

{ Dinnertime Devotionals }



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Weekly Theme: Love

Verse #1: John 13:34

(I use the ESV Bible for these devotionals. Questions are based on that text.)

All Ages Discussion Starter: What is a commandment? Who is giving the commandment in this verse? Why do you think He repeated the commandment twice? How do we show our love for one another? Is there a special way your family can show love to each other every day?

Verse #2: John 13:35

Jr. Discussion Starter: Go back and read verse 34 to put all this thought together. How will people know that we follow Jesus? Why would our love show others that we are Christians? How can you show love to those outside your family?

Discussion Starter: Go back and read verses 31-34 to put this passage into context. Did you catch the phrase 'all people'? Our love, in our words and actions, is to be so abundant that it is unmistakable. How do you make this happen?

Verse #3: Matthew 5:43-45

Jr. Discussion Starter: When the Bible talks about neighbors, who is it talking about? What reason does Jesus give for loving your enemy? Are there other verses in the Bible that you can think of that talk about loving your enemy?

Discussion Starter: What is the context of Matthew 5? (Hint: It is part of the Sermon on the..) Look back a few verses, what other things had Jesus been talking about? How does the context impact the meaning of these verses?

Verse #4: Matthew 5:46-48

All Age Discussion Starter: It's pretty easy to love someone who loves you also. Jesus used the example of tax collectors in this passage. Do you know why they were so despised? (Possible answer - They were viewed as traitors. Jews working for the Roman government and extorting their own.) Would the people have been upset when Jesus said, "Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" Can you explain why this would upset them so much? Is perfect something we can be or something we strive for everyday?

Verse #5: Romans 12:9-10

All Age Discussion Starter: When we speak of love in the Bible are we talking about the mushy stuff you see in movies? This passage speaks of "brotherly love," what is that? What does the phrase "Let your love be genuine" mean to you? It is interesting that the passage instructs the reader to "outdo one another in showing honor." Is showing honor part of showing love? If so, what role does it play in our homes and lives?