

FEBRUARY 2026

LOVE

**choosing to treat
others the way Jesus
treats us**

On the night before He gave up His life, Jesus told His friends, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." But instead of acknowledging that God is love, culture has decided that love is god. Our world applies "love" to everything from romance, to a favorite song, to encouraging people to do whatever feels best in the moment. That's why kids need a radical redefinition of what true love looks like...choosing to treat others the way Jesus treats us. This month, we'll explore four stories from the life of Jesus. Through these stories kids will discover that God loves not just them, but the entire world, and that this amazing love led Jesus to take on human form to rescue us. We'll cover Jesus' teaching on love, the way He lived it out, and the way His love changes those who encounter it.

WEEK 2: Jesus teaches Nicodemus
(*John 3:1-21*)

God loves the whole world.

WEEK 3: The most important command
(*Matthew 22:34-40, Ex 20:1-21*)

Love God. Love others.

WEEK 4: Jesus and Zacchaeus
(*Luke 19:1-10*)

The love of Jesus changes people.

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

ENGAGE IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS TOGETHER



MORNING TIME

As your kid starts his day, tell him one thing you love about him.



MEAL TIME

At a meal this month, have everyone at the table answer this question: "Since God loves the whole world, how does that affect the way we see and treat others?"



DRIVE TIME

While on the go, ask your kid, "What are some things you really like about our world? Our family? Where we live? Your school? Our church? What you're involved in? Etc. "



BED TIME

Pray for each other: "Heavenly Father, thank you for loving the whole world so much that you sent your Son Jesus to show us how much you love us. Help us to tell others about how much you love them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

PARENT TIP:

LOVE. God's Word tells us it's extraordinarily important. It's part of the GREATEST commandment (Matthew 22:37-40), and is listed as the GREATEST of the virtues that will remain (1 Corinthians 13:13). In fact, the Bible even says that God IS love (1 John 4:8)! A key part of living the Christian life is understanding that the more securely we rest in God's great love for us, the more our love for Him will grow. Isn't that true for our kids, too? The more securely they rest in our love for them and in God's love for them, the more that love will multiply in their own lives. We want our kids to know love, experience it, and show it. So, how can we help them? Here are some ideas...

SAY IT: Tell your child how much you love him, and tell him often. You may even want to come up with some sort of simple liturgy (or script) that you say every day at a certain time. This will make it a habit. But, by all means, say it at random, too! Consider also saying that, (incredibly!), Jesus loves him even more than you do!

DISCUSS IT: Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 13 with your child, and have a discussion with her about what love actually looks like. I recommend the book *Love Is* (by Paola Escobar) if you can get a copy! When you talk through the passage, be sure to point out the ways that Jesus perfectly embodies love.

MODEL IT: You love your child. There's no doubt about that. But as you show him love in so many ways, take a moment to explain the motivation behind your actions. Do not make it a guilt trip! Just tell your child, once in a while, that the reason you are . . . driving him to practice, making his favorite lunch, ensuring he visits the dentist, hugging him, giving him a gift, etc. . . . is because you love him.