READ MATTHEW 22:36-39 DAY 4

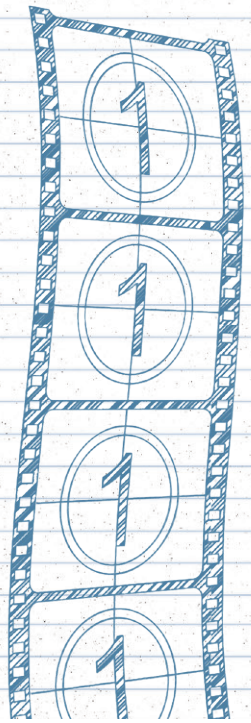
Jesus made it so clear for us. The great, most important thing we can do is to **Love God and love others.**

Love isn't just a feeling or an idea. Love is really love when we put it into action. It's a choice we make, every single day. We love because we are created in God's image. In other words, we were created to be like God. And like God, we have the ability to love others.

Maybe we can't see or touch God. But we can show love to Him by loving the people HE loves. That's way more than just your friends and family; it's anyone who you come in contact with.

This week, think of a way to show love to someone who isn't in your regular circle of friends. Make cookies and give a few to the other families in the neighborhood. Write a note to thank your mail carrier for her hard work. Give your teacher your full attention and your best effort in class. Sit next to the guy or girl at lunch who is different from you.

CHALLENGE yourself to show love to ALL the people God has put in your life.



THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you know someone who is really good at what Jesus said: loving God, and loving others?

2. What do other people think of that person? How can that person's actions change the way others might think about God?

3. How do you think it looks to others if someone says they follow God, but they don't put His love into action?

Choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated

READ 1 JOHN 4:10 DAY 1

Did you know that the Bible is actually a love story? It's true! We all know what it means to feel love. We love our mom and dad, our cousins, uncles and aunts, grandparents, and best friends. What our Memory Verse is saying is that the love we feel really started with God.

From the very beginning, God loved the world. He loved the people He made—even when they disobeyed and sinned against him. And He proved it by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins, so we could be forgiven and have a relationship with God that will last forever.

When we love others, we're modeling the love that God has already shown to us. Your life can be a part of God's great LOVE story, because you get to show His love to whomever He puts in your life.

THANK God for loving you and letting you be a part of His big LOVE story for the world.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. When Jesus died on the cross, how was that the best example of love?

2. Who did Jesus die for? How does that make you feel?

3. How do you think you can be a part of God's love story today?

READ MATTHEW 7:12 DAY 2

This is one of Jesus' most famous sayings. It's called the "Golden Rule"—and it explains exactly what love is all about.

Love is choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated. It's acting toward others in a way that we would want others to act toward us.

In the space below, draw a picture of your perfect day. Think of what you would do, who would be there, what you would eat . . . all of it. Get creative and have fun. And think about how you could do some of those same things for someone else!

ASK God to help you treat others the way you want to be treated.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. What do you want from other people when you're having a bad day?

2. What do you want from other people when you're having a good day?

3. How can you remember to act in those same ways toward the people around you?

READ JOHN 15:12-13 DAY 3

Jesus really wanted His friends to know this simple truth, and He wants the same thing for us today: we should love others just as He has loved us.

Of course, Jesus gave us the ultimate example of love by the way He gave His life to pay the price for our sins. In the same way, we can "give our lives" for our friends by serving them and putting what they need ahead of what we need.

Write the names of three friends below. Now, in the blank next to their names, write one thing you could do this week to show love to them. It could be as simple as letting them be the quarterback when you play football, or telling them why you're thankful for their friendship, or praying for them because you know they're going through something tough.

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

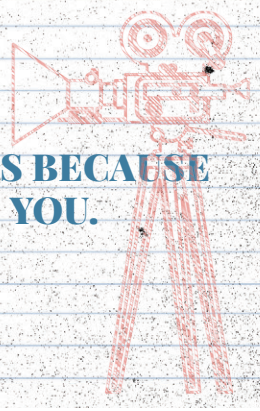
LOVE others because Jesus loves you.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Have you ever been surprised by the way a friend showed love to you?

2. Have you ever done something on purpose to show love, like the things you listed above?

3. Why do you think it's so important that we get in the habit of loving others like Jesus loves us?



LOVE OTHERS BECAUSE JESUS LOVES YOU.