

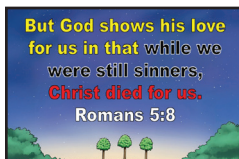
ESV Memory Verse

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

INTRODUCTION

Has someone ever given you something wonderful that you didn't deserve? Why did that person give you such a great gift? (*Allow response.*) Maybe they did it out of love for you. The Bible tells us something amazing God did for us to show His love, even though we did not deserve it.

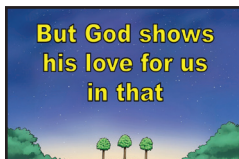
PRESENTATION



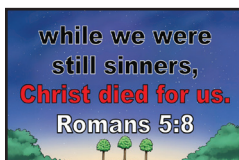
(*Hold up Bible.*) God gave us the Bible so we could get to know Him and learn about His plan to save people. Today, we're exploring a verse that talks

about that plan. For over 1,600 years, God used men to write down His true Word for you and me. The Bible has 66 books, but you can find this verse in any Bible by using the reference, Romans 5:8. The reference tells us where the verse is in the Bible. Romans is the book name, five is the chapter, and eight is the verse number. (*Show children how you find Romans 5:8 with your Bible.*) I'll read Romans 5:8 for us. (*Read verse from Bible.*) Since you can't see the verse in my Bible, I have it right here for us to read together. (*Read verse from visual with children.*)

EXPLANATION



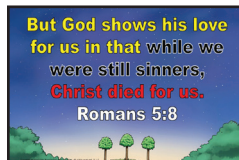
But God shows his love for us— God, the Creator of the whole universe, did something to show how much He loves you and me.



in that while we were still sinners— To be a sinner means that you want your way instead of God's ways no matter what. Everyone has been born with

sinful desires; that's why the verse says we are sinners. You and I don't deserve God's love. We deserve to be punished by being separated from God forever. Even though you and I are sinners and did nothing to deserve God's love, God did something amazing to show His love to you. The last part of the verse tells us what He did.

Christ died for us— Christ is another name for Jesus, God the Son. He came to earth as a baby. We celebrate His coming at Christmastime. Jesus never did anything wrong, but He died on the cross to take the punishment for sin that you and I deserve. Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day He came back to life. Because Jesus took your punishment, you can have a friendship with God now and forever.



Even though you have sinned, God showed you His love by sending Jesus to take your punishment. Let's say Romans 5:8 together! (*Say verse with children.*)

APPLICATION

Unsaved: If you have not believed in Jesus, you can know God loves you because Jesus came to die for your sins. God sent Jesus to earth to show His great love for you. Jesus is an amazing gift from God that you do not deserve! If you believe in Jesus, you will be saved from sin's punishment and have a friendship with God forever. You can believe in Jesus today.

Saved: If you have already believed in Jesus, you can remember that God has shown you the greatest love. Whenever you feel sad, lonely, or like no one loves you, remember that God loved you so much that Jesus died to save you so you could have a friendship with Him.

REPETITION

"Big Tree, Little Tree"

In this game, children will repeat the verse in either a loud, medium, or soft voice. Choose a volunteer to be the "tree." Tell the child that when he crouches down and holds his "branches" (arms) out low, everyone will say the verse in a soft voice. If he stands normally and holds his branches out sideways, everyone will say the verse in a medium voice. If he stands on his toes and holds his branches high, everyone will say the verse in a