

HERE WE COME!

Prepare an assortment of hearts in different sizes and colors. Let the children use them to decorate a poster or bulletin board in the classroom.

SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

Print the Doctrine and Covenants scripture on a card with a picture of Jesus and hide it in the pages of the book. For the Matthew scripture, write the words on two heart shapes. Children understand the words, "I'm sorry." The normal response to that is usually, "OK." Help them connect the response to "I forgive you."

STORY TALKING

Do It for One. Do It for Another by Marge Nelson

Timmy was watching his dad put a new license plate on the car. He grabbed the toolbox to drag it over closer to where his dad was working. As he did so, the box tipped and tools, nuts, bolts, screws, and all kinds of stuff rolled out onto the driveway.

"Oh!" squealed Timmy. "I didn't mean to do it. I was only trying to help."

"I know," his dad said, "but you should have asked first. I would have told you to close and lock the lid so things wouldn't spill."

"I'm sorry," Timmy said.

"I know you are. I forgive you. Now I'll help you pick up the pieces and put them back."

When that was done, Timmy went out to the garden where his mom was planting seeds. She was on her knees digging in the dirt, so Timmy inspected the basket beside her. It was full of packages with pictures of vegetables to eat on them. Timmy moved them around. He pulled out one and held it up.

"What's this?" he asked.

Mother turned to look. As he held the package toward her, it slipped from his fingers, spilling seeds on the ground. "Oh!" exclaimed Timmy, "I didn't know it was open. I didn't mean for the seeds to fall out."

"I know you didn't," said Mother. "But sometimes it's better to watch and ask questions before handling things yourself. I would have told you to watch out for the open package. I left it in there when I had to stop to make another row for the seeds."

"I'm sorry," Timmy said.

"I know you are. I forgive you. But it's not going to be easy finding the little seeds in this loose dirt. I'll help you look for them. Otherwise we might have peas coming up in the carrots."

When that was done, Timmy went in the house to see if his puppy was up from his nap. Spritz was so happy to see him, he ran around Timmy in circles.

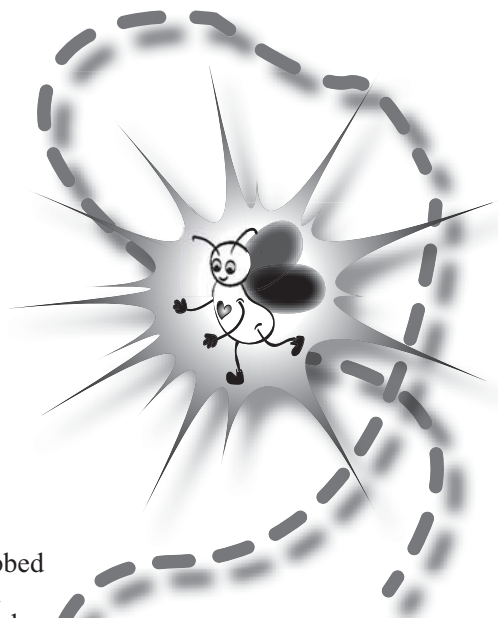
"I'll bet you're hungry," Timmy said. "Come on, I'll fill your food bowl."

The two ran into the kitchen. Timmy got out the bag of dog food and set it on the floor. He turned to get the bowl just as Spritz darted between his feet and the bag. The bag tipped over and nuggets of dog food rolled all over the floor.

"Oh, Spritz! Now look what you've done!" Spritz ducked back under the chair and peeked out at Timmy. Timmy was all set to scold him when he noticed Mom and Dad standing in the doorway. Timmy looked at them and then looked at Spritz.

"I know you are sorry," he said to the puppy. "I forgive you. Now you can help me pick up the pieces and put them in the bowl. Here's how we do it: Pick it up. Drop it in. Pick it up. Drop it in. No, eating it comes later. First we pick it up. Then we drop it in."

Mom and Dad smiled, gave Timmy a hug, and helped with the spill.



FORGIVE FROM YOUR HEART

God forgives
us and we
should forgive
each other.

Scripture Words

I, the Lord, forgive you.
—Doctrine and Covenants
81:1a

As you forgive others, God
will forgive you.
—Matthew 6:14 NRSV
adapted

UP AND AT 'EM

Talk about the different ways we receive mail. Children will know about the envelopes that come to the house as well as e-mail their parents receive on the computer. Explain the mail system in Bible times. Then pretend to deliver the mail around the Mediterranean. Give each child a rolled up letter tied with a string. Let them take turns running from place to place delivering the message from one person to another. Talk about why it was necessary to run. When might a letter travel part of the way by ship?

SENSE-ATIONS

It's because we know God loves us that we learn to love each other. Being willing to forgive is a way to show love. Being able to say you're sorry and ask for forgiveness is a way of showing love for yourself, the other person, and God.

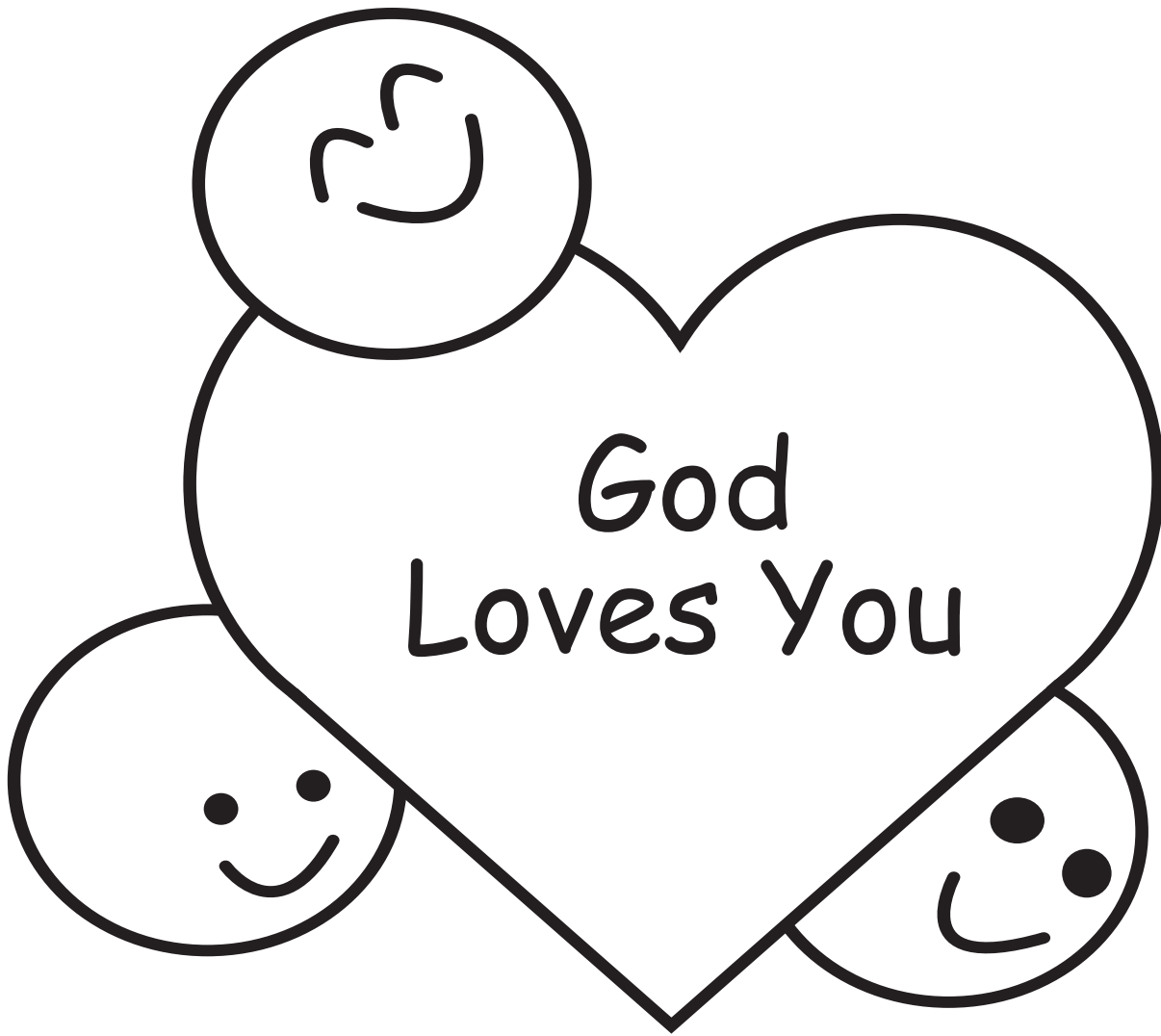
Make several copies of the heart picture on the next page. Use one set of pictures to help the children understand the problems the people in Rome were having when Paul had to write them a letter.

- Everyone in the class is a member of the class. Everyone gets a picture.
- No one can color until told to do so.
- One person decides what color the top happy face will be.
- Everyone must color that part of the picture first.
- Talk about the problems when there are not enough crayons of that shade to allow everyone to work at the same time.
- Continue the activity with the other two faces, and then the large heart.
- Compare the pictures.
- Is it nice to have them all alike? Is it necessary?
- How does it feel to have someone decide what your choices will be?
- Would it make any difference to the message of the picture if the colors were different?
- Give the children another copy to color as they choose. Review the story of Paul as they work, making comparisons to the experience.

LIVE AND LEARN

The scripture from Romans 14:1–12 contains advice from Paul regarding a problem with attitudes. This kind of attitude problem was often found in Jewish leaders because of a conflict between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law. Children can begin to relate to the reality that not everyone does things in exactly the same way.

- “Can you believe this?” Paul said to his friend, shaking the letter he held in his fist. It had come just a few minutes ago when the runner brought the mail.
- “What does it say?” his friend asked.
- “It’s from one of the churches in Rome,” Paul explained. “They want to know who is right about this and who is right about that.”
- “For instance?”
- “They’re arguing over food. It seems some of the new Christians eat a variety of things and others eat only vegetables, staying away from meat. On holy days, some fast and eat no food at all. Make a note for me, will you? I’ll send a letter to them. Say, ‘Those who eat must not hate those who don’t, and those who go without food must not pass judgment on those who eat. God welcomes them all.’”
- “Why are they so concerned about food and eating?” asked his friend. “It seems a little silly.”
- “It’s partly food and partly special days. Some people believe the Sabbath is the one special day of the week, because that’s when we worship God. Others believe that all days are special and we should worship God every day.”
- His friend spoke up. “As a Jew, I know the rules about the specific foods we can eat on the Sabbath. They have to be ones that don’t require cooking or additional work. That way we can spend more time worshipping God.”
- “True,” agreed Paul. “But some Christians share meals whenever they gather. It’s part of the fellowship in their worship. Either way is fine with God. How can I help them understand?”
- “I’m ready to take more notes,” his friend said.
- “Tell them, ‘When you remember the Sabbath, remember it in the name of the Lord. If you eat on that day, eat your meal in honor of the Lord. Give thanks to God. If you choose to fast or go without food that day, do it in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.’”
- “That should take care of it for them.”
- Paul shook his head. “You’d think so, but who knows. Maybe I’d better send along a little more advice. Say, ‘Why do you feel you have to judge your brother or sister? Why are you angry with your brother or sister? What we do when we worship is between us and God.’”
- “Anything else?”
- “No, that’s enough for now. Send it with the next runner. In the meantime we can pray that it will make a difference. God loves us all. Maybe someday they will understand that.”



We're Not Too Small

Rena Matthews

English Folk Tune
Arr. Rena Matthews



1. We're not too small. We're not so tall. We're
2. I have a gift in - side of me. What



grow - ing eve - ry day. And when we bow our
tal - ent can it be? A tal - ent is God's



heads to God, we're big e - nough to pray.
spe - cial gift to each of us, you see.

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MOVING MUSIC

- "We're Not Too Small"
- "Freely, Freely" HS 382

THERE WE GO

Give each child a copy of the heart picture to take home. Ask them to share the stories they heard in class with their family.