

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

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DAY 1

## Read John 3:16 NIV

*“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”*

God loved you, and so He did what people who love do: He gave. What did He give? His one and only Son, Jesus. Why? Because Jesus came to take the punishment for our sins, the wrong things we choose to do. We all make wrong choices and choose to do what we want and not what God wants.

When we choose to trust Jesus as Savior, our sin no longer separates us from God. So Jesus’ birth, which we celebrate on Christmas, is a really big deal. It’s what makes real joy possible.

Grab a piece of paper and illustrate this verse, any way you’d like. You can draw a heart for love, a cross for Jesus, etc. When finished, choose someone in your family or neighborhood to give your drawing to. Then tell them about how Jesus’ birth means that everyone can be a part of God’s story.



**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 NIV



DAY 2

## Read 1 John 4:16 NIV

*“So we know that God loves us. We depend on it. God is love. Anyone who leads a life of love is joined to God. And God is joined to them.”*

What are some things you depend on?

You depend on shoes to protect your

\_\_\_\_\_.

You depend on a life jacket to

\_\_\_\_\_.

You depend on a car, bus, or a train 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 make bad choices and need to be forgiven. He loves you when you choose to trust and follow Him. He even loves you when you decide that your way is better.

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

DAY 3

### Read John 13:34 NlrV

*“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.”*

When Jesus spoke the words we read in today’s verses, He said He had a “new command” or order. And what was it? That’s right. God made you to love others! Why? Because Jesus loves you. Jesus showed us how much He loves us by putting us first and facing the pain of the cross. He took all that punishment on Himself because of His great love for us. And He’s asking you and me to love others, too.

Grab some red, pink, or white construction paper. Cut out 21 hearts from the paper and write one word from the verse on each heart. Stack the hearts and then shuffle to mix them up. Set a timer and see how fast you can put the hearts in verse order. Mix them up, shuffle, and see if you can beat your time.

DAY 4

### Read Psalm 136:1 NlrV

*“Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.”*

Think about some things you love to do. Maybe you love to dance. Could you ...

Dance forever?

Read forever?

Run forever?

Play video games forever?

Our human bodies get tired. We have limits. Even if you LOVE to dance, it’s impossible for you to keep dancing forever. Good thing for us, God never grows tired or weary. He just keeps going and going. And the BEST thing about God is that He loves us forever and always. His love is never-ending; it continues forever. Isn’t that the coolest thought? There is no limit to His love. His love isn’t available just for certain people. It’s for everyone. What a good, good God.

Spend some time thanking God for His never-stopping, never-ending love for you. Ask Him to help you see others around you as people made in His image, worthy of His never-ending love, just like you.

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