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# Living in Faith Together

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**February 2023**

Love one another



## **Theme and Scripture**

God first loved us, and so we love one another  
with a similar super-human love.

**1 Corinthians 13**

Available online at [www.hosannatogether.org/lift](http://www.hosannatogether.org/lift)

# LiFT with Children...

## Read this story together in a Bible:

### Spark Story Bible:

The Greatest Commandment - pages 308-311

Love Is... - pages 546-549

### The Action Bible:

A Good Neighbor - pages 595-597

*The Action Bible has been updated. Your page numbers may be different.*

## Ask each other some questions:

- How do you *know* when someone loves you?
- How do you *show* someone you love them?
- How do you know *God* loves you?
- What examples of love does *Jesus* show in his life?
- *Why* should we show love to each other?

## Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Make two lists. On one, list 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?
- Make hand-crafted Valentines for people not on your usual Valentine's list. You might write things like "Jesus loves you and I do, too!" It's okay if it's after Valentine's Day.
- Make a slide-show or short movie that demonstrates what love is and is not. Use 1 Corinthians 13 as your guide. Post it online.
- 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.
- For your next family movie night, watch a video that depicts characters who serve, encourage, and help others. Ideas: any Bob the Builder; 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. Talk about the love that is shown.
- Spend time with someone you haven't shown love to in a while, whether that's on a call, video chat, or visiting their home.

## See the Pray Together and Keep Thinking on the back...

# LiFT with Teens or Adults...

## Read and discuss:

Mark 12:28-34 - The Greatest Commandments

- What does the “second greatest” commandment have to do with the first? Can you do the first without the second?
- What does loving others as you love yourself look like?

## Read and discuss:

John 13:34-35 - Discipleship is Love

- How has Jesus shown love to us? (Look at John 13:1-20 for a way.)
- What is it about demonstrating love that identifies us as Jesus’ followers?

## Read and discuss:

1 Corinthians 13 - Love is...

- What does true, Godly love look and feel like? How much of it is feelings, and how much of it is actions?
- What leads us to do those things that love is *not*?
- What’s all that other stuff in verses 11-12 got to do with love?
- What leads you to abiding faith, hope and love?

## Read and discuss:

1 John 4:7-21 - God first loved us

- What is it about God’s love that leads us to love others?
- Why is it important that God loves us first?
- How does God’s love free us from fear, and what difference does that make? What happens to us when we don’t love others?

## Choose a few activities that fit you:

- Look through the activity options for kids. There are some that are suitable for any age.
- Make a plan to show love to someone who is not a member of your family. Call a nursing facility and see how you can help the residents. Volunteer at In As Much food pantry. Cook or help clean for someone who needs help around the house. Take a kid (or their parent) under your wing and mentor them.

## See the Pray Together and Keep Thinking on the back...

## Pray Together--this or a prayer you make up:

Dear God, thank you for the love you have shown to us, especially through all the people you've placed in our lives. Fill up our hearts with this goodness. Lead us to show your love not just with our words, but with our actions. We pray this knowing the love you showed in Jesus. Amen.

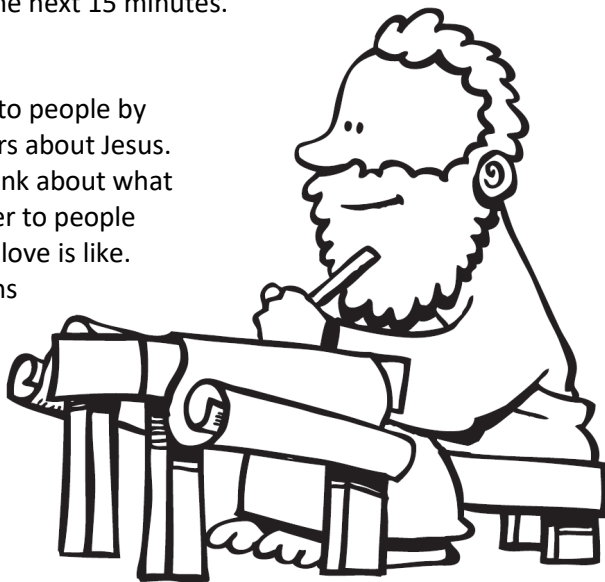
## Keep Thinking:

Whenever you see a heart in the next week, take a moment to think about one way someone (and/or God) has shown love to you so far that day. Thank God for it. Then find a way to show love to someone else in the next 15 minutes.

## Coloring Spot:

Paul showed love to people by writing them letters about Jesus. While coloring, think about what you'd say in a letter to people about what God's love is like.

What loving actions of God would you point out?  
What would you remind people is most important?



### What is LiFT?

**L**iving **i**n **F**aith **T**ogether is a monthly series of conversations and activities to grow your connection with God and others. We encourage you to LiFT the second Sunday of each month, but you can choose *any* day. Just be intentional

### Who do I LiFT with?

Anyone and everyone! LiFT at home with kids, grandkids, or a spouse (or all of them!). Invite grown kids over or talk on the phone/online. Gather friends or neighbors over for a snack.