



Every child is different and in a different place in their journey! Please use these ideas as appropriate for you, your child and your family.

LOVE

FAMILY *Devotional*,

ACTIVITY & TABLE TALK *Ideas*

Hide & Seek

Activity: Play a game of Hide & Seek

Ask your kids: When was a time when you felt like no one was listening to you or noticing you? How did it feel? What things would you like me to notice about you?

Read Genesis 16:13

Tell your child that God is the God Who Sees. That means that God always sees them and will always seek them, like in the game hide and seek. Remind them that whenever they feel alone they can remember that God sees them and wants them to know that He is with them.

Love Doesn't Quit - Movie Night

Activity: Watch the movie "Finding Nemo" together as a family.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Family Discussion:

What part of the movie did you like?

What do you think Nemo learned about his father's love for him?

What did Nemo's dad do to show his love for his son?

How is Nemo's dad's love like God's love for us?

Teens: Describe a time when parents and teens need to hang in there and not give up.

Prayer: "Thank you God that your love never gives up on us. Even with problems and bad things, your love never gives up. You sent Jesus to this planet so we could be with you. Thank you that you go great distances to show your love for us."

Picture of Love

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Family Discussion:

Which word describing love stands out to you the most?

How do these things (patience, kindness, forgiveness, etc.) make you feel loved?

Read 1 John 4:8

The bible tells us that God is love! So 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 is a description of God and His love for us too!

Family Discussion:

How can you see reminders of God's patience, kindness, protection, etc. in creation?

In the things that God has done? In your life?

Activity: Make a collage together of things that remind you of God's love.

Gather magazines, print pictures from a home computer, or draw your own pictures!





Feast!

The story we'll read today is a story that Jesus told to help us understand the kind of love that God has for us - all of us. His love is unconditional - not for what you do but for who you are: His child.

Read Luke 15:11-32

Family Discussion:

- What did the younger son request from his father?
- How does the father respond to his younger son's request?
- What did the son do after he received his request?
- What was the result of the son's choices and actions?
- What is the father's response when he sees his younger son coming home?
- Was this the expected response?
- How does the older son react to the party given in his brother's honor?
- What is the father's response to the older brother?
- Do you relate more to the older son or to the younger son? Why?
- Which son does the father love more?

For Preteens & Teens:

- Why can it be hard to receive unconditional love from God or even others?
- What makes God's unconditional love so inviting?

Jesus told this story to help people understand God's love better. God is the Father in this story. The Father's love is so big that he has no trouble welcoming back the son who made lots of poor choices. The Father's love is so big that he doesn't hesitate to find the son who feels like his good behavior should have earned him greater favor. The Father's love shows us that every person, every heart is loved by Him.

Pray together that God will make His love for each of you known to your minds and experienced by your hearts.

Activity: Choose a night this week to celebrate how big God's love is and how much he wants us to keep returning to Him. Plan a meal of your favorite foods. Prepare the feast together, and when you sit down to eat, give a toast to celebrate something special about each person around the table and have family members share something to celebrate about God's love!





Create A Family Psalm

Read Psalm 136

The Psalmist is giving thanks to God because of his nature (vs. 1-3), his creative powers (vs. 4-9), his mighty deeds on Israel's behalf (vs. 10-25) and his current care (vs. 25).

Activity: As a family (or in pairs) compose a group Psalm to God patterned after Psalm 136. Use the same structure for your Psalm.

God's Nature – write aspects of God's nature or character that are especially meaningful to you.

God's Creative Power – write down things in creation that you find awesome.

God's Mighty Deeds in Your History – write ways God has worked in your life.

God's Current Care – write ways He is currently caring for you.

Use a blank sheet of paper to write your Psalm of thanksgiving patterned after Psalm 136.

Example:

Give thanks to God for His patience. *His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to God for the beauty of sunsets. *His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to God for taking care of us during difficult times. *His love endures forever.*

Give thanks to God for giving me peace when I feel anxious. *His love endures forever.*

Close in prayer thanking/praising God for who He is.

Table Talk Conversation Starters:

Name three things that make you happy.

Have you had an answer to prayer lately? Tell what happened.

What do you like best about our family, and how can we make our family even better?

What was the best part of your day today?

What do you think is the most important thing people need to know about God?

Why do you think God loves us so much?

Who is your best friend and what makes him or her so special?

If you were an ice cream, what flavor would you be? Why?

What is one way you saw God working today?

What was the greatest demonstration of love that you have ever seen or heard about?

Finish this sentence: When I think of love, the first thing that comes to mind is ...

How can you tell when someone genuinely loves you?

Worship Songs for Kids:

One Thing Remains

<https://youtu.be/cKf6UZQEiA0>

Forever Love, Forever God

<https://youtu.be/knqrk-1XXaU>

How Far Love Goes

<https://youtu.be/shgwm9-GVe4>

Good, Good Father

<https://youtu.be/BH0y2HfZpy0>



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