

Love Is . . .



Paul ended his letter by telling the people, “You have three things to remember: faith, hope, and love.”

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
Love Is...
from I Corinthians 13.

God loves you so you can love everyone, too.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Paul
- Corinth
- Love
- God's love
- Faith, hope, love

Although this passage is often used at weddings, the original context was addressing multiple relationships in a *community*. The church at Corinth was having a terrible time getting along. They argued that some people were more important and had more gifts from God than others in their community. These verses helped to address this argument. It is still an important passage today!

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 546-549

Spark Bible pages 1271-1272

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 How do you know when someone loves you?
- 2 How do you show someone you love them?
- 3 How do you know God loves you?
- 4 Try writing a letter together that uses your words describing what love is and isn't. Who could you send this letter to? What kind of response do you think might happen?



Eye Spark

Whenever and wherever you see a heart shape, think, "God loves me so I can love everybody else!"



Ear Spark

When you hear someone say they love you, remember God loves you, (and them!) too!

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make some surprise Valentine—paper or cookies—for others. You might write things like "Jesus loves you and I do, too!" or "God loves you always and no matter what!" Send them off as a surprise.

For younger kids

Make heart decorations for your room! Have an older person show you how to cut out a beautiful heart using a folded piece of paper.

For older kids

Make a slide-show or short movie that demonstrates what love is and is not. Use I Corinthians 13 as your guide.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer together while holding paper hearts.

Thank you, God, for loving us so that we have love to share with others. AMEN.

TRY IT

Art

Families are created and sustained in love. Make a family tree to see how many generations of love your family can remember. Talk about the people in your family tree. Your family tree may be rich with adoptions and blended families. Remind each other that God's love lasts forever.

Computer Lab

Think of things you can do that show what love is. Then do one of those things! If you think love is making cookies and taking them to a neighbor, then do that. If making a "thinking of you" card is on your list, create one for a friend.

Creative Drama

Can your faces and bodies show all the things that love is and isn't? Give it a try! Write the descriptions of love on index cards. Take turns drawing a card and trying to show the loving action from the card through expressions and movement, but not words.

Video

For your next family movie night, watch a video that depicts characters who serve, encourage, and help others. Ideas: any *Bob the Builder* DVD; *Cars*; *WALL-E*; *Enchanted*; *Wow Wow Wubbzy!* *Wubbzy's Big Movie!*; *Chicken Little*; *Nanny McFee*; *Mary Poppins*; *Everyone's Hero*; and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Bible Skills and Games

As a family, make two lists. Make one list of words describing what love is, like kind, gentle, and patient. In the other list, think of words that describe what love is not, like rude, selfish, or mean. Which list is longer? Why do you think it is? What can make loving others difficult?

Cooking

Love is...dinner! How do you round up your crew for dinner? Is your voice a "clangng gong"? Is it full of patience and kindness? This week find a new, love-filled way to call your loved ones to dinner. Teach it to your family and take turns calling the family to dinner.

Music

Make a list of songs about love that your family knows. Create a mix CD or playlist of your love songs, play them in the car, and sing along!

Science

Challenge each member of your family to go for one hour without using one important body part. Some ideas include wearing headphones, a blindfold, or a sling; taping thumbs to your palms; or putting socks over your hands. Compare the challenges you face when you do without something important.