
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

Check out our Parent Life website at ltparentlife.com for resources on how to guide your teen in a faith-filled way through modern day culture!

LIFE NIGHT: STAN

CONTENT OVERVIEW

If you were to do a Google search for popular songs about love, you would discover thousands of results and countless lists. Though the genre of music may differ, each song was written to capture the emotion of love. The same would be true if you were to search for the best love movies of all time. Whether songs, movies, poems, art, books, or blogs, the topic of love has been written about, sung about, and expressed more than any other emotion. Unfortunately, we have used the word love interchangeably with things we find immense enjoyment in, such as the “love” of tacos, dogs, or coffee in the morning. True love, however, goes beyond an emotional response... especially when we speak of the love we share with our spouses, children, family, and friends. Love is not just feelings or emotions; love is something that we do.

Simply put, love is to will the good of the other. This definition may be slightly different than our cultural definition of love. While our culture focuses on “what is in it for me” when it comes to love, our Christian definition reminds us that love is an outward expression, centered on the wellbeing of another person. Love is generous, as it gives to the other in response to their needs. True love, then, is always focused on good. It is focused on asking what is best for the person whom we love. No matter who the person is — our parents, friends, or classmates — what is best for them is always the same. Love points others toward heaven, not just toward happiness.

Jesus was the ultimate example of love. Jesus walked with people, seeing them for who God created them to be. He met people where they were, treated them with dignity and respect, provided for their needs, and called them to repentance regardless of their ethnic background or social status. Walking with people eventually leads Jesus to lay His life down by taking up the cross and dying for all of us. Jesus shows us what true, sacrificial love is about. When we look at the cross, we see the ultimate symbol of love and selfless sacrifice.

Jesus loves each of us with a deep, sacrificial love, and we are called to love the people He placed in our lives in the same way. This is the final challenge of this Life Night series: to love as Jesus loved, constantly willing the good of others in small ways, and even laying down our lives for someone, if necessary. We can never underestimate how our love for other people is on display through our actions, both big and small. The small, daily tasks we do for other people may be tedious or repetitive, but they can be signs of love for others. The larger things we experience and do are also incredible signs of our love. We are called to reach out to others, willing good for them, loving them, and sharing the love of Jesus with them each day.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. How do you define love? What songs or movies depict true love?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. How is this definition of love different than our cultural definition of love? Is this how you would define love?
3. What has been the biggest challenge for you throughout this Life Night series?