



sharing the love in our hearts

Children's Story

Year B, Proper 26

Title:	Sharing the love in our hearts
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Church:	Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship, Winnipeg, MB
Text:	Mark 12:28-34
Theme:	To love God with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves.
Needed:	Red and pink hearts of many sizes (if you plan to distribute them after the story, make enough for each child to have one). These could include words or phrases on each heart, such as: LOVE; I have a heart full of love; Share love; Jesus says, "LOVE".

Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children, including the children of visitors, to gather for that special part of worship where we try extra hard to speak and act in ways that children can understand. Help the children settle into comfortable listening positions and to imagine themselves as sitting in the humongous heart of God. Open your Bible to Mark 10 and tell them that in today's Bible verses, Jesus explains the most important thing for everyone who wants to live God's way. Do they know what that is?... Yes, it is LOVE. Continue as follows:

Look at the hearts I am holding. What do you notice about them? Different sizes, different words, different colours. Tell me, do you think your heart looks like one of these valentine hearts? You're right! It probably looks a little different because it is inside of you. Put your hand up here on your left side. That is exactly where your heart is, but it is under your skin and you can't really feel it. When you are sitting very still, touch that spot and you might feel something moving inside – don't press too hard. Can you feel a soft beat-beat, beat-beat? That is called your heart beat. Your heart started to beat the second God gave you life. Thank you for life God! Let's say that together. Thank you for life, God! Now, let's listen to today's little story

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Story:

Lukas sent his Grandmother a card that said, "IF I LOVED YOU ANY MORE GRANDMA, I'D HAVE TO GET A BIGGER HEART". Mmmm, do you think your heart could run out of love? Do you think you have room in there for a bigger heart? Do you think that Lukas just wanted his Grandma to know he loved her very, very much?

I think you are right, and that was a good way of telling her.

God also sent us a message about God's amazing love. God sent us Jesus. And Jesus has good ways of showing and telling us about love. Jesus said, and we can still hear it in today's Bible verses, that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbour as much as we love ourselves. By saying neighbour, Jesus means the people around us. Jesus knows that if we stay connected to God's amazing love, we can have so much love inside us that we won't ever run out. There is enough love for loving God and the people around us. Close your eyes right now and try to think of all the people you love. Wow! The wonderful thing is that you have enough love in your heart (touch your heart) to keep on loving and loving just like Jesus said.

Prayer:

Thank you, God, for loving us so much! We love you, too. We are happy that you fill our hearts with lots of love to share. Help us to show that love to you, God, to our families, our church family, and to the people around us. Amen.

Wondering questions:

- Have you ever wondered how much love you have to give?
- Have you ever wondered where your love comes from?
- Have you ever wondered what Jesus says about love?