Adapted from Leading Little Ones to God

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- God told men to write a book, the Bible.
- God gave us the Bible so that we can "learn" about Him and "know" Him.
- God "talks" to us through the Bible.

It is a WONDERFUL book!!

- I remember when I finished Bible school.
- I had learnt so many things that my head was spinning.
- I was asking God to help me put all the knowledge into more understanding and perspective.
- God showed me again that I should read ONLY ONE BOOK for a while, HIS BOOK!!

 If you are confused, lonely, tired, afraid, hungry, thirsty, sick, depressed, etc. READ HIS BOOK of comfort, love, friendship, peace, joy, etc......

 And through this book we can get to know God better.

 God wants us to know Him not only as the God who "made" us, but as the Heavenly Father who "loves" us.

 That's one reason why He sent Jesus, His Son, down to earth.

- When Jesus came to earth the angels in heaven sang for joy.
- One of them came down to earth to tell some shepherds where they could find Jesus, God's Son, in a stable.
- He was just a baby and what a joy He was to His parents, the shepherds, and His Father in heaven.

 Jesus came to God's special people, the Israelites. They are often called the "Jews".

 God chose them because they were the "least" among the nations and so He would be glorified through them.

 When Jesus was grown up, He walked all through their country.

 He told people about God and God's great Kingdom.

He told them that God loves us.

Wherever Jesus went He did good.

 He healed the sick. He made the blind see. He gave food to the hungry.

 He was a friend to those who were sorry for their sin.

 One day, when Jesus was talking to His disciples about His Father in heaven, Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father."

 Jesus said, "I have been with you a long time, Philip; you know ME, don't you? Well, if you have seen ME, you have seen the Father!"

What did Jesus mean?

 Why, He meant to tell Philip, and to tell you and me, that God, our Father in heaven, is JUST LIKE JESUS, His Son!!

They were the same!!

- Now, we know that Jesus was very good and kind.
- He did great and wonderful things, too healing the sick, making the blind see, and sometimes even raising up the dead to live again!
- When Jesus did such things, He showed us how good and kind, and how great and wonderful God the FATHER is.

- These stories about Jesus are written in the New Testament of the Bible.
- So reading the Bible is still the best way of learning to know about God.
- We learn about Him by "seeing" what He "made" the earth and the heavens and everything that is on earth or up in the sky.
- But we learn to know God "best of all" by reading His book, the Bible.

 The Bible tells us what God said to men of long ago.

 And it tells us about all the wonderful things Jesus did.

He even died for us!!

 When we think how much Jesus loved us, we must remember that God the Father, up in heaven, loves us "just as much".

We can be "sure" about that, because Jesus said:

"I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

- And did you know the Father loves YOU AS MUCH AS HE LOVES JESUS.
- Jesus said in John 17:23, "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."
- Wow, "and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Remember these things today:

The Father in heaven loves you!!

Jesus loves you!!

The Holy Spirit loves you!!

- And how much does God love you?
- God loves you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for you!!

 "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

- God loves you so much that He came here to walk and live among us and die for our sins.
- God loves you so much that He did not want to leave you as "orphans" but kept His promise and sent His Holy Spirit to indwell, empower, counsel, impart wisdom, and give us His special love!
- And finally, the Father loves you AS MUCH AS HE LOVES JESUS.

Let's take a moment to mediate on that.

The Father loves you AS MUCH AS HE LOVES JESUS!!

 "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

Let's pray:

- Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for sending Jesus.
- He was, is and forever will be "good and kind".
- He showed us how good You are.

 Help us to know You better, through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

- Lord, every day we struggle to either "love ourselves" or we "love ourselves too much".
- Bring the balance into our lives so we can love our neighbor as ourselves.
- Holy Spirit, come and fill us with YOU so we can love God more and more!!
- Lord, You are an amazing God. We will love You forever!!
- In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- How did Jesus show us that God is good and kind?
- How did He show us that God feels sorry for the sick?
- How did He show us that God loves sinners?
- What is the most wonderful thing about Christmas?

- How has the Father showed us that He loves us?
- How has Jesus showed us that He loves us?
- How has the Holy Spirit showed us that He loves us?
- How can we show God that we love Him?

SUGGESTED READING

- Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
 - Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (John 14:8-10)

MEMORY VERSE

 Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (John 14:9b)

"I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

A POEM

How strong and sweet my Father's care That round about me, like the air, Is with me always, everywhere! He cares for me! O keep me ever in Your love, Dear Father, watching from above, And as through life my steps shall move, O care for me.