

LEARNING *to Speak Life*[™] :
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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LOVE

*Dear children, let's not merely say that we **love** each other;
let us show the truth by our actions.*

1 John 3:18 (NLT)

WHAT IS LOVE?

The perfect definition of love is found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. After reading these scriptures, we can safely say that love is: patient, kind, honoring, selfless, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

CONFESSIONS

Have your children read these out loud each day during your study of this chapter. You can also devote some family time to confessing these together.

- Lord, because you live within me, I thank you I am able to honor you each day through my actions.
- Thank you, Jesus, for giving me the strength and teaching me each day to love my family and friends.

- I thank you, Lord, that today - and every day - your love shines brightly through my life.
- I declare that no matter what I face today, I will walk in love.
- I choose to love all of your creation.

COPYWORK

For children 7+, have them copy the scripture 1 John 3:18 (NLT) and the 5 confession statements above. For additional copywork, they can also copy the scriptures below in the “Further Study” section.

For children ages 6 and under who are writing, have them copy the following:

- God is love.
- Love is an action.
- God loves me.
- Thank you, Jesus, for loving me.

ROLE PLAY INSPIRATION FOR LOVE

Be sure to tailor the skit to your family. Don't be afraid to change up the skit and make your own version or do something entirely different. We just want to provide some inspiration to get your family thinking! The most important thing is to have fun!

THE CHARACTERS FOR THE SKIT

- Child (age 7)
- Child (age 10)

PROPS

- Favorite toy (or blanket, book, etc.) suitable for a child age 7

ROLE PLAY INSPIRATION SHOWING LOVE IN ACTION

Child (age 7) is playing on the couch with his/her favorite toy after school. Child (age 10) enters the room and takes Child (age 7)'s toy away and throws it on the floor. Child (age 7) then begins to cry. Child (age 10) hears his/her sibling begin to cry and immediately feels bad for what he/she has done. In an act of love, Child (age 10) apologizes to Child (age 7) for his/her unkind action and asks him/her for his/her forgiveness.

SILLY SAYINGS

Remember to say these as fast as you can; it is much more fun!

- Living a life of love loves laughing loudly largely leaning on Jesus.
- Perfect patience peaks people's priorities placing perfect peace and passion promptly.
- Simply showing, sharing, sowing, speaks love into hearts of everyone we meet.

SHORT STORY

One evening Mr. Smith came home from a very long and tiring day at work. As soon as he opened the door, he was greeted by his children and wife who missed him all day while he was gone. Mr. Smith took off his coat and sat down on the couch with his children asking each of them how his/her day went. He patiently listened to each child's response and made each child feel special as he listened to each story. After they talked about their day, the Smith family sat down to a lovely dinner and continued to talk about their day. Each family member felt loved and as a result reciprocated that love to one another as the night went on.

FAMILY DISCUSSION TIME

1. How would you react if you were the 7-year-old child in the role play? Why?
2. How did the 10-year-old show love towards his/her sibling even after he/she hurt him/her?
3. Have you ever treated one of your siblings poorly and then decided it was better to walk in love with him/her?
4. Do you think it is important to treat others with love?
5. How did Mr. Smith show his family he loved them?
6. How can you show God's love even when you are tired and don't feel like doing so?
7. What are some ways that you can show love toward your family and friends?

FAMILY PROJECT {LOVE IN ACTION}

Have each family member depict what love *looks* like to that person through a drawing, painting, song, poem, or short story. Once you have all created what love looks like to you, share your interpretations as a family. Give each family member as much time as is needed to complete this task – if it is one day or one week – be sure not to rush this process. The important part of this process is that each family member has time without feeling rushed to express what love means to him or her.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to show love through my words and actions toward my family, friends, and everyone else I see on a daily basis. Give me the ability to speak your Word even in times when my emotions are telling me otherwise. Thank you, Lord, for showing me what love is in your sacrifice upon the cross. I am grateful that you first loved me so I can know what it is to love. I thank you for all of this. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen!

DIGGING DEEPER

Here are a few extra scriptures and ideas to help keep your family digging deeper into God's Word on your lifelong quest to speak life-giving words:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with

the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

John 14:21 (NIV)

What are some ways that God has shown his love to you when you needed it most?

As a family, choose a person or organization to help show God's love. Some suggestions: do some yard work for an elderly neighbor, cook a meal for someone who has just had a baby, volunteer to clean the bathrooms at a local mission or church, pick up trash at the local library or a nursing home. There are many things you can do, and choosing as a family will help you come closer together as well as be a living example of God's love.