

NOT ABOUT FEELING GOOD

Connect

Ask each person to come to the table with something that he or she values very much. (Parents, you can give this instruction to the kids one day in advance so they have time to think about what they want to bring to the table.)

When everyone has an item with them, ask them to think about one person they want to give the item to FOREVER. Everyone then gets a turn and gives his item to the person and shares with everyone why they chose to give it to that person.

Was it easy to decide who you wanted to give your most valuable item to? Why?
Does it matter to you that you are never going to get back your treasured item? Why?

When you gave your most treasured item to somebody, it meant that you were willing to give up what was comfortable to you so that another person could have it. You gave something that you treasured. This means it is not just any random item but it has value to you. This is an example of sacrifice. And this is what we will learn today, that love requires some kind of sacrifice.

(Because this is only an activity, everyone can return the treasures they received to their original

Read the Word

Our Bible verse for today is very short. It says in 1 Corinthians 13:5b,

"it (love) is not self-seeking..."

The very foundation of love is God. God is love and because of His love for us, He gave His only begotten Son. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life". God did it to save His people. Love is not just about our own feelings, benefits, and advantages. It is not about our comfort, not about what we can get. Love is not about what we receive from people but what we can do or give to others.

Also, John 15:13 says, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus Christ demonstrated love perfectly by dying on the cross in our place. He loved us and He gave up His life for us. This is His sacrifice for us because He loves us.

When we love others, we will similarly be willing to make sacrifices for them. Our parents make sacrifices for us when they go to work everyday. What sacrifices are you willing to make for the people you love?

Huddle

Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- How do you know people love you? Share your experiences.

7-12 years old

- What are the ways you have in mind on how to show love to people around you?

Kid to Parent

- Are you willing to sacrifice for people you love?
- Why do we need to sacrifice when we love?

The first and greatest command of God as Matthew 22:37 states, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind". The second as stated in Matthew 22:39, "Love your neighbour as yourself. With these commands, God is telling us to be devoted to Him and to love one another above ourselves. Jesus is the perfect example on how to love sacrificially and without expectations. The call to love is not easy but God's love is a reminder for us that we have to love wholeheartedly and relentlessly without asking anything in return. If not, it's not love at all.

Pray

Dear God, We are grateful for Your unconditional fatherly love for us. Because of Your love, You have forgiven our sins by sacrificing Your son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Lord, give us the heart to always love You and the people around us. Help us to love people without asking anything in return but have the willingness to care for others. Allow us to grow with love and compassion in the way we live, speak and think. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discover

Do you know that there are different kinds of love?

Four Types of Love

Storge or Familial love

Storge might also be called affection or familial love. A person will love their family regardless of whether they are people the person would be drawn to otherwise; family members often have nothing in common except familiarity and blood.

Eros: Romantic love

Eros is a good thing in a marriage relationship.

Philia: Friendship/Brotherly love

Philia occurs from bonding over similar interests.

Agape: God's love for humans

Agape love, in the Bible, is love that comes from God. God's love isn't sentimental (not emotional); it's part of His character. God loves from an outpouring of who He is. As 1 John 4:8 states, "God is love [agapos]," meaning He is the source of agape love. His love is undeserved, gracious, and sacrificial.

Agape is a choice, a deliberate striving for another's highest good, and is demonstrated through action. God set the standard for agape love in sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners.

May we love others with an agape kind of love, the kind that always seeks the good of others, not thinking of ourselves, the same kind of love God gave us.

Source:

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-does-agape-love-really-mean-in-the-bible.html>