



Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

WEEK ONE
2ND-3RD

READ JOHN 15:12-13

DAY 1

Do you know what's special about our verse today? These words were actually spoken by Jesus. So what is Jesus "commanding" you to do here? Write your answer on the line below.

That's what this month is all about—LOVE! Love is treating others the way you want to be treated. If you want to build strong relationships with others, you have to love them like Jesus loves you. Jesus gave His life for you. And because you are deeply loved, Jesus is asking you to share His love with the people around you.

When you want to be first, when you think something isn't fair, when you think that your way is the best way, remember, Jesus tells us to love others as He loves us. You can love others because Jesus loves you.

THANK God for sending Jesus to prove His great love for you.

READ 1 JOHN 3:16

DAY 2

This week, we're learning about how to love others because Jesus loves us. One of the SUPER awesome things about Jesus is that He's not asking us to do something He wasn't willing to do Himself too. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sin—the stuff we do that's wrong—so that we could be forgiven. He didn't just "say" He loved us, He showed it!

Check out the second part of this verse. What do you think it means to "give our lives for our brothers and sisters"? Write your answer below.

ASK God to help you "give your life" for your friends by loving like Jesus does.





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READ JOHN 13:35

DAY 3

Gather two or three people in your family and some paper. Ask everyone to remove their shoes and quickly trace their footprints—both the left and right foot. Make sure you trace yours too. When finished, cut them out and lay them out on the floor. Can you identify each person's footprints? Whose footprint is the biggest? Whose is the smallest?

When you walk through mud, or snow, or something wet, you leave a footprint behind. People know where you've been by the footprints you leave behind. Love works same way. When you love others, it's like leaving a footprint behind that says, "Your Name was here. We know she loves Jesus because of the way she loves the people around her."

So the question to ask yourself is, when you leave a room, do you leave behind an impression of love? Do the people around you know that you are a Jesus follower by how you love others?

LOOK for opportunities to prove you are a Jesus follower by loving others.

READ JOHN 1:29

DAY 4

What are some things you have to do that aren't any fun? Going to bed early on a school night. Studying for a spelling test. Getting a cavity filled at the dentist.

Write down three more things that you think are "no fun" in the space below.

We can all think of things in our lives that are "no fun." Sometime these things are hard. Sometimes they're painful. Jesus knows all about that because He faced the hardest thing. He went all the way to the cross. Jesus suffered and died so that our sins could be forgiven. That's 1,000 times worse than any math test or extra long football practice. That's how much He LOVES you. He was willing to lay down His life, so that you could have a relationship with God. That's why you can love others—because Jesus loves YOU!

KNOW that you can love because Jesus loved you first.

**LOVE OTHERS
BECAUSE JESUS
LOVES YOU.**





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WEEK TWO
2ND-3RD

READ MATTHEW 9:36

DAY 1

Sheep. They're not very smart. Since sheep spend most of their time grazing, their heads are down most of the day so they don't pay attention to where they're going. And because they'll blindly follow other sheep, if one of their buddies falls off a cliff, the others will soon follow right behind. Sheep don't have a built in sense of direction like most animals. They lack that "homing instinct" that helps them get back to where they started from so it's easy for them to get lost. So for a sheep, being without a shepherd is BAA-BAA-BAAD!

Jesus looked out at the crowds that day, they seemed to Him like a sheep without a shepherd. They looked lost and confused. They needed help. And time after time, Jesus cared for people who were hurting. He healed them. He felt compassion and love for them. Did He ever get tired? Sure. Were there times when He needed or wanted to do something else? Probably. But Jesus still stopped to help and offer comfort. And He's asking us to love and comfort others too.

THANK God for sending Jesus to show us how to comfort others.

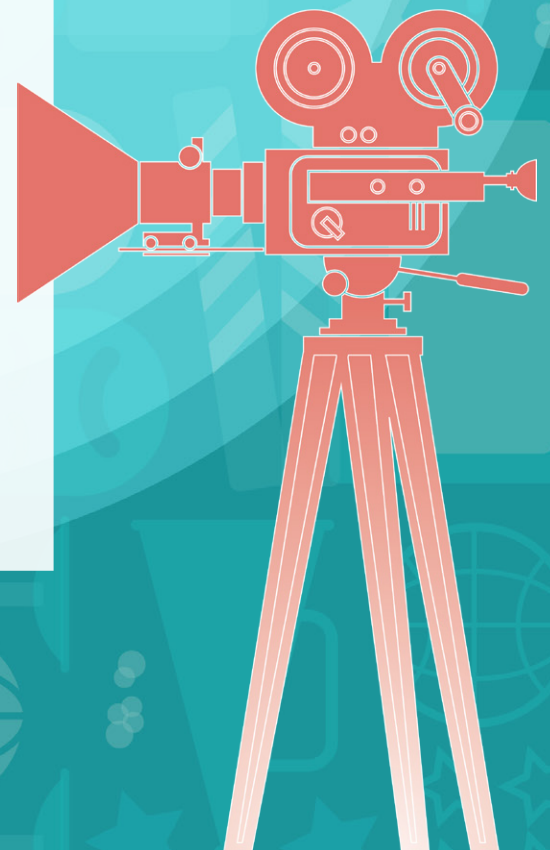
READ PROVERBS 17:17

DAY 2

Grab a piece of paper. Draw a vertical line down the left side of the page, about an inch from the edge. To the left of the line, write down some times in your day (you may write specific times like 7:45 a.m. or titles like "breakfast," "math," "recess," etc.) Next to each title or time, write down some names of the people you are with during that time of day.

When does this verse say we are to love? At ALL times. That means at specific times like when we're eating our lunch or playing on the playground at recess. But it also means that you love someone when it's hard or when the other person is sad. Because a real friend loves when things are happy and awesome and when things are super sad or hard. There are lots and lots of opportunities in your day to SEE someone who needs some love and encouragement from you and to offer it. Part of loving the way God loves us is choosing to comfort others who are hurting.

ASK God to help you see the people around you that are hurting and choose to love at all times.





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READ HEBREWS 13:1

DAY 3

When a friend is sad, what do you do? Sometimes, it's hard to know how to help someone when they're upset. But love means choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated. So think about it this way: how would you want someone to treat you if you were sad about something?

Circle the ways you would want someone to treat you if you were sad and put an "X" through the ways you would NOT want someone to treat you:

Give you hug

To say, "Just get over it!"

Completely ignore that you are hurting

To offer to play your favorite game

To say, "I'm so sorry you're sad."

To sit and listen to you

Hebrews 13:1 reminds us that we are to *keep on loving one another*. That means that we "keep on loving" when our friend is happy and life is great. That means we "keep on loving" when our friend is sad or lonely. It means we "keep on loving" even when we don't know exactly what to say and all we can offer is a hug. It means that we choose to care and comfort others because that's how we would want to be treated. That's love.

LOOK for ways to comfort others who are hurting.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

DAY 4

Has anyone ever sent you an encouraging note or told you that you're awesome? Think about how those words made you feel. Those kind words "built you up." They reminded you that you are loved.

You could do that for someone else. When your buddy misses the goal, you can pat him on the back and tell him there'll be plenty of chances to try again. When your little sister just can't seem to get her shoes tied, you can tell her that it was once hard for you too. When your mom is tired after a long day and seems stressed out, you can give her a BIG hug and thank her for being your mom.

Find some LEGO® bricks or blocks and a roll of masking tape. Tear off twenty pieces of tape and place one on each block or LEGO®. Carefully write the words of this verse on each of the tape pieces. Then mix up the blocks/bricks and "build them up" in verse order.

KNOW that you can comfort others by building them up.



COMFORT OTHERS WHO ARE HURTING



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READ 1JOHN 3:17

DAY 1

Do you have a tag on your lunchbox or backpack that says, "This bag belongs to _____." Have you ever picked up a friends backpack or lunch box and realized it wasn't yours by reading the tag?

The way you love and care for others says a lot about who you belong to. When you see a need and offer to help, it's like wearing a tag that says, "I belong to God. I follow God. I love others the way He loves." The way you treat others, especially those in need, shows who you belong to.

God is counting on you to give to others who are in need. He wants you to love and care for others the way He does. So, who can you help this week to show that the love of God is in you and that you belong to Him?

Fill in the tag to the right.

THANK God for reminding you to show love by giving to others in need.



READ 1JOHN 3:18

DAY 2

The Bible tells you God wants you to live. But guess what? Reading and studying and even completing your GodTime card isn't enough. God wants you to "put your love in action."

God wants you to show love by treating others the way you would want to be treated. That means speaking kind words. That means helping when you see a need. That means encouraging someone who is sad or afraid. It means you need to stop just reading, and get busy LOVING the people around you.

Grab a piece of paper. Place your non-writing hand on the page and trace around it with a pencil. Write the words of today's verse around the outline of your hand. Tape your handprint to the mirror as a reminder to use your hands to help show love to those in need.

ASK God to help put your love in action this week.





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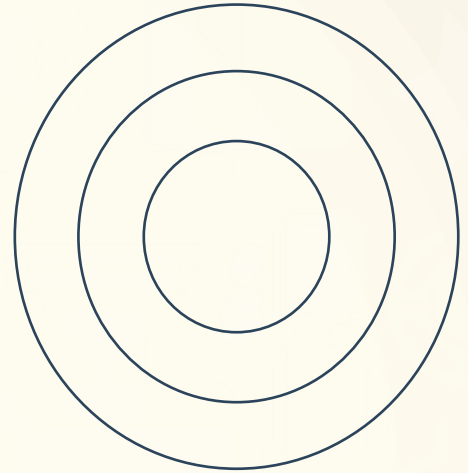
READ PHILIPPIANS 2:4

DAY 3

See that circle diagram over there? Grab a pencil. In the inside center circle, write the names of the people in your home/family that you see everyday. In the next circle, write the names of three friends or other family members that you see almost every day. In the outer circle, write the names of three more friends or family members that you see at least once a week.

God loves you. And guess what? He's counting on you to look out, not just for your own good, but also for the good of others. Loving well means thinking about the people around you and how you can help meet their needs.

So take a look at this list. Start from the inside, with the people closest to you, and move outward through each circle. Is there anyone that needs some encouragement? Is anyone sad? What is ONE thing you could do to help and show love to that person this week?



LOOK for ways to love the people in your "circles" this week.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

DAY 4

Grab a piece of paper and your mom or dad. Set a timer for one minute. During that minute, tell your mom or dad everything you did today and ask them to write it down. Don't leave anything out. If it comes to mind, it goes on the page. Ready? Go!

Okay, now take a look at your list. Next to each item, place a check mark beside each thing you did that involved someone else. Set your list aside for just a minute and read today's verse out loud.

Does today's verse say, "be loving sometimes" or "be loving when you feel like it?" That's how we act sometimes don't we? Love is easy when it doesn't cost us much. But God isn't asking us to only love when we feel like it. He's asking us to love others in "everything" we do.

Now grab your list again. Look at your check marks and think about the people you were with. Did you show love in each of those situations? How? If not, why?

KNOW that God wants you to show love in everything you do!



GIVE TO OTHERS WHO ARE IN NEED.



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WEEK FOUR
2ND-3RD

READ 1 JOHN 4:7-8

DAY 1

Unscramble the words to complete the sentences below.

Leaves come from _____.
S T E E R

Rain comes down from the _____.
K S Y

Warmth comes from the _____.
N S U

Love comes from _____.
D G O

Where does love come from? Love comes from God! As the creator of everything, love was His idea. God is the source of all love. His love is perfect, just as He is perfect.

And that's good news for us. If we know God, we know how to love. If we choose to follow Him, then He will help us love others the way He does. When you're having a hard time loving someone else, ask God to help you and He will. Because loving is what He's best at.

THANK God for loving you so that you can love others.

READ 1 JOHN 4:9-11

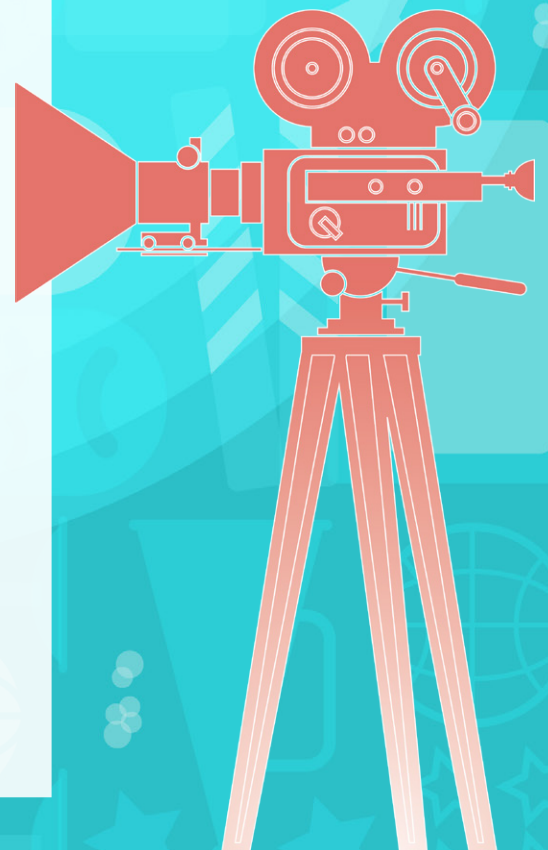
DAY 2

How do you know God loves you? God proved His love for us through His Son, Jesus. By sending Jesus to us, God was basically saying, "Look, I know you've messed up. I know your sin separates you from me. I love you too much for that. So I'm sending someone to take the punishment you deserve."

That's what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross. He loved you so much that He chose to take your place and pay the price for your sin so that you could be forgiven. Jesus' death on the cross proved God's love for you. In fact, He showed His love to us so that we could love others.

What do you know about Jesus? Have you ever heard this good news before? Did you know that He died for you so that you could be forgiven? Do you have questions about this? Find an adult you trust and read these verses together and talk about what they mean.

ASK God to help you understand His great love for you.





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WEEK FOUR
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READ 1 JOHN 4:19

DAY 3

Is it ever hard for you to love someone else? Maybe your little brother loves to get on your nerves. Or your substitute at school seems super mean. Or maybe there's a kid in your class who always makes the highest grade and seems to be the teacher's favorite.

Can you unscramble the answers below? Read 1 John 4:19 if you need some extra help!

What comes first?

1. DOG DEVOL SU

What comes second?

2. EW EVOL SREHTO

What do we love? Others! We don't love because the other person deserves it. We don't love only when we "feel" like it. We love because God loved us. Love comes from God. And His love is perfect. Whether you believe it or not, your little brother, the substitute, and the teacher's pet are all loved by God too. They matter to Him. We should love others because they matter to God.

LOOK for opportunities to love others because God loved you first.

READ 1 JOHN 4:16

DAY 4

What are some things you depend on? You depend on shoes to protect your _____. You depend on your life jacket to _____. You depend on your car to _____.

When it comes to being loved, there is someone you can always depend on. God loves you. He loves you when you obey Him and live in a way that makes Him happy. He loves you when you mess up and need to be forgiven. He loves you when you make wise choices and when you don't. He loves you when you choose trust and follow Him. He even loves you when you decide that your way is better. He loves you when you treat others the way you want to be treated and when you're selfish and don't think about how the other person feels.

You are loved. No matter what you do. No matter what you say. God loves you. You can depend on it. You matter to Him. And when you do mess up, He loves you enough to forgive you when you ask Him to. Loving others is easier when you realize that YOU are loved by a great big God.

KNOW that you can depend on God's love, always.

**LOVE OTHERS
BECAUSE THEY
MATTER TO GOD.**

