

Love in Action - February 28

Parents: In our culture the phrase, “Love it!”, can be used to describe just about anything that we really, really like. That’s not a problem unless we put those things ahead of God—like we learned about in the parable of the wealthy man who loved the security of things and thought he could store up food and take life easy. In Romans, we see the love in action we, as followers of Jesus, are called to take.



Read: Romans 12: 9-16

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Discuss: Love must be sincere. What does sincere mean? *Real, honest, true, from the heart.* Who should we be devoted to? *One another, putting others above ourselves.* Can you give an example of putting someone above yourself? *Letting my sibling have the bigger piece of cake. Offering to wash my parent’s car instead of watching my favorite show, etc.* The passage says never be lacking in zeal. What could that mean? *Serving the Lord with energy and enthusiasm.*

Sharing and practicing hospitality are action words that we can do for others. Name three ways we share with those in need. *Donate our clothes, make a meal for a sick friend, or share a Bible verse.* How can we practice hospitality? *Invite others into our home or church. There are so many ways to love others!*

How should we live with one another? *In harmony—in tune with each other, not being proud or conceited, which means thinking too highly of ourselves. Putting others first.*

Key Point: Love Others as Jesus Loves Me

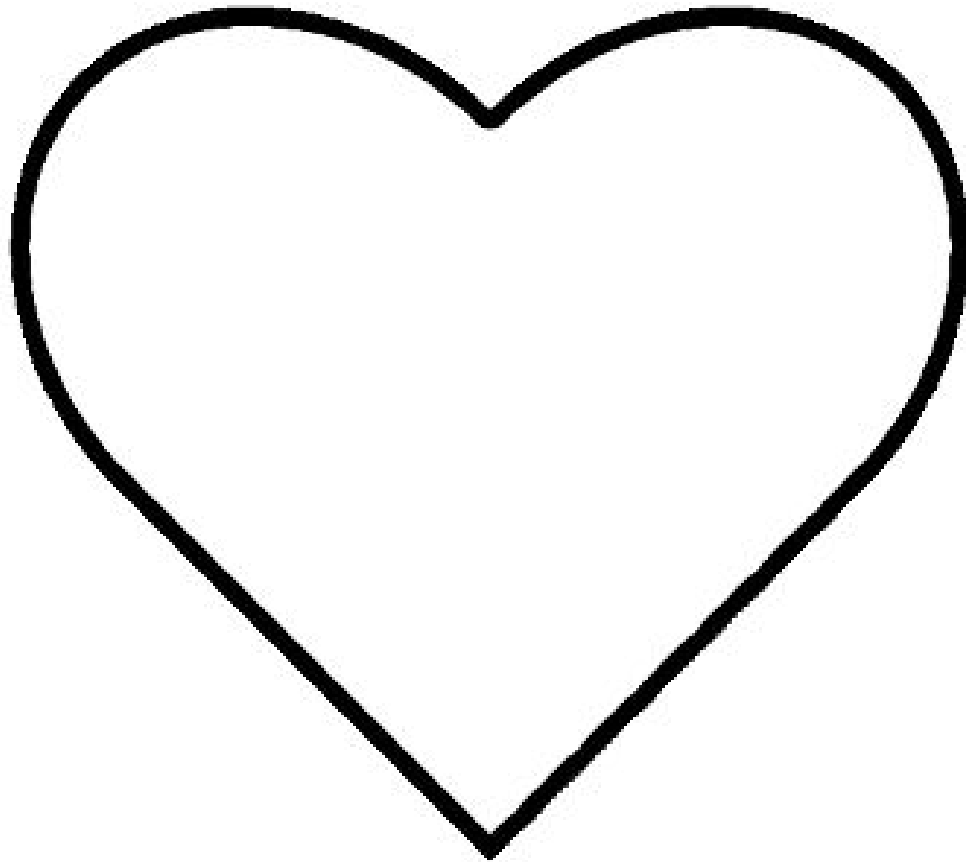
Love Others as (Make a heart with both pointers and thumbs, next give a thumbs up and tilt by rotating wrist out)

Jesus Loves Me (Take one finger and point to palm of other open hand, cross arms across chest, point to self)

Family Activity: To remember our key point to Love Others as Jesus Loves Me, let’s make a paper heart sewing craft. You’ll need a paper plate, scissors, a hole punch, string, and a plastic needle if available.

Prayer: Dear God, We praise You for Your great love for us. Help us to remember and practice J.OY. - Jesus First, Others Next, Yourself Last. We thank and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Romans 12:10 - “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”



“Be devoted to one another in *love*.
Honor one another above yourselves.”
Romans 12:10

Heart Sewing Craft Instructions

Materials:

paper plate ^ scissors ^ hole punch ^ string
plastic needle if available

1. Start by cutting the heart shape above for a template. Trace your heart template onto the center of the paper plate with a pencil and then cut the heart shape out.
2. Use a hole punch to punch holes around the entire perimeter of the heart.
3. Thread yarn needle with a long strand of yarn (9 or 18 yards). Pull the needle through one of the holes around your heart and when you reach the end of the yarn tape it in place on the back of the paper plate. Now continue threading yarn around the different holes of the heart until each hole has been used.
4. When you reach the end of the yarn or are finished threading through all of the holes of the heart, cut the needle off and tape the end of the yarn onto the back of the paper plate.