



WEEK ONE

JOHN 4:1-30

Jesus is a friend to the woman at the well.

SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.



WEEK ONE

JOHN 4:1-30

Jesus is a friend to the woman at the well.

SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

DO
THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go in your child's room this month say, "Good morning, [child's name]!" (Hold arms out wide.) "Mommy/Daddy loves you SOOOOO much! And Jesus loves you even MORE!" (Hug child.)

DO
THIS



MORNING TIME

When you go in your child's room this month say, "Good morning, [child's name]!" (Hold arms out wide.) "Mommy/Daddy loves you SOOOOO much! And Jesus loves you even MORE!" (Hug child.)

REMEMBER THIS

"Love each other as I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV

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BASIC
TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

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REDEFINE VALENTINES

by Holly Crawshaw

Is there anyone who actually enjoys Valentine's Day?

For singles, it's a glaring reminder of what we don't have. Everyone seems to be in love. Everyone but us. And for those of us who do have significant others, it's pressure to deliver. Deliver gifts. Candy. Jewelry. Romance.

And how do our kids factor into Valentine's Day? Do we buy them candy? Don't we spend half our life trying to keep them away from sugar? Do we buy them cards? What if they can't read? It all just sort of seems wasteful, doesn't it?

So how will we get through this Valentine's Day without feeling lonely or overwhelmed? But more than that, how can we leverage the momentum of this love-inspired "holiday" to show love to our kids?

When it comes to Valentine's Day, a preschooler's biggest concern is whether to get the Dora Valentines or the Jake the Pirate ones. For them, it's just another day. But it doesn't have to be. Here are a few ways to make Valentine's count for your preschooler:

A few weeks before Valentine's Day, begin asking your preschooler, "When does Mommy or Daddy love you?"

Do I love you when you get spaghetti in your hair? Yes.

Do I love you when you clean up room your room? Yes.

Do I love you when obey? Yes.

Do I love you when you disobey? Yes.

End the game the same way each time by asking, *When does Mommy or Daddy love you? All the time.*

Then, on Valentine's Day, change it up. Introduce the idea of God loving your child.

Do you know who loves you even MORE than I love you? God. He does! He created you. He made your nose and your eyes and your hair. Do you know when God loves you?

Does God love you when you color on the walls? Yes.

Does God love you when you share with friends? Yes.

Tell your child that Valentine's Day is the day you celebrate love—how you love and how God loves them. *Spend the day saying, "When does God love you? All the time!"*

Use this holiday to help your child understand the depth of how much they are loved, and continue reminding them all year long.

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WEEK TWO

LUKE 19:1-10

Jesus has dinner with Zacchaeus and forgives him for the wrong he has done.

SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.



WEEK TWO

LUKE 19:1-10

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SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
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DO
THIS



DRIVE TIME

As you drive, say the memory verse together: "Love each other as I have loved you." Take turns replacing the words "each other" with the names of people you know.

DO
THIS



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REMEMBER THIS

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PROVE YOU LOVE THEM

by Kristen Ivy

I love my kids.

If I'm really honest, there's something inside me that wants them to know how much I love them. I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because I know how significant love is in the life of a child and I just hope they know, really know, how much they are loved—but they don't. How could they? They're kids. They might never understand or appreciate the way I love them.

That's okay. A kid doesn't have to understand or appreciate a parent's love in order to be affected by it.

So, what if the best thing we can do for our kids is not to get them to understand how much we love them, but to prove to them that we love them enough. What does enough mean? Maybe, in their world, it's as simple as SHOWING UP.

We can show up predictably. Whatever your work schedule, or your activity schedule, or your school schedule, you can show up in predictable ways. It's how you greet them in the morning, how you meet them at the end of the school day, how you end the day together and how you spend your weekend. It's the small ways that you show up in their world, day after day, week after week, that communicate love.

We can show up mentally.

Okay, this won't apply all the time. There are sometimes when our mental energy is somewhere else—that's just life. But there are moments when we can show up mentally more than others. We can plan strategic moments to disconnect and focus on what our kids have to say. One of the best times to show up mentally might be riding in the car. Some research actually shows that conversations happen more easily when we don't have direct eye-contact.

We can show up randomly.

These are the really fun moments. The surprises. It can be an unexpected note in the lunch box or a text in the middle of the day. It can be a non-traditional dinner night doing exactly what they want to do. Whatever it is, when you show up randomly, you have an opportunity to show your kid that you are thinking about them when they least expect it.

In the ways we show up for our kids, we can reveal small pieces of our indescribable love, so that they will know that they are lovable and that they have worth.

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WEEK THREE

JOHN 8:2-11

Jesus saves a woman from being hurt and forgives her of the wrong she has done.

SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.



WEEK THREE

JOHN 8:2-11

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THIS

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DO
THIS



CUDDLE TIME

Cuddle up with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, we want to love everyone the way Jesus loves everyone. Please help [child's name] and me to love others no matter what, just like Jesus loves everyone no matter what. In Jesus' name, amen."

REMEMBER THIS

"Love each other as I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV

BASIC
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FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

From *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity*
by Carey Nieuwhof and Reggie Joiner

Here's a few things we know will always be true about you as a parent:

You will get tired.
You will struggle with what you should do in a number of situations.
Your kids will not always behave exactly the way you want.
You will stay awake sometimes, worrying about them.
You will wonder, more than you should, if you're a good parent.

But we think there are five principles that will help you as a parent navigate through a variety of different seasons. And that if you begin to instill them into your parenting, your relationship with your children, and with the other people they need in their lives, will move in a better direction to parent beyond your own capacity.

We want to invite you to engage your family in a bigger story, a story that will expand their perspectives and reveal a significant role in this world. It's a story that involves more than just your family; it involves other influences who are on a journey to discover who God is and why a relationship with Him really matters.

We want to encourage you to establish a lifestyle as a parent where you ...

WIDEN THE CIRCLE

Invite others to invest in your children, so your sons and daughters have other voices that will help shape and determine the direction of their lives.

IMAGINE THE END

Focus your energy and effort on the issues that will make a lasting impact.

FIGHT FOR THE HEART

Create a culture of unconditional love in your home to fuel the emotional and moral health of your children.

CREATE A RHYTHM

Tap into the power of quality moments together, and build a sense of purpose through your everyday experiences.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Allow your kids to see how you strive to grow so they can understand how to confront their own limitations and pursue character and faith.

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WEEK FOUR

MATTHEW 26:31-35, 69-75;
JOHN 21:15-17

Peter denies knowing Jesus,
but Jesus forgives Peter and
gives him an important job.

SAY
THIS

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?
JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.



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JOHN 21:15-17

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THIS

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BATH TIME

Tell your child you're giving him the very
important job of turning the water on and off.
Show him how to do his important job and
then encourage him when he does it. Talk about how Jesus
gave Peter an important job to do, because He loved Him.

REMEMBER THIS

"Love each other as I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV

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RAISING A KIND PERSON

by Reggie Joine

So how kind have your kids been lately?

That is one of your goals as a parent right? Along with a good education, health, financial autonomy, faith in God, you hope your kids will be nice, at least some of the time.

That's because most of us believe life in general just works better when everyone is treating each other kindly.

Actually being kind, like other positive character qualities, makes you not only happy, but it also makes you healthy. According to one scientist, David Hamilton, kindness changes the brain, impacts the heart and immune system, and may even be an antidote to depression.

But sometimes it's just hard for kids to be kind, especially when...

a sister ruins a favorite sweater.
a brother eats the last piece of cake.
a friend stabs you in the back.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, (most parents over 40 will understand that cliché), there is one big reason you should remind your kid's to be kind . . . God! The idea that we are made in the image of God should be a compelling reason to teach kids they should be kind. Most of the time when a kid asks, "Why?" your answer can be, "because you are made in the image of God!"

It's definitely the answer in this case. Since God created all of us in His image, we should be kind to one another. Maybe that's why Jesus said . . .

"Do to others what you want them to do for you."

That makes a great motto for any home, worthy enough to be put on a plaque, especially since Jesus said it. It's the perfect line to drop when you've been dragged in to referee a disagreement or when you need to silent a vengeful tattle-teller. But really, it's true. When our kids learn empathy for others, it can have an impact on how they treat them.

So, help your kids learn to start thinking about the feelings of others. Ask questions like, how would that make you feel, or how do you think that made *him* feel?

Being kind and raising kind people is actually a really good goal to have as a parent, because kind people have better relationships, and they ultimately live a healthier, happier, more successful life.

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