

Parent Follow Up for the PK/K April Video

Two demonstrations to help your child see the impact of God's love

Supplies you'll need for these demonstrations: an envelope, a red crayon or marker, a picture of your child that will fit in the envelope, a roll of tape, a flashlight with removable batteries.

Demo #1:

Say: On the video, we learned that God wants us to be his friends. That's why He sent his Son to take the punishment for our sins. Did you know that God has prepared a special place for us to live with him as friends? – it's called heaven. If we want to go to heaven, we must learn to love like God does.

With the crayon or marker, have your child draw and color a heart on the envelope with one half of the heart on the flap and the other half on the section adjacent to the flap.

When you see a heart, what do you think of? (*love*) The Bible says that "GOD IS LOVE". When we look at a heart, we can think of God. Heaven is the place where we can be so close to God – it's like we enter his heart of love. (*Have your child place his/her picture inside the envelope.*) Living that closely with God, we can feel his love like great strong arms around us giving us a hug. That's what heaven is like!

Because of sin, no one could go to heaven. Remember, heaven is God's home – the place of love – and sins are unloving actions. They close up heaven and keep us out. (*Take the picture of your child out of the envelope and close it up with a piece of tape.*) Jesus is the only one whose love was great enough to open heaven for us. He showed how much He loved us when He was even willing to die on the cross to make up for our sins. (*Take the tape off, put the picture back in the envelope and have your child draw a cross over the place where the flap and the envelope come together.*)

Demo #2:

Ask your child: Do you remember why the glow worm in the video was hiding behind the rock in the dark? (*He was afraid that since he had sinned, he could never be forgiven*)

How do you feel in the dark? When the lights go out at home, what do you use to make the darkness go away and make you feel better? The light of a candle or a flashlight helps you see clearly that there is nothing to fear. It chases away the darkness.

When we are baptized, we receive a candle. It reminds us that God is like light. He helps us to see that there is nothing to be afraid of – He is with us and we are safe. (*Turn on the flashlight.*) When we do wrong things like the glow worm did, it's like we take the batteries out of the flashlight (*take them out*). Can the flashlight help us now? (*no*)

When Jesus died on the cross, He made up for sin. It's as if He turned on the light for us again and made the darkness disappear. Heaven is a place of light, not fear!

There is a special candle you can see in church. It's very big! You will see it by the altar from Easter Sunday until 50 days later. It's called the Paschal Candle. It reminds us that Jesus is the light that we need to guide us to Heaven.

An action poem you can teach your child as a review of the concept:

- God loves us (*Raise your hands with palms facing up; then, cross your arms over your chest.*)
- This we know. (*Put hands up to your temples.*)
- That's what Jesus came to show. (*Point up on "Jesus"; then, put your arms at your sides with palms facing out.*)
- God promised He would give us a way (*Shake your finger as if you're saying "no, no"*)
- To live with him in heaven someday. (*March four times starting with your left foot; then kneel one knee at a time and fold your hands like you're praying.*)