Activity: Does God Really Love Me?

Teaching Goal: God's love is reliable.

Scripture: Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 17:23-24 Let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me."

Materials: The opening scene from the movie "Vertical Limit."

In Advance: **THIS ACTIVITY IS FOR OLDER CHILDREN. Preview the movie scene from "Vertical Limit" in advance for language and violence to see if it appropriate to use in your family. The scene is very intense.** You can find the scene on YouTube by searching "Vertical Limit Opening Scene."

I. Play theme song
II. Pray
III. Review last lesson
IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. DISCUSSION: Ask each person in your family, one at a time, the following questions: **I know I love you, but do you believe I love you?** *Listen.* **How do I show you that I love you?** *Listen.*

Next, ask each person the following questions about one another. For example, **Mary (sister), does Jeff (brother) love you?** *Listen.* **How does he show that he loves you?** *Listen.*

It's good for our family to take time and talk about how we love one another. Families will argue and disagree, but we still love each other.

Let's consider how our love compares to God's love. Do you think that I love you more than God loves you? *Listen.* No. **Do you think God loves us more than we can love each other?** *Listen.* Yes. **Why?** *Listen.* God is the creator of love and He knows what is best for us in every situation. His love is perfect. **God loves us more than we are able to love each other. It's hard for us to understand His**

great love because we are human. We do not know and understand everything like God can. He created us so He knows exactly how to love us perfectly. Let's make a list of the ways God shows us that He loves us. Write down each suggestion.

B. ACTIVITY: Preview to make sure the movie clip is appropriate for your family. Show the first scene from the movie "Vertical Limit." We're going to watch a movie clip of a dad rock climbing with his son and daughter. I want you to know in advance that it's very intense. Watch the movie clip and stop after the father falls. The father knew that the only way to save his children was to have his son cut the rope. Do you think the father loved his children? *Listen*. Yes. The father demonstrated his love by his actions. He gave his life for his kids. When we put the needs of someone else above our own needs it shows how much we love them.

Which do you believe was harder, the dad asking the son to cut the rope or the son having to cut the rope? *Listen.* Which do you think is harder, a father dying for his children or a father having to choose to let his son die so his daughter could live? *Listen.* Would it have been a tougher situation if the father was second on the rope? *Listen.* God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to earth where He knew that Jesus would die so that you and I could live. If God did not send Jesus, we could not have eternal life in heaven with God. Do you see how much God loves you and me? *Listen.*

Just before Jesus was arrested and taken to the cross, He prayed to God, His father.. Listen to what he said. Invite a volunteer to read John 17:23-24. Jesus is God's message of love to the whole word. Invite a volunteer to read John 3:16. God loves us so much that he gave his son Jesus so that we could live forever in heaven.

Why do we not trust God's love for us? *Listen.* Let's pray and ask God to help us to remember that His love is perfect, unending, and completely reliable.

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass it On. Make a copy of this activity and *pass it on* to another family.