

Love - choosing to treat others the way Jesus treats us.

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DAY 1

Read 1 John 4:19 NIrV

"We love because he loved us first."

Is it ever hard for you to love someone else?

Unscramble the answers below. Pro tip: Read 1 John 4:19 if you need some extra help!

What comes first?

1. DGO DEVOL SU:

What comes second?

2. EW EVOL SREHTO:

Why do we love? Because God first loved us. We don't love because the other person deserves it. We don't love only when we "feel" like it. Love comes from God. And His love is perfect. Believe it or not, the people who are hard to love are all loved by God, too. They matter to Him. We should love others because they matter to God.

DAY 2

Read John 1:29 NIrV

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him. John said, "Look! The Lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!"

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.

Maybe you can name some things that are even harder than those. Life can be really hard sometimes. Write down three more things that you think are "no fun" in the space below.

Sometimes the things we go through are 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 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!

MEMORY VERSE: "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." John 13:34 NIrV



DAY 3

Read Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

“Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment.”

How can you show God that you love Him? You can't exactly run up and give God a big hug or a high five.

To love God with all your heart means that you try hard to make sure that nothing comes between you and him. Sometimes, we need a “heart check” to make sure that no yucky stuff like bitterness, anger, or jealousy is getting in the way. Loving Him with our mind and our soul means checking our reactions to see if those things in our hearts are spilling out in the way we treat others.

Grab a piece of paper and draw a large heart in the center. On one side, write down any emotions you've felt lately that are disrespectful toward God or others. Flip the heart over and write out today's verse. Underline the words heart, soul, and mind. Hang it up verse side out to help you remember to perform regular “heart checks” this week.

DAY 4

Read 1 Corinthians 16:14 NIV.

“Be loving in everything you do.”

Grab a piece of paper and your grown-up or an older sibling. Set a timer for one minute. During that minute, tell your parent/sibling 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!

Take a look at your list. Put a check mark beside each thing you did that involved someone else. Did you show love in each of those situations? How? If not, why?

Does today's verse say, “be loving sometimes” or “be loving when you feel like it”? That's how we act sometimes. 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.

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