

LESSON 4 GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

Play the Theme Song Sound Effect. **Hello, and welcome to God's big story! Today we're going to learn the story while playing the newest game show—Crack the Riddle. I'm your host, (say your name), and let me introduce you to the contestants! On this side, we've got the (say team's name)!**

Point to the first team and encourage them to cheer. **And their opponent—the (say opposing team's name)!** Point to the second team and encourage them to cheer. **Both teams will be competing today to become the ultimate riddle solver!** Assign one team leader for each team. Be sure all the kids know who their leaders are.

The rules are simple. As I tell you a true story from the Bible, I'll give you riddles and will draw line spaces on the board for each letter of the answers. Each team will take a turn guessing a letter that may be in the word. If you guess correctly, I'll write the answer on the board, and your team gets another turn. If you guess incorrectly, the other team takes a turn. If your team is ready to crack the riddle, tell your team leader what you think the answer is, and the team leader will stand to respond during your turn. The first team leader to stand up and give the correct answer wins the round. The team that wins the most rounds is the ultimate riddle solver! Contestants, are you ready? Allow kids to respond. **Great! Let the show begin!** Fade the Theme Song Sound Effect.

The Bible is full of song poems—poems that offer praise and give thanks to God and poems that talk about God's character and all the amazing things He has done. When we remember the wondrous things that God has done, we're thankful for His goodness and see how faithful His love is. Here's the first riddle.

Play the Decision Sound Effect. Draw six lines for the letters in the word *Psalms* on the whiteboard. Display the first Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you.

I'm a book inside a book. I'm full of song poems, but I don't actually sing. What's my name?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correctly guessed letters on the respective lines. Once the correct answer is guessed, reveal it to the kids—*Psalms*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

That was fun! Contestants, are you ready for round two? Allow kids to respond.

Throughout the Bible, God reminds us of these truths: “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8, NIV). These truths tell us what God says about Himself and how He shows Himself to us. God is kind to us and doesn't get angry quickly. He is full of love for us, and He shows it through the things He does. Are you ready for the second riddle? Allow kids to respond.

Play the Decision Sound Effect. Draw seven lines for the letters in the word *forever* on the board. Show the second Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you.

I am a time but not on a clock. My time never ends. What kind of time am I?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correct letters on the lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the correct answer, reveal it to the kids—forever—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

You got it! God's faithful love goes on forever! It doesn't end! The truth of God's faithful love—His compassion, grace, patience, and constant presence—prompted the writer of Psalm 136 to overflow with thankfulness to God. It's a song that talks about God's great works and then repeats the truth that His faithful love goes on forever!

Let's find out what the writer of Psalm 136 was thankful for. It's time for round three!

Play the Decision Sound Effect. Draw eight lines for the letters in the word creation on the board. Show the third Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you.

I am water. I am a blue sky. I am birds chirping. I am the sun, moon, and stars. What am I?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the letters on the appropriate lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the correct answer, reveal it to the kids—creation—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

Say this with me: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond. **God created everything. He made the heavens and the earth, and the sun, moon, and stars. God is the Creator of all things—no one else can do the things He has done. God's creation shows that His faithful love goes on forever!**

God is good and more powerful than any other god. His faithful love goes on forever!

God did amazing things for His people. He brought plagues on the land of Egypt so that His people would be set free from slavery. He showed His great power and kept His promise to rescue His people. His faithful love goes on forever!

It's time for round four! Which team will crack the next riddle? Will it be the (say name of one team) **team?** Allow kids to respond. **Will it be the** (say name of the other team) **team?** Allow kids to respond.

Play the Decision Sound Effect. Draw seven lines for the letters in the word promise on the board. Show the fourth Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen and encourage kids to read it with you.

God will do it. God will keep it 100% of the time. What am I?



Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the word correctly. Write the correct letters on the lines as kids guess them. Once a team guesses the answer correctly, reveal it to the kids—promise—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

Say this with me as loudly as you can: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond. **God always keeps His promises, every one of them, 100% of the time.**

After the great miracle at the Red Sea, God led His people through the desert. He protected them, defeating any kings who fought against them, and leading them safely to the land He had promised them. God protected His people. Say this with me: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

God remembered His people when they were suffering, and He stepped in to help them. He provides food for His creation. Say this with me: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

God deserves all our thankfulness. He is full of grace and compassion. He doesn't get angry quickly, and He is filled with great love for us. Say it with me again: God's faithful love goes on forever! Allow kids to respond.

We can be thankful for God's character. He shows us who He is through the Bible, through all the things He has done, and through all the ways He has loved us. As we learn about God's love, we can reflect it to others because ...

It looks like it's time for our final round, and it's a tough one! This time, there is no riddle, just the lines on the board. Are you ready?

Draw lines for the letters in the sentence **GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL** on the board. Show the fifth Crack the Riddle Slide on the screen. Leave a space between each word. Play the Decision Sound Effect.



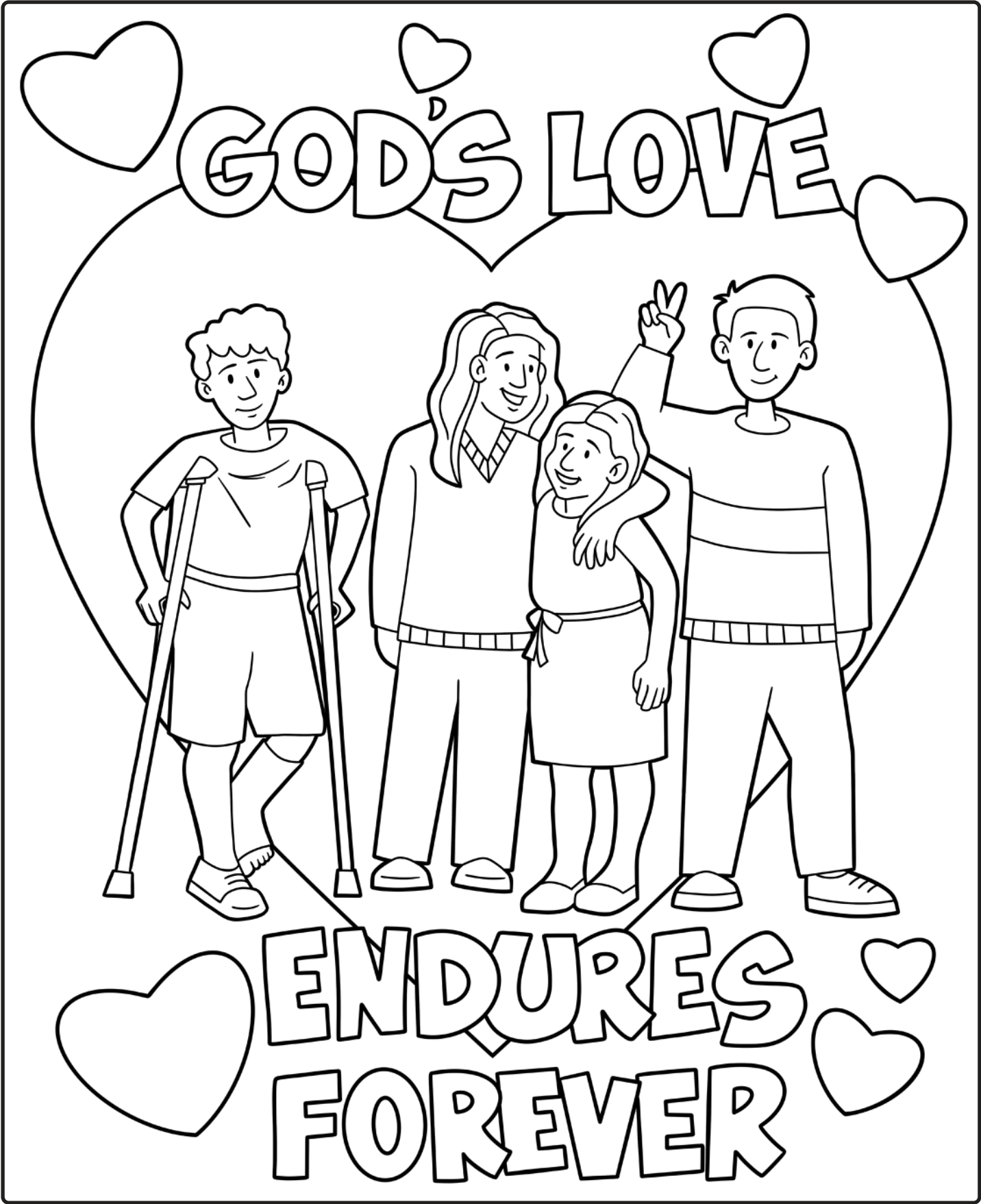
Allow each team to take turns guessing a letter of the word until a team guesses the sentence correctly. Once a team guesses the answer correctly, reveal it to the kids—*God's Love Is Faithful*—and declare the winner of the round. Fade the Decision Sound Effect.

Play the Theme Song Sound Effect.

Excellent! You've cracked the most important riddle of the day! Our Wonder Truth! Say it again with me: God's Love Is Faithful. Allow kids to respond.

You've played the game well today—and now for the big announcement! The winner of Crack the Riddle is ... Encourage kids to do a drum roll by patting their legs as you announce the winner.

Thank you for playing Crack the Riddle today. I'm your host (say your name), **and we hope to see you again soon!** Fade the Theme Song Sound Effect.



GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL

"THE LORD IS TENDER AND
KIND. HE IS GRACIOUS. HE
IS SLOW TO GET ANGRY.
HE IS FULL OF LOVE."
—PSALM 103:8

"GIVE THANKS TO THE MOST POWERFUL LORD OF
ALL. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."
—PSALM 136:3

"HE SPREAD OUT THE EARTH ON THE WATERS. HIS
FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."
—PSALM 136:6

"HE MADE THE SUN TO RULE OVER
THE DAY ...

HE MADE THE MOON AND STARS TO RULE
OVER THE NIGHT.

HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."
—PSALM 136:8-9

"HE BROUGHT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL OUT OF
EGYPT ... [HE] PARTED THE WATERS OF THE RED
SEA. HIS FAITHFUL LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."
—PSALM 136:11, 13

"GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD
OF HEAVEN. HIS FAITHFUL
LOVE CONTINUES FOREVER."
—PSALM 136:26