

## **If You Know that Jesus Loves You**

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*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.  
John 15:9*

1. If you know that Jesus loves you **clap your hands** [*clap, slap, stomp, etc.*]  
If you know that Jesus loves you **clap your hands** [*clap, slap, stomp, etc.*]  
Jesus loves me, there's no doubt  
And that's what I'm **a-clappin'** [*slappin', stompin, etc.*] about  
If you know that Jesus loves you **clap your hands** [*clap, slap, stomp, etc.*]

2. Slap your knees; a-slappin'
3. Stomp your feet; a-stompin'
4. Wave your arms: a wavin'
5. Shout woo-hoo! a-shoutin'

*Slowly . . .*

6. If you know that Jesus loves you show your smile  
If you know that Jesus loves you show your smile  
Jesus loves me, there's no doubt  
And that's what I'm a-smilin' about

*Suddenly faster . . .*

If you know that Jesus loves you . . .

- Clap your hands [*clap*]
- Slap your knees [*slap*]
- Stomp your feet [*stomp*]
- Wave your arms [*wave*]
- Shout woo-hoo [*shout*]

*Ending – Slowly . . .*

If you know that Jesus loves you show your smile!

Yeah, smile and smile!

## **If You Know that Jesus Loves You**

### *Teaching Resources*

#### **Background**

The famed twentieth-century theologian, Karl Barth, was once asked if he could sum up all he knew about God and the Gospels in one sentence. Barth's reply:

***Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.***

This, perhaps, is the most important truth for children to understand and internalize. As simple as it sounds, however, the truth is difficult for all of us to internalize because none of us feels loved all the time. In fact, most of the time, most of us are pretty un-lovable. The key to the statement is the second part – how we know. We don't base our knowledge of Jesus' love for us on how we feel. We base it on the truth we find in God's Word:

***As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.***

John 15:9

***Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.***

John 15:13

***How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!***

***And that is what we are!***

I John 3:1

I began thinking about the simple, yet profound, truth of Jesus' love for us, and this catchy song popped into my head. The song repeats the truth over and over because children can't hear it enough, and the actions of clapping, slapping, stomping, waving, and shouting give them the opportunity to make fun physical responses to affirm it. Our natural response to music is to move our bodies, and this song gives kids the opportunity to do just that.

I hope you and your children have fun with this song as you are reminded repeatedly of Jesus' love for us. One word of warning . . . if your kids are like the kids I sing with, they will love the "shouting" verse. Prepare your ears for a deafening woooooohooooooo! Let them shout it as loudly as they can and have fun with it!

#### **Preparing Activities**

1. Sing the well-known song, "Jeus Loves Me," with the kids. How do we know Jesus loves us? Where do we find evidence of Jesus' love for us in God's Word? Jesus loves us so much He was

willing to die on the cross for us. That fact can never change, regardless of how we might feel about ourselves from day to day.

2. The clapping, slapping, and stomping rhythm I like to use with this song can be a little tricky for kids to learn, but eventually they will get it! Before I start singing the song, I like to have the kids listen to me clap the rhythm and then have them repeat after me. Starting to clap and inviting the kids to repeat after me gets their attention and captures their interest. I don't have to say a word . . . I just start clapping and make it clear that I want the kids to repeat the rhythm. It's like a little game we play with each other. After clapping back and forth a few times, most of the kids will catch on. Then start singing and put the claps, slaps, and stomps in!

3. After each phrase of the slower "smiling" verse, I like to pause before continuing to look around at the kids' smiles. Most will smile, but some – for whatever reason – won't. Sometimes they try to keep from smiling just to joke a little. Usually, all it takes is for me to say something like, "aww, come on [name], let's see that smile!" It's actually hard to keep from smiling, and you'll be able to coax them to "show your smile."

### **Extending Activities**

1. Let the kids come up with some other fun physical movements they can make. Here are some possibilities . . .

- Snap your fingers
- Rub your chin
- Blink your eyes
- Wiggle your nose
- Tap your toes
- Flap your wings

2. Prepare a photocopied sheet of paper for each child, with the words, "Jesus loves me, there's no doubt, and that's what I'm smiling about." Have children draw self-portraits with big smiles to take home and post where others will see it.

3. For conversation . . . How can we share the truth of Jesus' love for us with other people who may not know? What could we say to help others know about Jesus' love for them? What could we do to help others know?

### **Related Scripture**

- I John 4:7-11
- I John 4:19
- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 8:38-39

- Ephesians 2:4-5
- Psalm 103:8-11
- Deuteronomy 7:9