

# **MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD**

Sexual Abuse Teaching for Children

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**MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD**  
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## INTRODUCTION

This material is designed for young to middle-aged children. According to the culture and needs of your country, it may need to be taught to children as young as five, or as old as twelve. When teaching this material, the atmosphere should be relaxed. If possible, try not to have a large group of children; less than fifteen is ideal. This is a sensitive issue to discuss, and in order to ease the tension, try to sit on the floor with the children, or in another manner which helps you to relate to them better. Children interact more when they are comfortable.

You will need at least two hours to present this material in its entirety. Allow additional time for translation, if needed. The material can be broken into two or three sessions, depending on the time that is allotted to you. As always, the presenter should be prepared for questions. Think about the questions the children may ask. More information about this can be found at the end of the curriculum.

My desire is for this to be material that will not condemn children, but encourage their hearts. For those who have never been sexually abused, I pray that it will make them aware to the potential dangers in society. I also hope that it will help them to understand how God values them as a person. For those children who have experienced sexual abuse, my hope is that this will bring clarity and understanding to their lives—that they will realize that it was not a display of love, that it was not their fault, and that nothing will change the love that God has for them. Each time I have taught this, there have been children looking at me as if they didn't know what I was speaking of, and there have been children who nodded their heads throughout the entire presentation. It will break your heart to see the children who know exactly what you are discussing. It is a fine line to walk to balance making children aware of the dangers, but not condemning those who have been abused.

The reader of this material may recognize some of the activities from the True Love Waits material. As well, these ideas were somewhat influenced by the work of Journeyman Nikki Walker, Swaziland. The flavor of these publications will be seen throughout this document.

May the Lord bless you as you invest in the lives of children. You have a message they need to hear. Go and tell.

Presentation objective: To help children understand their value in Christ and learn practical ways to avoid potentially sexually abusive situations.

### **WHERE DID I COME FROM?**

Say: Today we are going to talk about how we were created.

Ask: What are some ways you have been told that people began living on earth? *(Allow time for children to share a few answers. Answers will vary.)*

Say: Many different people have different ideas about how people began living, but we are going to look at what the Bible says about this.

Read: Psalm 139:1-18 (see appendix A)

*(If you have a Bible, open the Bible in front of the children and read or tell all the verses from the Bible. It is important for the children to see you with an open Bible in your hand even if you are just telling them the stories and not reading them. That helps the children to know that these words come from the Bible, God's word. In case you don't have a Bible the verses and stories are written in the appendices.)*

Ask: According to what we just read, who made us?  
*(Answer: God formed us and knit us together in our mother's womb.)*

And when does God know us?

*(Answer: Before He formed us in the womb.)*

How much does He think about us?

*(Answer: more than the grains of sand, all the time, more than we can count.)*

Say: In the Bible, it says that God knows how many hairs are on our head, and everything about us. He knows your birthday, your mother and father, and what you will be when you grow up. God loved us first, before we were even born.

## WHAT IS LOVE?

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (see appendix B)

Say: God loves us; He loves everyone and everything that He created. He allows us to experience a small part of that love here on earth. Let's look more at what real love is.

Activity: Using two pieces of large paper, or the attached pages, have children place each statement about love either into the "Love Is..." or the "Love Is Not..." category. If children are very young, or unable to write, have the phrases pre-printed on large paper for the children to stick in the appropriate category. Example: "patient" & "kind" would go under the "Love Is..." paper, while "easily become angry" & "rude" would go under the "Love Is Not..." paper. Either give each child his/her own paper (see appendix C) or have the two pages (from appendix D) displayed on a wall or board where all can see.

*For older children who can write:*

Say: I am going to slowly read this passage again, and as I read each phrase, write the most important words either under the "Love is..." column, or under the "Love is not..." column. Let's do the first one together. "Love is patient." Is patient something that love is, or something that love is not? (*LOVE IS patient.*) Please write the word patient under the "Love is" column.

*Be sure to review after you finish reading the passage to make sure that all children understand what love is, and what love is not.*

*For younger children:*

Say: Let's go through 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a again and see where each of these phrases belong. You tell me if it should be under the "Love is..." or the "Love is not..." sign.

*As children interact, you can allow them to come and stick the phrases in the appropriate place. This will provide more interaction for them. You may want to stop and elaborate on some of the words if children look confused.*

Say: There are many ways that we can show love to others. Each of us may show love differently, because we are all different people, but we can all show love. Let's remember what we have learned about real love from the activity we just did and see the different ways we can show love.

## THE LOVE LANGUAGES

*(If children are older, or if you have many people teaching, these can be acted out. Or, you can make posters of drawings to give children a visual. For example, draw a clock for Quality Time, a present for Gifts, serving hands for Acts of Service, a person's mouth for Encouraging Words, and two people hugging for Physical Touch.)*

Say: There are five main ways that people show love to each other. Let's talk about those now:

**Quality time**—for some people, spending time with another person is how they show love. Time can be spent doing simple things, like playing ball or reading a book together.

**Gifts**—other people like to give things to those they love. The gifts don't have to be expensive, they can be homemade or even something that the person has, but wishes to give away.

**Acts of service**—doing nice things for loved ones is another way that some people show love. Things like helping with the washing, or cooking a meal, or taking care of a baby are ways that love can be shown through acts of service.

**Encouraging words**—many people say nice things about others to show them that they are loved. We all like to hear nice things said about us, so it is helpful when our friends or family say words that we enjoy hearing.

**Physical touch**—the final way that some people show love is through kind touches. Holding hands, or hugging, are ways that love can be shown through touching others.

Ask: What way do you think you show love the best? We are all different, none of us will show love in exactly the same way. Which way was yours? Is there more than one way that you like to show love? *(Allow children time to share some of their thoughts.)*

(This is a good breaking point if you are teaching in two sessions.)

## TWO BIBLE STORIES

Say: There are two examples in the Bible about showing love. I want us to closely look at these two stories. Both of these stories are true, because all that is written in the Bible is true. There are some big differences in the people, and the ways they acted. Let's look at these two stories now.

Read (or tell the story): 2 Samuel 13:1-15 (see appendix E)

Ask: Tell me about this story.

What was Amnon like? (*mean, angry, forceful, hateful*)

Was he a kind person? (*no*)

How did he hurt Tamar? (*He forced her to have sex with him, to do something she did not want to do*)

What did he ask Tamar not to do? (*He asked her not to tell anyone about it.*)

Did Amnon show love to Tamar? (*No, he was not patient or kind, he only cared about what he wanted, refer children to the posters/papers from "What is Love?"*)

Was any of this Tamar's fault? (*No, she did not do anything to deserve this.*)

Say: Tamar had a bad thing happen to her. Some of you may have had a similar thing happen to you. If you have, just like Tamar, it is not your fault. This story is not an example of real love, and if you are like Tamar, then what has happened to you is also not an example of real love. Let's look at another story that does show us about true love.

Read (or tell the story): Matthew 1:18-25 (see appendix F)

Ask: Tell me about this story.

What was Joseph like? (*kind, loving, nice*)

Was he a kind person? (*yes*)

How did he care for Mary? (*he loved her, he took care of her, he obeyed God.*)

Say: In these two stories, we saw two very different things that happened. Amnon's story was not an example of real love, but Joseph's story was. Sometimes people are also mistaken about what real love is, like Amnon. They try to show it in ways that hurt other people, especially children. Anytime an adult is asking you to do something that hurts you, or involves touching you in a bad way, then it is wrong. Sometimes adults will ask you to go somewhere with them and not tell anyone else. This is also wrong.

Say: Look at what we have just done here. *(Either point to the "Love is"/"Love is not" signs on the wall, or refer to each child's paper.)*

Tell me, was Amnon patient and kind? *(no)*

Was he rude and proud? *(yes)*

Did he care more about what he wanted than what was best for Tamar?  
*(yes)*

The way that Amnon acted was not loving. What about Joseph?

Was he patient and kind? *(yes)*

Was he rude or proud? *(no)*

Did Joseph care more about what was best for Mary than what he wanted? *(yes)*

In this story, Joseph was a great example of real love.

### **ROLE-PLAY SCENARIOS**

Say: We are going to act out some situations that may happen to you.

Remember we are just acting and these are not real. Think about the things we just said: If an adult asks you to go anywhere alone with them, or not to tell anyone else, or tries to touch you in an area where you feel uncomfortable, it is wrong and you should run away!

*(have a teacher act as the adult, and a child to participate)*

Scenario #1: You are walking home from school one day when a man drives by in a car. He slows down and asks you if you would like a lift. He says you will go to his house first, and then he will take you home, but you must keep it a secret. What should you do? *(Children should respond with "Run away and tell someone")*

Scenario #2: You are having trouble with maths at school. Your teacher tells you that she will pay your school fees for the next term if you will come to her house alone on the weekends. You mustn't tell anyone, you must come alone. What should you do? *(Children should respond with "Run away and tell someone")*

Scenario #3: After your aunt's funeral, your older cousin comes to you and says that he will help your family every month with food and money. You must go with him each week, alone, to his house. You should keep this a secret, because he says that he doesn't want others to know that he is helping your family. What should you do? *(Children should respond with "Run away and tell someone")*

*Make sure children understand the importance of both leaving the situation, and telling a trusted adult.*

Ask: Who are some people we can tell? (*Pastor, parents, schoolteacher, older brother or sister*)

Say: Remember what we read? God created and loved us even before we were born. Even though sometimes bad things do happen, it doesn't change God's love for us. He promises that nothing can separate us from His love. Let's read that part of the Bible again right now.

Read: Psalm 139:1-18 (see appendix A)

Say: God loves you. He has a wonderful plan for your life. He promises to never leave you, and even when bad things come, He will always be there to care for you.

### **TEN MALOTI**

For this activity, you will need M10, R10, or a low-value bill in your local currency (between \$1-2 US).

*(In some cultures and countries it is a crime to purposely mistreat money. You may need to adapt this activity. Consider using two different notes or bills, a clean new one and one that is very old and worn. You can talk about how the old note has been treated badly.)*

Hold up the M10.

Ask: Who wants ten maloti?

Say: Of course, we all want this money. Tell me some things this money can buy. (*Candy, bread, drink, mealie meal, etc.*)

Ask: How much is this worth? (*Ten Maloti.*)

Ask: What if I fold it in half and make a crease in the middle? (*Fold the bill of money as you are speaking.*) Who wants it now? Is it still worth M10? Can you still buy the same things with it?

Ask: What if I crumple it in my hands? (*Crumple the bill of money into a ball as you are speaking.*) Who wants it now? Are you sure this is still worth M10? Can you spend this money in the shops?

Ask: What if I put it on the ground and step on it? (*At this time, step on the bill of money, being careful not to tear it.*) Do you still want the M10 now? How much is it worth now?

Say: In God's eyes, we are like this M10. God created us, and He loves us. He says that we are more valuable to Him than gold. He says that we are created wonderfully. Psalm 139:14 says "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."  
*(New International Reader's Version)*

Say: Sometimes, things may happen to us that hurt us or make us feel like we are worth less. But just like this M10, we are still of value to God. This M10 never lost its value because it had a crease in it, or some dirt on it. It will always be worth M10. The same is true with God's children. We will always be of great value in His eyes, no matter what happens. Even if we make bad choices, He promises to never stop loving us. God loves you. He thinks you are special. He values you. And that value is worth much, much more than M10. You are more precious than gold.

#### **A FINAL WORD TO THE PRESENTER**

After this presentation, you may have some children approach you, wishing to discuss an abusive experience. It is important to remember that the best thing you can do for the child is to listen. Listen closely, making eye contact and giving the child your full attention. According to the laws in your country, you may be required to report what you have heard to authorities. Know the laws of your country before teaching this material. Finally, re-read Psalm 139 to the child, assuring them that they are of great value in God's eyes. Pray with the child. If available, try to arrange for the child to speak with a professional counselor. If that is not available in your country, encourage the child to talk with a teacher, pastor, or another Christian friend.

## **APPENDIX A: Where Did I Come From?**

Psalm 139:1-18, New International Reader's Version

Lord, you have seen what is in my heart. You know all about me.

You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.

You know when I go out to work and when I come back home. You know exactly how I live.

Lord, even before I speak a word, you know all about it.

You are all around me. You are behind me and in front of me. You hold me in your power.

I'm amazed at how well you know me. It's more than I can understand.

How can I get away from your Spirit? Where can I go to escape from you?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there.

Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east and then cross over to the west where it sinks into the ocean.

Your hand would always be there to guide me. Your right hand would still be holding me close.

Suppose I were to say, "I'm sure the darkness will hide me. The light around me will become as dark as night."

Even that darkness would not be dark to you. The night would shine like the day, because darkness is light to you.

You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body.

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

None of my bones was hidden from you when you made me inside my mother's body. That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth. When you were putting me together there,

Your eyes saw my body even before it was formed. You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them.

God, your thoughts about me are priceless. No one can possibly add them all up.

If I could count them, they would be more than the grains of sand. If I were to fall asleep counting and then wake up, you would still be there with me.

## **APPENDIX B: What Is Love?**

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, New International Reader's Version

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud.

It is not rude. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs.

Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken.

It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.

Love never fails.

**APPENDIX C: What Is Love?**

**LOVE IS...**

**LOVE IS NOT...**

APPENDIX D: What Is Love?

**LOVE IS...**

**LOVE IS  
NOT...**

**PATIENT**

**KIND**

**PROUD**

**EASILY  
BECOMES  
ANGRY**

**HAPPY WITH  
EVIL**

**HOPES**

**RUDE**

**TRUSTS**

**FULL OF JOY  
WHEN THE  
TRUTH IS  
SPOKEN**

**NEVER  
GIVES UP**

**WANTS WHAT  
BELONGS TO  
OTHERS**

**PROTECTS**

**NEVER FAILS**

**BRAGS**

**KEEPS TRACK  
OF OTHER  
PEOPLE'S  
WRONGS**

**LOOKS OUT  
FOR ITS OWN  
INTERESTS**

## APPENDIX E: Amnon & Tamar

2 Samuel 13:1-15; New International Version

In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

Amnon became frustrated to the point of illness on account of his sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

Now Amnon had a friend named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man.

He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?"

Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

"Go to bed and pretend to be ill", Jonadab said. "When your father comes to see you, say to him, 'I would like my sister Tamar to come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare the food in my sight so I may watch her and then eat it from her hand.' "

So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "I would like my sister Tamar to come and make some special bread in my sight, so I may eat from her hand."

David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Go to the house of your brother Amnon and prepare some food for him."

So Tamar went to the house of her brother Amnon, who was lying down. She took some dough, kneaded it, made the bread in his sight and baked it.

Then she took the pan and served him the bread, but he refused to eat.

"Send everyone out of here," Amnon said. So everyone left him.

Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom.

But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

"Don't, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me. Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you."

But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

"No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me." But he refused to listen to her.

He called his personal servant and said, "Get this woman out of here and bolt the door after her."

So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her. She was wearing a richly ornamented robe, for this was the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore.

Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

## **APPENDIX F: Mary & Joseph**

Matthew 1:18-25, New International Reader's Version

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph was a godly man. He did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.

But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit.

She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That is because he will save his people from their sins."

All of this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet,

"The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." The name Immanuel means "God with us".

Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife.

But he did not make love to her until after she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.