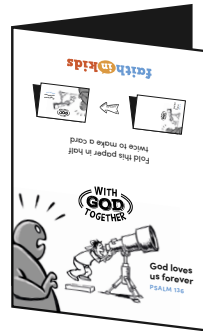
Today your child learned: God's love for us is great, certain and continuing. He loves us forever.

Bible passage: Psalm 136

Fold this paper in half twice to make a card

Fold 1

Fold 2



Chat with your child about what they learned. Try asking...

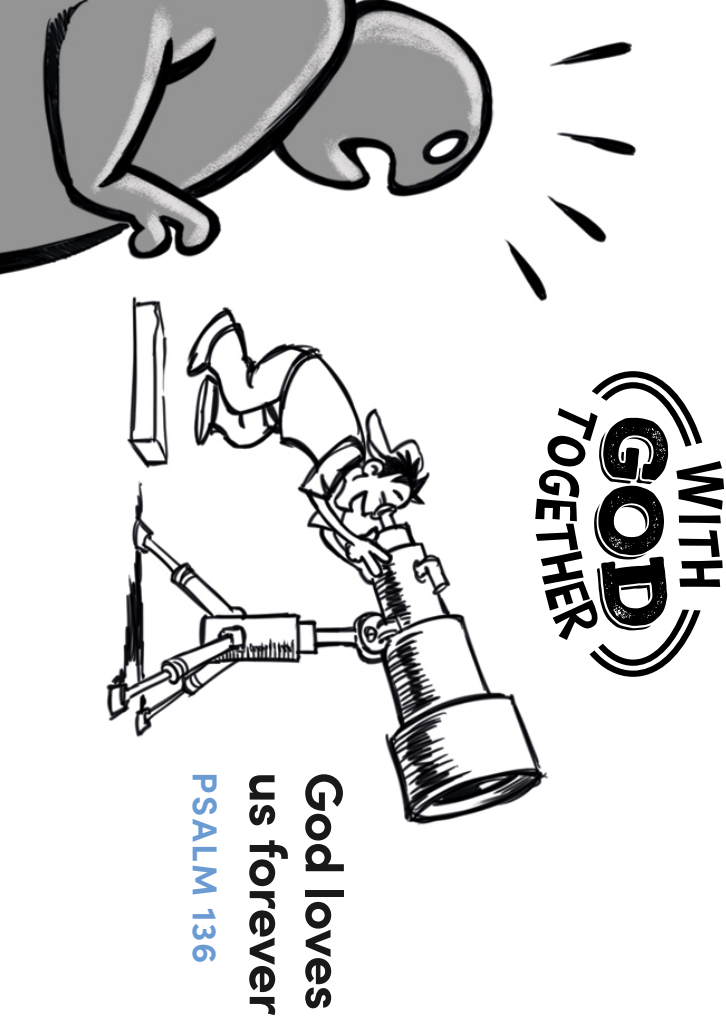
- What is something God gave us that shows he loves us? Encourage your child to go and get it or point to it. (It might be something you talked about in Sunday school, like something in creation.)
- What is something I do (as a parent or carer) that makes you feel loved?
- At different points in the week (successes and failures), ask your child, 'How does God feel about you right now?' Whatever they answer, reassure them that God loves them forever.

Let's pray!

Sometime this week, say a family prayer and invite everyone to thank God for...

- Something in creation
- Something he did in the past
- Something he did for you

After each item say, 'His love continues forever!' (Psalm 136). You could make up a hand motion that expresses 'forever' and use it as you pray.





Planning for Sunday

TEMPLATE



Big Idea & Aim

Passage:

Big Idea:

Aim:



Get Going

Introductory Idea:

➡ **Link:** What is the link between this activity and the **Big Idea**?



Teaching Time

Story with explanation:

➡ **Key Message:** What is the one idea that you want the children to understand? What's the aim?



Brain Break

Game:

➡ **Link:** What is the link between the game and the **Big Idea**?



Heart & Hands

Small Group Discussion
(applying the truth to their lives)

➡ **Live It Out.** Apply the point.



Did you Spot it? Remember the events.

Pray:



Work it Out. Understand the logic.

Linked activity (craft/game):



Faith in Kids exists to support churches and parents in raising children to trust in Jesus Christ eternally.

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