

LSS Children's Sermon Idea

Love Grows

Materials

- Heart-shaped compressed cosmetic sponges (for example: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BCJWSHJN>)
- Pitcher of water or watering can
- Empty container (bowl, tub, etc.) big enough to hold all the water in the pitcher
- Second empty bowl (can be smaller)
- Towels to dry wet hands and accidental spills

Message: When we share God's love, the love in our hearts will grow!

Instructions:

- Invite children to gather with you around the water bowl.
- Give each child a dry sponge.
- Ask: has anyone ever felt so sad or so mad, that it just felt like your heart was squished? Look at how thin and flat and dry these hearts are. Will you put a few hearts in this big bowl?
- Ask: What helps your heart feel better when you are sad or mad? What could you do to share God's love with someone whose heart is feeling squished like these hearts?
- Name a few examples (give a hug, share your food, say something kind, etc.). Each time you name something, pour water from the pitcher over the dry hearts in the bowl.
- Ask: Look, what is happening to the hearts in this bowl? (Growing, expanding, getting bigger, filling up) These hearts are filling up with God's love!
- Put another dry heart in the second bowl.
- Ask: Let's see what our hearts can do now. Can everybody take one of these wet hearts? Give your heart a squeeze over this smaller bowl. What's happening? (The heart in the small bowl is filling up.)
- Say: Look! The hearts in your hands were so full of the love we poured over them, that they could share God's love with this heart over here. And look – the hearts in your hands are still big. They didn't go back to being squished. They stayed big!

- Say: God's love is always flowing over us, and it never runs out. When we soak it up, we can pour it out into others whose hearts might be feeling squished. And then they'll be able to share God's love, too.
- Say: That's what our church does through Lutheran Social Services. We pour God's love into people who are hurting, and we help their hearts get un-squished and filled up, so they can go out and share love with the people in their lives also.
- Say: Will you pray with me? *Loving God, we feel your love when we get a hug, when we hear a kind word, when we see a smile, when we are lifted up by a helping hand. You fill us up to overflowing with your love. Heal our hearts when we are hurting, and help us share your love with others. Amen.*