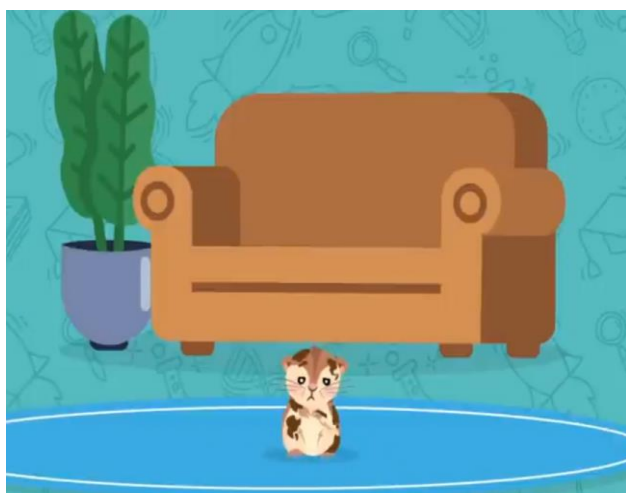
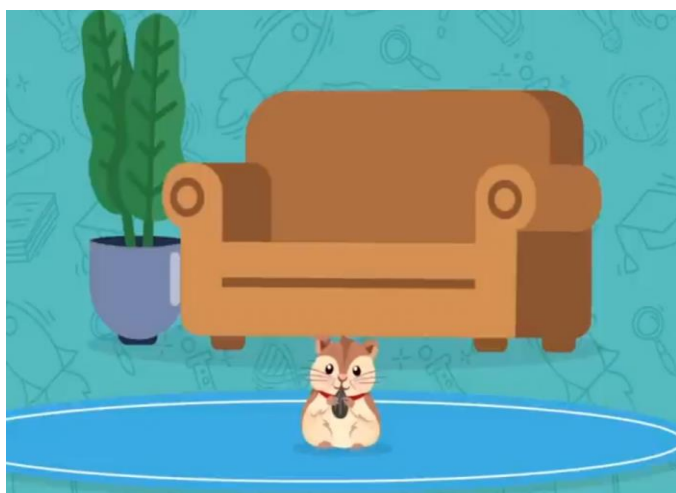
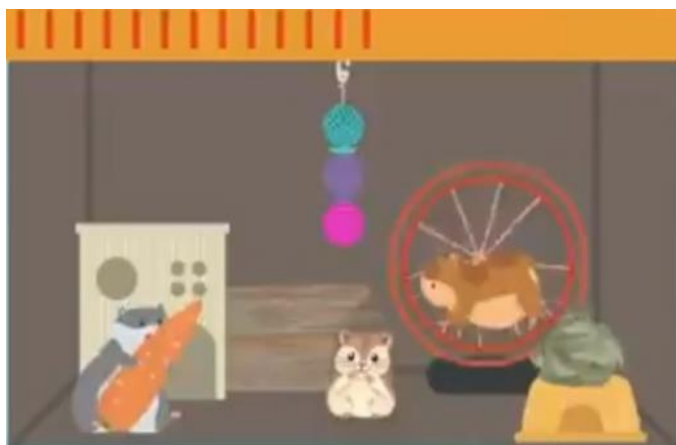


神的大爱

你看父赐给我们是何等的慈爱，使我们得称为神的儿女；我们也真是他的儿女。——约翰一书 3:1

孩子们，今天我们要讨论 LOVE 爱。我们可不是谈论男孩和女孩的那种爱，我们要谈的是那种仅仅因为某人或某物属于你而让你爱上它的爱。例如，你有没有去过宠物店看兔子和仓鼠？动物们可能很可爱，但他们并不一定是特别的。它们只是一群非常可爱的动物。但当你把它带回家的那一刻，它就变成了你的宠物，你爱的动物。仓鼠只是一只仓鼠，直到它属于你，它就变得特别了！



以下就是我朋友把仓鼠哈米带回家时发生的事情。在它成为她宠物的那一天，我的朋友爱上了哈米的一切，包括它的小脚、它明亮的眼睛。她甚至喜欢看它吃东西的样子！她照顾它，每天和它一起玩。哈米备受宠爱！后来有一天，哈米离家出走了。我的朋友到处找哈米。焦虑地寻找了几天之后，哈米终于回来了，又脏又累，又瘦。此时，你会不会因为哈米逃跑而对他大吼大叫并惩罚他？我朋友可没有这样做，反而她给它洗澡，喂它吃东西，更爱它了！

仓鼠可并不是唯一会逃跑的动物。人有时候也会逃跑的。在路加福音 15 章，耶稣讲了一个儿子从父亲身边逃跑的故事。《圣经》称之为“浪子回头”的比喻。如果你知道这个故事，你可能会记得它是关于一个非常坏的儿子的事。

故事是这样开始的。从前有一位父亲，他有两个儿子。有一天，小儿子说：“爸爸，把家里属于我的财产给我吧。我不想等到你变老了再给我！”你说多可恶的家伙！你可以想象，对于一个普通的爸爸可能会火冒三丈的说：“什么？你怎么敢这样？”但这位可不是一位普通的父亲。这位父亲非常慷慨，尽管他儿子这样说让他觉得心都碎了，但他还是给了这个忘恩负义的儿子想要的东西，把家里一半的财富给了他！这个家伙一拿到钱就走了，走得离家很远很远。



这个败家子愚蠢地花光了他所有的钱，还和那些根本算不上真正朋友的人在一起。当他的钱都花光了，他的“朋友”也走了。更糟糕的是，那时那地方发生了一场饥荒。为了生存，他找了份工作，在猪圈里喂猪。他实在太饿了，连猪食看起来都觉得很好吃——“食物！我需要食物！”

后来有一天，他想起：“我父亲家里有充足的食物。连仆人都有的吃！‘我要回去！’”然后他想到他爸爸一定会气疯的：“你看！你都做了什么？怎么还敢回来？”他知道自己不配得父亲的帮助。儿子想：“我要告诉他，我不配再做你的儿子。但是，让我做一个仆人，为我吃的食物而工作吧。”于是，他开始往家走。



现在，故事不再是关于一个坏儿子的故事，而是关于一个好爸爸和他惊人的爱的故事。你看，儿子不知道的是在他离开家的这段时间里，他的父亲从未停止过爱他和想念他。儿子也不知道的是，他的父亲每天都望向门前这条路，等待着，希望他的儿子能回来。所以，即使这个儿子还有一段距离才到家，他的父亲大老远就看见了他，就一路跑向他的儿子！还没来得及开口等他开口，他爸爸就这样紧紧地拥抱着他。尽管他满身都是猪屎臭味，他爸爸还是不断地亲吻他。

想象一下，儿子想说，“但我一直很坏。我不配做你的儿子。”儿子说得对吗？是的，他说得没错。如果这是一个关于普通父亲的普通故事的话，因为父亲没有对他大吼大叫，只是说：“当然，去做个仆人吧。”儿子就已经很高兴很感恩戴德了。但请记住，这是一个关于非同寻常的父亲和他非同寻常的爱的故事！这位父亲非但没有给予儿子应得的愤怒和惩罚，反而用更多的爱回报了他，且对他的仆人说：“快去！给我儿子换上最好的衣服！给他戴上戒指！杀最好的牛和羊，去邀请所有人来参加聚会，庆祝我儿子回来了！”

当耶稣讲完这个故事后，人们一定摇了摇头，心里想，一个这样的坏儿子必须受到惩罚，怎么能给予拥抱和亲吻，给予他最好的衣服、戒指和鞋子，还要办个派对来庆祝这样一个儿子归来呢？简直难以置信！而这正是耶稣想要人们看到的，就是这位父亲对他儿子所无法比拟的爱。这位父亲的形象就是我们天父上帝的写照，他如此爱我们，他称我们为他的孩子，所以我们可以称他为我们的阿爸天父！**约翰一书 3:1**，你看父赐给我们是何等的慈爱，使我们得称为神的儿女；我们也真是他的儿女。



每次我们听到这个故事，我们都能看到我们的天父上帝是多么爱我们。即使我们离他很远，他也总是寻找机会跑向我们，拥抱我们，亲吻我们，向我们表达他对我们的爱。这是否意味着我们的天父上帝在我们使坏的时候也奖励我们？不，绝不是这样。故事中的父亲知道，帮助他儿子最好的方法，就是让他看到自己被爱得有多深，即使在他不值得被爱的时候。你认为他爸爸的爱会让儿子说，“哇，我爸爸对我太好了。我要再一次去伤他的心。”？绝不会这样！那太疯狂了！上帝对我们伟大而奇妙的爱不会让我们想做傻事，反而只会让我们也想要爱他，使我们会大胆地和迅速地去寻求他的帮助！好消息是，当我们这么做的时候，他会跑过来给我们所有我们需要的帮助！

接下来告诉你关于一个孩子如何解决控制自己的情绪的故事。每当这个孩子的功课太辛苦或太多时，他会感到压力。所以，即使当他的妹妹来问他一个很简单的问题，他也会对她大吼大叫。或他的弟弟只要碰一下他的铅笔，他也会对他大喊大叫。他好像一直都觉得很生气很难过，这样只会让他对他的兄弟姐妹吼得更厉害。但对他们大吼大叫并没有让他感觉好点，反而只会让他对自己更加沮丧。更糟糕的是，他开始因为一点小事就情绪崩溃。例如，有一次他妈妈问他想不想吃晚饭，他就一下子放声大哭了，而不是回答“是”或“不是”。



他的父母问他发生了什么事，他告诉他们，他无法控制自己的情绪，他只是觉得生气和难过！他爸爸说：“孩子，求耶稣帮助你吧，在你对任何人大喊大叫之前，先停下来，向耶稣祈祷！”男孩说：“我想，这样是行不通的。”他妈妈说：“不管怎样，试一试吧！”男孩就这样做了。每当他感到愤怒或沮丧或情绪高涨时，他就会停下来祈祷。他还会大吼大叫，崩溃吗？是的还会，但没那么频繁，也没那么糟糕。每次他这么做的时候，他的家人总是帮助他望向耶稣。“告诉耶稣！”他爸爸说，“即使你生气伤心，耶稣也会爱你。”

今天，这个男孩对他的弟弟妹妹更有耐心了，再也不会崩溃了。每次他感到自己要生气时，他都会停顿一下，说：“感谢耶稣，你的爱使我变得坚强！”你越知道上帝有多爱你，你就会变得越坚强和勇敢。下次当你犯错、失败或做一些让你感到害怕的事情时，不要停留在原地。不要像那个坐在猪圈里自怨自怜的儿子那样。记住，你有一个爱你，想帮助你的阿爸天父。在阿爸天父的爱里，你是如此的安全，你不必害怕告诉他你所做的，因为他总是准备好，等待着帮助你。告诉阿爸天父，请求他给你勇气和力量去做正确的事情，让事情变得更好。记住，你是上帝的孩子，你在他的爱中是安全的，你需要什么，快去找他。令人惊讶的是，当你这么做的时候，你会看到他是跑着向你走来，对你特别特别好。让我们一起说“阿门！”



孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你珍贵的血洗去了我所有的罪，使我永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

GOD'S GREAT LOVE

**See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!... 1Jonh 3:1, NIV**

Hey Rock Kidz. Today we are going to talk about L,O,V,E. now before some of you go “Eww”, we are not talking about the boy and girl kind of love. No, we are going to talk about the kind of love that makes you love someone or something just because it belongs to you. For example, have you been to a pet shop to look at the rabbits and hamsters? The animals may be lovely, but guess what? They are not special. They are just a bunch of very cute animals. But the moment you take one home, it becomes your pet, the animal you love. A hamster is just a hamster until it belongs to you! This is what happened when my friend brought Hammy, the Hamster, home. The day he became hers, my friend loved everything about hammy. His tiny feet. His bright eyes. She even loved watching him eat! She took good care of him and played with him every day. Hammy was loved. Then one day, Hammy ran away. My friend looked for Hammy everywhere. Finally, after several anxious days, Hammy came back, dirty, tired and thin. Did she yell at Hammy and punish him for running away? No! She cleaned him up, fed him and loved him even more! Hamsters are not the only ones to run away.

In Luke 15, Jesus told a story about a son who ran away from his dad. The bible calls this “the parable of the lost son”. If you know this story, you may remember it being about a very bad son. The story starts like this. Once there was a dad who had two sons. One day the younger son said, “Hey Dad, give me my share of the family money. I don’t want to wait for you to grow old and die. Give it to me now!” What a terrible thing to say! An ordinary dad would have replied like this, “What! How dare you!” But this was not an ordinary dad. This dad was so generous that although it broke his heart, he gave the ungrateful son what he wanted, half of everything he owned! As soon as the son got his money off he went, far, far away. And far away from his dad, he spent all his money foolishly and hung out with people who were not real friends at all. When his money was all gone, his ‘friend’ left as well. And to make things worse, there was a famine in the land. To survive, he got a job. In a pig pen. Feeding the pigs. He was so hungry that even pig food looked good to eat. Eww! “Food! I need food!”

Then one day, he remembered, “There is plenty of food in my father’s house. Even the servants have food to eat!” “I will go back there!” Then he remembered, his dad would be so mad! “You! How dare you come back after what you have done?” He knew he did not deserve any help from his dad. The son thought to himself, “I will tell him, I don’t deserve to be your son anymore. But, let me be a servant and work for the food I eat.” And so, he started his walk home. Now we come to the part where the story stops being about the very bad son and starts to be about the very good dad and his very amazing love. You see, what the son didn’t know was that the whole time he had been away his dad never stopped loving him or thinking about

him. What the son also didn't know was that his dad looked down the road every single day, waiting and hoping his son would come back. So, even while he was still some distance away, his dad saw him and ran, all the way to his son! And instead of being greeted the son like this, but like this. And before he could even say a word, the dad grabbed him like this. And even though he was still covered in stinky poo, his dad did this. Mwah! Imagine the son trying to say, "But I have been very bad. I don't deserve to be your son." Was the son right about this? Well yes, if this was an ordinary story about an ordinary dad. But remember, this is a story about an extra-ordinary dad and his extra-ordinary love! The son would have been glad just to have his dad not yell at him. He would have been relieved just to hear his dad say, "Sure, be a servant." But instead of giving the son the anger and the punishment he expected and deserved, the dad showed him with even more love! "Quick! Give him the best clothes! Put a ring on his hand! Kill the best cow and invite everyone to a party. My son is home!" When Jesus finished telling this story, the people must have shaken their heads. A bad son must be punished, not hugged, or kissed, or given the best clothes and ring, and shoes. And throw a party to celebrate a son like that? Incredible! And that was just what Jesus wanted the people to see. The incredibly great and amazing love this dad had for his son. The dad in this story is a picture of our God who loves us so much he calls us his children, so that we can call him our Daddy God. Flip your bibles to 1 John 3:1, you may highlight it with this: See what **great love** the father has lavished on us, that **we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!**... We are Daddy God's children. This is who we are. Each time we hear this story, we see how much our Daddy God loves us. Even when we are far away from Him, He is always looking out for a chance to run to us, to hug us, to kiss us and to show His great love for us. Does this mean that our Daddy God rewards us when we are bad? No, no, no. the dad in the story knew that the best way to help his boy was to let him see how much he was loved even when he did not deserve to be loved. Do you think that his dad's great love will make the son say, "Wow, my dad is so good to me. I will just go and break his heart again." No! that would be just too crazy! God's great and amazing love for us doesn't make us want to do silly things. It makes us want to love Him back. It makes us bold and quick to go to Him for help. The good news is, when we do, He run to us and gives us all the help that we need.

Let me tell you about a boy from Rock Kidz who had trouble controlling his emotions. When his school work was too hard or too much, he felt stressed. So, even if his sister came to ask a simple question, he yelled at her! All his little brother had to do was to just touch his pencil, and he would yell at him too! It was like he felt mad and bad all the time. This just made him yell at his siblings even more. But yelling at them didn't make him feel better. It just made him feel even more upset at himself. To make things worse, he started having meltdowns over the littlest of things. For instance, if this mother asked him if he wanted dinner, instead of saying 'Yes' or 'no', he would burst into tears! His parents asked him what was going on, he told them that he could not control his emotions. He just felt mad and bad all the time! His dad said, "Ask

Jesus to help you.” “Before you yell at anyone, pause and pray!” The boy said, “I don’t think it will work.” His mom said, “try it anyway!” And so that was what the boy did. Each time he felt his anger or frustration rising, he paused and pray. Did he still yell and have meltdowns? Yes , but not as often, and not as bad. But each time he did, his family kept pointing to Jesus. “Tell Jesus!” His dad said, “Jesus loves you even when you are mad or bad or sad!” Today, this boy is much more patient with his siblings and there are no more meltdowns. Each time he feels himself getting angry, he pauses and says, “thank you Jesus, your love makes me strong!” The more you know how much Daddy God loves you, the stronger and bolder you become. The next time you make a mistake, fail or do something that makes you feel and scared, don’t stay there. Don’t be like the son sitting in the pig pen feeling all sad and sorry for yourself. Remember you have a Daddy God who loves you and wants to help you. You are so safe in Daddy God’s love that you never have to be afraid to tell Him what you have done because He is always ready and waiting to help you. Tell Daddy God and ask Him for the courage and strength to do what is right to make things better. Remember, you are Daddy God’s child. You are safe and secure in his love. Be quick to go to Him for everything you need. The amazing news is that when you do, you will see Him running to be extra-ordinarily good to you. And all of the rock Kidz say, “Amen.”

Hey rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you’ve never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, “Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus’ name,” and everyone say, “Amen.”