

Last week when I asked the kids what they thought about the adults joining us in Christ's Kids - they came up with a plan that included at least two bottom layers of adults sitting on the floor, with the kids sitting on top of them, as they figured we wouldn't all fit in our smaller Christ's Kids room. Don't worry - we aren't going to make you layer up and have the kids sit on your heads, we came up with a roomier plan. We thought we would bring Christ's Kids into here and let you listen in as we learn more about who God is and what He is like.

Kids why don't you come on up and sit on the floor right here. I'd feel better if you were up here with me.

This last week at IAC we were learning about God's everlasting love. How it is incredible, faithful, invincible, unconditional and real. We heard 5 different stories all from the Bible.

So today for our story I am going to do a little bit of review of the stories we talked about - but also go more into details about what the love means for us today. Everyone person here knows that our world has broken and sadness in it. Each one of know of something sad or hard that has happened. The whole world needs God's love to fix the brokenness. Everyone needs God's love.

Attention Grabber:

Can I get someone to help me with something? Can you take one end of this measuring tape and pull it as far as you can. Be very careful not to trip over anyone or make the tape fall and hit someone in the head. That would not be very good.

Let's see if we can measure how far it is from the front of the stage to the back of the pews....

Wow that's a long way!!

What are some other things we can measure? What can we use to measure them? (measuring cup, rope, scale, value) there are so many different ways to measure things.

What about feelings? How can we measure feelings and emotions? We say things like I'm so happy! I am really sad. We have a hard time measuring feelings and emotions. But we know what they look like - don't we.

God's love is -- incredible. (Exodus 3)

Incredible means difficult to believe or extraordinary. We learned about how God spoke to a man named Moses, who was a very unlikely hero. God got Moses' attention with a burning bush and sent him on what seemed like an impossible mission. Moses knew that in order for this to happen - God would have to display his incredible love. The nation of Egypt had held Israel as slaves for 400 years. Israel had been asking God to help them get free, to save them. He heard their cry and displayed with incredible plagues that He is God and His love for His people is strong and extraordinary.

God's incredible love didn't stop with his display of incredible love with Moses & the Israelites. We can find it many places in the Bible - but probably the most visible in the story of a baby that was born in a barn. This is a story that you have probably heard before. Even if you have heard it thousands of times before there is always something new we can learn or be reminded of, every time we hear it.

Incredible Love:

I need to give you a little bit of a back story found in Genesis before I can tell you the story about the baby in the manger. In the beginning God created the whole world and everything in it. And as his grand finale to creation - God made people. They were perfect. God didn't want to create robots that could only choose his way, he wanted to create a creation that would choose to love Him back. So God made up a very simple plan. He would make one simple rule for the people to follow. They could eat of any tree in the garden, except for one. They couldn't eat from one tree. That was the only rule. It sounds pretty simple doesn't it?

You probably know what happens next don't you? The people disobeyed God and ate the fruit. It was a very sad day. It was the day that sin broke the relationship between God and his precious creation. There was now something in the way, something separated God from people.

God had a plan. His love is incredible and unconditional. He set a plan in place and said to Adam and Eve and people after them that one day He would send a rescuer - someone to save them. A solution that would deal with the sin that separated people from God. He didn't tell them when, he didn't tell them how long they would have to wait, he just told them that there was going to be a Saviour.

In the meantime God set up a temporary way to fix the sin problem between God and man. It was a way to show people that God is Holy, He is perfect. And we are not.

If we look at our Bible and the amount of pages that happened between Adam and Eve and Jesus we can see that there were a lot of things that happened in between. God was showing himself to people and they were realizing that they were never going to be good enough because they could never be sinless. God had a plan. He chose a girl named Mary who was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph to display his incredible love once again. One day an angel of the Lord came to Mary and surprised her with some news. The angel said "You are going to have a baby..." Mary was confused. She didn't know how this could be because she had never been married and never been in a situation where she could have a baby inside of her. How can this be? She asked.

The angel explained that God's love is INCREDIBLE! It is difficult to believe and extraordinary. God can do hard things that no one else can do. Mary believed that God could do hard things that no one else could do and was ready to do whatever God asked her to do. Her fiancée too was visited by the angel and told about God's plan to show his incredible love to the world through the baby that Mary would have. Joseph trusted God and took care of Mary while Mary grew a special baby in her body. That baby was special because He is God's Son and He was sent to be the Savior of the world. He was born perfect and without sin. Jesus was sent to earth to grow into a man to take our place in dying for our sins.

God's love is Faithful: (Joshua 2)

God's love is FAITHFUL! He will do what He says he will do.

Rahab was faithful to her word. She did what she said she would do. She didn't tell anyone about the spies hiding in her house and she hung a red rope from her window ~ so she and her family were saved.

God did what He said He would do - and levelled the walls around Jericho, but saved Rahab.

God's faithful love doesn't just stop at this story. God's faithfulness is everywhere you looking the Bible. It tells how God does what He says he will do. He said He would send a Savior - and He did!! And you know what is crazy? If you look in the book of Matthew you will see that Rahab is listed as one of Jesus - great great great great ...well many great grandmothers.

God's plan showed His love faithful. Many many years later - what God said about a sending a Savior came true. We can count on His love because He will do what He says He will do. God's love is **Faithful!**

That's important for us today because we know that we can count on God. When he says he will never leave us - he means it. When he says that our sins have been forgiven and we can spend eternity with him in heaven - he means it. God's love is faithful.

God's love is invincible: (1 Samuel 17)

We learned about God's invincible love through the story of David an Goliath.

David was a boy. He wasn't a warrior. He was a shepherd boy. But one thing David did have in this story was that He understood that God's love is invincible. He knew that God's love was too powerful to be defeated or overcome.

There was GIANT who was over 9 feet tall, armed from head to toe who was being a bully to God's people - Israel. Everyday the armies would come out and Israel would look for someone who was courageous enough, someone who was brave enough, someone who could take on this giant and win. As each day passed the people of Israel were scared and wouldn't even think about trying to go against Goliath. Until David came.

David had a different perspective. His heart knew something that He was ready to act like. He knew that God's love was invincible. He knew that God had said that He would be with Israel and would fight for them. David knew he wasn't strong enough himself. He knew that he wasn't a warrior. But He knew that God's love for his people was invincible and could beat Goliath.

With a small stone and sling - because David remember God's love is invincible - he was able to defeat Goliath.

God's invincible love doesn't stop there. There is something in my life that I need God's love to defeat. There is something in my life that I need God's invincible love to overcome. Something

that I can't defeat or overcome on my own. In my life - and each one of our lives there is sin. Sin is what separates us from God. Sin is what breaks the relationship that we were created for. We need God's invincible love that cannot be defeated or overcome sin. We cannot fight off death and sin with our good words. We cannot win against sin/death with giving more money. The only thing that can win against sin and death is Jesus.

Jesus is best display of God's invincible love. Jesus is God's invincible love. Jesus overcame - he beat sin and death. The thing we cannot beat - Jesus has done it for us.

God's love is unconditional: (Luke 7)

God's love is incredible. God's love is faithful. God's love is invincible. Those are all amazing things. But how do we get God to love us? We know that God's love is amazing, who can get that love from God?

God's love is unconditional. There is nothing we can do or say that can make God love us any more or any less. His love is for all people at all times.

One evening, while Jesus was having dinner at a friend's house a woman came into the house. Everyone stopped and stared. They all knew that she was someone that didn't have a good reputation. She had been classified as a sinner -which means that everyone knew about her sin. Everyone else in the room was a sinner too - they were just really good at hiding it.

As she ran into the house - she fell at Jesus feet. She stopped and wept. There were so many tears that they started to wash away the dirt from Jesus feet. As she cried she pulled out an alabaster jar and poured what was in it on Jesus feet. She used her hair to wipe up her tears and wash Jesus feet.

This lady understood that she was loved and forgiven. She cried because she was happy. She cried because she was thankful. She cried because she was sorry. That's what God's love does.

God's love is unconditional. That means that there is nothing we can do or say - God always already loves us 100%.

Jesus had lived a perfect life. He never sinner one time. Sin is the only reason there is death - so there was no reason for Jesus to die. Jesus loves you so much that no matter you have done, or what you will do, or even what you are doing today - he still chose to take your place.

In the last hours of Jesus life, he was alone. His friends had all left him. He still died for them. There were people who were hurting him. He still died for them. There were people who were making fun of him. He still died for them.

Jesus' love is unconditional. He forgave and loved the people who killed him. He forgave and loved people who abandoned him.

Our sin blocks us from God. His love made it so that there was a way for us to have a relationship with Him - even if it cost Him everything.

God's love is real! (Acts 12)

God's love changes everything. We can either believe that it's real or it's fake. There is no middle on this one. And if we believe that it is real - his love will change us. It will make us see the world differently. It will make us see other people differently.

Peter was in jail. He was in jail because he was telling people about Jesus. The whole church began to pray - asking God to save Peter from prison. They believed that God's love is real and so they prayed asking God for help. In this situation God sent an angel to wake Peter up and walk him out of prison. Peter thought he was dreaming as he got up, put on his sandals and walked past all the guards. Peter was saved from prison that day and went to celebrate with his friends who were praying for him. At first they didn't believe it was him. Although they wanted Peter to be freed - they couldn't believe that it actually happens. God does that with prayer sometimes, He answers even when we least expect it.

You know what is amazing? We get to be God's love today. We can show others that God's love is real with the words we say, the prayers we pray and the actions we do. The church prayed and God sent an angel. Paul needed supplies and a church sent him some. The spies needed hiding and Rahab hid them. The hungry people needed food and the church fed them (Acts 2). God's love is real! And it changes everything.

God's love is in: incredible, it is faithful, it is invincible, unconditional and real! We can see it in the world around us. We can read about it in the Bible. We can ask the people around us how they have seen God's love at work in their lives. We can tell others about the way we see God's love at work in our lives.

This is the best description and display of God's love that we can know:

1 John 4: 9-10

"God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."