



GET READY!

“Honey if you love me smile” - Pull the family together in a circle. Choose one person to be “It”. The person who is “It” will then go up to a member of the family and say, “Honey, if you love me smile”, while trying to make them smile. The family member in turn has to say the whole sentence, “Honey, I love you but I just can’t smile”, with a straight face, no smiling. If “It” is able to make them smile then that person becomes “It”.

READ:
1 John 4:7-10

Parent Tip: Make sure you have enough seats for everyone. Include at least one special chair. Have each family member switch chairs after reading a verse, like musical chairs. This keeps everyone moving, but also listening to see when it will be time to switch. The reader should always read from the special chair. This might be the chair that everyone always likes the best and wants to sit in. You can decide as a family which seat that will be.

Talk:

Where does this scripture say love comes from? God

When people think about love, they often start with how to love others. And the Bible does talk a lot about how to love other people. But here in 1 John, God makes it very clear that **love begins with Him**. He IS love (1 John 4:8) God = Love **Who does this scripture say can love others?** Those who know God. **How did God show his love for us?** He sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

What does “atoning” mean? (Ask Siri or look it up): atoning- make amends

Example of atoning: Hold up a breakable object and tell the kids to imagine that one of them accidentally broke it. Be sure to name someone specific. Write the child’s name, along with a note that he owes you for the breakable object, on a piece of paper with a pencil or on a small whiteboard. Emphasize that the only way he could be forgiven is if he pays for his wrongdoing. Then tell the kids to imagine that another child (name a specific child) comes along and gives you all the money needed to pay for the broken object. Erase the name and the note about the debt owed. In this example (child’s name) paid for the debt. God sent Jesus to pay for our sins. When Jesus died on the cross He became the atoning sacrifice for us. It’s like God erased our sin, like I erased the paper. So we are forgiven because of God’s love for us. This is Love. God loves us.

Live:

How can we live out what the verse is saying? Jesus has already done everything needed for us to be forgiven and made right with God. The only thing left for us to do is to receive the love and forgiveness that God offers to everyone who trusts in Him.

Pray:

Lord, Thank you for showing us what love is. Thank you for sending your one and only Son to be an atoning sacrifice, by dying on the cross for our sins. We love you! Amen

*When we are thankful for what God has done for us,
we are giving to others to show our appreciation.*

1 John 4:19 We love each other because he loved us first.