

Epic: A love story for the ages



First, watch
this week's
video!

Love: Showing
others how
much they
matter to you

Memory Verse

"Here is what love is.
It is not that we loved
God. It is that he
loved us and sent his
Son to give his life to
pay for our sins."
1 John 4:10, NIV

Bible Story

Greatest
Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

Bottom Line

Love God by
loving others.

Use this guide to help your family learn
how we can share God's love with others.

Activity

The Love Scoot

What You Need:

Ball (could be balled-up scrap paper or aluminum foil)

What You Do:

Sit across from one another a fair distance apart (far enough apart to scoot toward each other several times). Toss the ball back and forth, with both of you answering the questions below.

For example: you'll ask the question, toss the ball, and allow your child to answer. They will toss the ball back to you, and then it's YOUR turn to answer. After both of you have answered the question, scoot closer together. If you drop the ball, scoot back for one round of questions.

Questions:

What is a . . .

- Color you love?
- Movie you love?
- Song you love?
- Food you love?
- Place you love?
- Hobby you love?
- Game you love?
- Team you love?

When you've both answered all the questions, comment on how much closer together you are. Say, "I had fun talking about all the things we both love. And look! When we scooted closer together, it was easier to toss the ball. Shorter distances are easier to manage. Shorter lists are easier to manage, too!"



Talk About the Bible Story

What kind of "list" became shorter in our Bible story today? (*The list of rules Jesus wants us to follow*)

How many "rules," or commandments, did Jesus say we should focus on? (*Two: loving God and loving others*)

How can we show that we love God? (*By loving others*)

What are some ways we can show love to others? (*Being a good friend, a good listener, by forgiving, by including, etc.*)

When is it most difficult for you to show love to others?

Parent: Tell your child about a time you showed love to someone, even when it was difficult.

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You for the love You've given us that encourages us to love the people You've placed around us. Please help everyone we encounter to feel Your love through the way we treat them this week. Please show us the chances we have to love You by loving others—whether it's at school, home, sports practice, or even at the store. Thank You for letting us be a part of Your Big Story! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Love is showing others how much they matter to you.

DAY 1

Read 1 John 4:21

This month is all about love which is showing others how much they matter to you. And today's verse makes it pretty clear that God wants us to love others so much that it's a command.

So, what is a command? A command is an order given by someone in charge.

Catch a Command

Did you catch the command given by God in today's verse? Circle the correct answer below.

1. Give all your money to God.
2. Pray nine times a day.
3. Love your brother and sister.

God gives a simple command to love others. But just because it's "simple" doesn't mean it's easy. It's hard to show love when someone acts difficult or rude towards you.

But we don't love others because of what they do. We love others because of who God is. God IS love. We can show God love by showing love to others.

DAY 2

Read Matthew 22:37-39

One of the religious leaders asked Jesus, "What is the most important commandment in the Law?"

Jesus answered simply.

1. Love God.
2. Love others.

As followers of Jesus, we are to love God above all else, with every part of ourselves—heart, soul, and mind. But Jesus followed that command with another one of equal importance: Love your neighbor as yourself. Loving others as much as you love yourself is NOT something you can do on your own. We need God's help.

Pray for Your Neighbor

Think of a "neighbor" you see most every day. Fill in the blank in the prayer below and then use it a guide as you talk to God.

Dear God, thank You for making (Person's name). I know You love them. Help me to show love this week. Each time I think of myself, help me to think of them too. Thanks for loving me always. In Jesus's name I pray, amen.

DAY 3

Read 1 John 4:7-8

Love is **SHOWING** others how much they matter to you. Love requires action. But we have God to help us show love.

Love One Another

Find one person in your world that could use a little love and think of one way you could show love right now. Write down your plan or talk with someone to help you come up with a plan to show love.

DAY 4

Read 1 John 4:16

If you haven't figured it out by now, God loves you. No one will love you as much as God loves you. You can depend on God's love for you.


Have you ever stuck your water bottle under the tap to fill it up and been distracted by something happening around you? What happens if you take your eyes off the bottle? It overflows, right?

When you understand just how much God loves you, then you can share that love with others. When love is what goes in, love is what flows out!

Love In Love Out

1. Grab an index card or scrap of paper.
2. Write LILO ("Love In Love Out") in big block letters.
3. Tape it to the side of your water bottle.
4. Remember this week that God loves you and that big love should come out in how you treat others this week. Because you love God by loving others.

Love God by
loving others.



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1 JOHN 4:10, NIRV**

AUGUST 7 – WORD SEARCH

A	M	R	P	G	L	E	O	N	T	L	O	S	S
G	R	E	E	L	C	T	E	S	E	E	O	E	M
R	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	C	V
E	T	I	D	M	R	N	E	E	J	N	E	F	O
A	A	S	T	R	A	E	S	L	M	L	A	I	T
T	P	G	T	G	P	M	N	P	O	E	S	S	H
E	P	E	L	N	T	O	E	N	D	H	H	S	E
S	D	R	L	T	N	O	N	M	S	N	T	T	R
T	S	O	E	P	I	C	T	S	U	S	E	J	S
U	E	G	N	L	R	N	E	L	L	I	F	E	S
R	T	O	I	E	O	A	D	V	G	P	L	N	P
E	O	D	D	E	E	T	I	E	O	M	M	E	E
A	P	M	G	F	N	N	T	I	P	L	A	C	E
C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	S	I	O	U	N	A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally,
backwards & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

GOD
LOVE
CREATION
LIFE

EPIC
GREATEST
COMMANDMENT

OTHERS
PLAN
JESUS