



Theme: Unconditional Love

Book: **No Matter What** by Debbi Gilroy

Theme Introduction:

Research shows that unconditional love is the most important part of a child's self-concept. A study found that a person's self-concept (or how they feel about themselves) is made up of their "self-worth" and "self-esteem." Self-worth has to do with performance and makes up a third of a person's self-concept while self-esteem is created by unconditional love when a person is shown they are valued for who they are. This portion is two-thirds of a person's self-concept.

What this means is that while it is important to help a child achieve and perform, providing them unconditional love is twice as important a factor in how they feel about themselves.

God loves us unconditionally – no matter what we have done or how we feel. This can be really difficult for families to understand as there is no other love like this. It is really important, however, for us to tell them that no matter what, God loves us all the time. God made a way for us to always return to Him, through His death on the cross: we know this as salvation.

Theme exploration:

The Bible tells us that even in our worst moments, God loves us no matter what.

Jesus died for us so that nothing could ever come between us and God again. Even when we don't like ourselves or we are naughty.

Free play suggestion:

Link with book:

- Put out some dolls/teddies and nursery role play toys e.g. cot, highchair, pushchairs etc
- Put out a toy house for the children to play with.



I wonder what you would do to make the doll / teddy happy if they were feeling grumpy.

Craft ideas:

Link to theme:

- Make a heart shape from cardboard and cover it in silver foil. Encourage the children to look at themselves in it, because God loves them.



I wonder who you love.

I wonder how God shows His love for you.

Link with book:

- Paint the children's hands red – put them on the paper to form a heart shape. See an example: <https://funhandprintartblog.com/handprint-heart-i-love-you-preschool-craft.html>

Faith in action: Which love language do your family members most appreciate? See additional resources.

Reflection on last week's faith in action, with the families.

What was last week's action?

How did that make you feel?

Why did that make a difference?



Prayer time

Lord Jesus, help us all to love without fear or condition, to forgive when it's not deserved and give when it's not fair. Amen.

Inspiration ...

Biblical Reference:

Romans 8:37-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present, nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

• SNACK TIME

Jammy dodgers

• SONGS

Use musical instruments

Parachute – Jesus love is very wonderful.

Additional resources:

A re-telling of the story on Youtube

https://youtu.be/1_JxwwmUPlc

No matter what – parent's sheet.

www.5lovelanguages.com/newsletter