



## Read 1 John 3:18

## DAY 1

Finish this famous Nike slogan in the space below by filling in the blank.

**Just \_\_\_\_\_ It!**

These three words don't just apply to sports. Loving others requires this same kind of mentality. Because there's a BIG difference between *saying* you love and *showing* you love. When it comes to love, you can't just talk about. You actually need to get busy showing it.

Grab a piece of paper. Draw a large heart on the page and write out the words of today's verse. Come up with a short tag line or slogan that helps you remember to show love this week.

**Ask God to help you show love with your words, and with your time and actions this week.**

## Read Romans 12:10

## DAY 2

Who are the people in your life that you know love you? Your parents? Your friends? Teachers? Siblings?

**How do you know they love you?**

When it comes to love, there's a certain order of things. Instead of thinking about what you want, loving God's way means we think about others first. That's what the people who love you do all the time. In order to love others with our time, we need to put them first.

Using a marker, write in one person's name, maybe someone you've had a hard time showing love to lately, in the blanks. "Love \_\_\_\_\_ deeply. Honor \_\_\_\_\_ more than yourself." Read the statement aloud and ask God to help you show love by treating him or her the way you want to be treated.

**Pray that God would help you follow through in loving and honoring the person you've chosen.**

## Read Proverbs 17:17

DAY 3

**According to today's verse, when does a friend love?**

**At \_\_\_\_\_ times.**

Should a friend love when life is great, the sun is shining, and everyone is happy? Yes! Should a friend love when things aren't so awesome, when a friend is hurting or when things are hard? Absolutely.

True friends choose to love in good times and in bad. True friends stand by each other when things are going well and when the road gets bumpy.

Can you think of a friend that's having a rough time right now? Maybe a grandparent is sick. Maybe a parent lost a job. Maybe your friend is struggling in school. The best thing you can do is simply be present. You don't have to try to fix things. You just need to remind your friend that you are here to listen. Ask God to help you be the kind of friend who loves at ALL times.

## Read 1 Corinthians 16:14

DAY 4

**When is it hardest to love?**

Did you know that choosing to love in those "hard" times is even more important than loving when it's easy? We know this because Jesus loves us at all times. He loves us when we listen and when we think our way is better. He loves us when we say something kind and when we spout off hurtful words we don't really mean.

Because we are loved always, we should love others always. God wants us to do everything in love. He wants us to show love with our actions, the things we do and with our words, the things we say.

Go on a heart search! Grab a piece of paper and cut out several hearts. On each heart, write the words of today's verse. Then hide your hearts around the house so that different people in your family will find them. See below for some hiding spot ideas. When a "heart" is located, talk to the finder about how you've been challenged to be loving in everything you do!

**Know that God loves you. Ask Him to help you do everything in love!**

the fridge, a sibling's shoe, the front seat of the car, on someone's pillow, under the remote



**Love others  
with  
your time.**





WEEK TWO

JESUS AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY • LUKE 10:38-42



SAY THIS:

LOVE OTHERS WITH  
YOUR TIME.



REMEMBER  
THIS:

"Here is what love is. It is not  
that we loved God. It is that  
he loved us and sent his Son to  
give his life to pay for our sins."

1 JOHN 4:10, NIV



DO THIS:



Q&A for kids: Say the first thing  
that pops in your mind to finish  
this thought: I love \_\_\_\_\_. Why do  
you think that was the first thing  
you thought?

Q&A for parents: What makes you  
feel loved?

LOVE:

CHOOSING TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY  
YOU WANT TO BE TREATED



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## THE MYTH OF THE PERFECT KID

By Tim Walker

We parents are an emotional, neurotic mess, aren't we? Sure, some of us are better at hiding it than others, but push the right button or confront the right issue, and every one of us comes to a point when we feel . . . helpless. Clueless. Lost.

We thought we knew so much. But there comes a point when we're not quite sure how to navigate as parents. We know we're not perfect, just ask our kids. So why do we expect our kids to be perfect? Before you shake your head and say "not me," think about this:

### Do you ever see them fail?

Maybe your toddler starts pitching a fit because he wants another cookie. Or you find out your daughter is being mean to another girl in her class. Every kid will fail at some point. Why? Because they're not perfect. They will do something we don't want them to do. Or they will not measure up. Or they will make the wrong choice. Let's face it. Sometimes our little angels are less than angelic.

### Do you ever expect more of your kids than what is age-appropriate?

Would you expect your three-month-old infant to be potty trained? Your 12-year-old to know how to drive a car? When it comes to my kids, my first reaction is "you should know

better." And sometimes they don't. Sometimes they don't have the life experience to know what to do in a situation. Or they've never been taught. Sometimes they just simply don't know. Your kids are in process. You are too.

### Do you ever encourage them to be more perfect than real?

Is your family a place where doubt can exist? Or opinions? Do our kids feel like they need to put up a front with us? Are we communicating to our kids with our words or actions that what they believe right now (which is in process, remember) isn't as important as what we believe? Because if we don't give them space to doubt or question, belief may never become something that is internal, or personal to them.

As a parent, you know you're not perfect. You're aware of where you fall short. But the reality is your kids aren't either. Let them be human. Let them be in process. Guide them. Direct them. Instruct them. But also realize that sometimes they will act their age, and show their humanity.

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