

September Wk 2

Garden
Always

September 11

CRAFT

Praying Hands

SUPPLIES:

Heart cut out folded in half, emoji stickers, ink pad, baby wipes

PREP:

Pre-fold the hearts in half!

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Begin by passing out the heart cut out.**

- *“Today in our true Bible story we learned that Gideon trusted God when he was afraid. He prayed to God and God answered his prayer with an angel! He wasn’t afraid anymore!”*
- *We can pray to God no matter how we are feeling. We can pray to God. We can trust God with all our heart!”*

⇒ **Help children press their LEFT hand in ink and press it down on the RIGHT side of the page. Their fingers should be closed – not spread out. Then have them press their RIGHT hand in ink and press it down on the LEFT side of the page. Their pinkies should line up very close to the fold down the center.**

- *“Our craft today is going to help us remember that we can pray to God. We are going to start with handprints. First, we will cover your whole LEFT hand with ink and press it down on the right half of the heart. Now we will do our RIGHT hand on the left half of the heart. Now let’s clean those hands off with a wipe!
(Modification: If a child is uncomfortable with the ink you can trace their hand.)*

⇒ **Help children add emoji stickers around the outside of their handprints.**

- *“Now add your emoji stickers all over the inside. You have a sad face sticker, and we know it’s okay to be sad because God loves us when we’re sad. (Repeat for a few more emoji stickers.) What other faces do you have? (Pause.) I see a silly face, a surprised face, an excited face, a sleepy face, a love face, a worried face, and an angry face. Add all those face stickers to your paper*
- *Now show me praying hands like this. (Demonstrate.) And open them like this. (Demonstrate.) Everyone, close your paper so you see your handprints. (Pause.) And open it. (Pause.) Your paper has your praying hands. And can you pray and talk to God about any of these emotions that you see in your praying hands? (Pause.) YES! We can ALWAYS talk to God because God loves us no matter what.”*

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Gideon felt afraid so he prayed to God. God sent an angel to tell him ‘The Lord is with you, mighty warrior!’ Gideon knew he could trust God with all his heart and pray to him and we can too!*
- ***Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what!”***



God loves me
no matter what.
Deuter 10:14-17

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ACTIVITY #1

Name that Emoji

SUPPLIES: Emoji pages, Gideon Picture, Heart stickers

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **This activity can be done from tables or the center of the room. Gather children around you and show them emoji pages.**
 - *“Friends! I have a bunch of emoji faces here. We are going to play a game called name that emoji.*
 - *Look at all of these different faces I have here. Each one expresses a different emoji! How cool!”*

- ⇒ **Go through each emoji one at a time and have them make faces.**
 - *Can you help me find the **frustrated** face? There it is! Can you make your own **frustrated** face? Good job!*
 - *Does God love you when you feel **frustrated**? Yes! God loves us no matter what!*
 - ***Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what!***

- ⇒ **Repeat with each emoji: Sad, Happy, Silly Excited, Worried, Angry.**

- ⇒ **End with AFRAID and discuss today’s Bible story with the picture of Gideon. Give each child a heart sticker.**
 - *(Hold up Gideon picture) Do you remember what Gideon was feeling in our Bible story today? He was feeling afraid. Can you help me find the **afraid** face? Gideon was afraid, but he knew that he could always talk to God so he prayed. God sent an angel to help him not feel so afraid! Gideon trusted God with all his heart because he knew God loved him.*
 - *Can you make your own **afraid** face? Good job! Does God love you when YOU feel **afraid**? Yes! God loves us no matter what! **I am going to give you a heart sticker to remind you that God loves you no matter what!***

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *We can always talk to God because God loves us no matter what!*
 - ***“Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what!***

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ACTIVITY #2

Heart Hot Potato

SUPPLIES: Heart pillow, CD player

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the center of the room. Show them the heart pillow.**
 - *“Boys and Girls, what do I have here in my hands? That’s right! A heart! We can use this heart to remind us of God’s love for us. God loves us so much! And he loves us when we are sad, mad, frustrated, happy, confused, silly....all the time! God loves you no matter what!”*

- ⇒ **Demonstrate how to play hot potato.**
 - *“We are going to play a game that is similar to hot potato. Has anyone played hot potato before?”*
 - *When I turn the music on we are going to pass this heart around the circle. When the music stops, one person will be holding the heart. That person will stand up and I will ask him or her our big question – ‘Who loves you no matter what?’ Then give the pillow a big squeeze and say ‘God loves me no matter what!’*
 - *Are you ready? Let’s play!*

- ⇒ **Repeat until each child has had a turn.**

- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“I am so glad that God loves us no matter what. And we can trust him no matter how we are feeling. Boys and girls, tell me one more time...”*
 - ***Who loves you no matter what? God loves me no matter what!”***

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READ-ASK-PRACTICE-PRAY

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ A BIBLE STORY or STORY BOOK

⇒ The Bible

- *The Beginner's Bible: Gideon's Battle, p. 140*

⇒ God Loves Me More than That by Mackall

- Read the story and then say: God loves you so very much! He loves you no matter what!

ASK A QUESTION

Who loves you no matter what?

God loves me no matter what!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all you heart." Proverbs 3:5

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making me.

Thank you for loving me.

Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.

Amen.