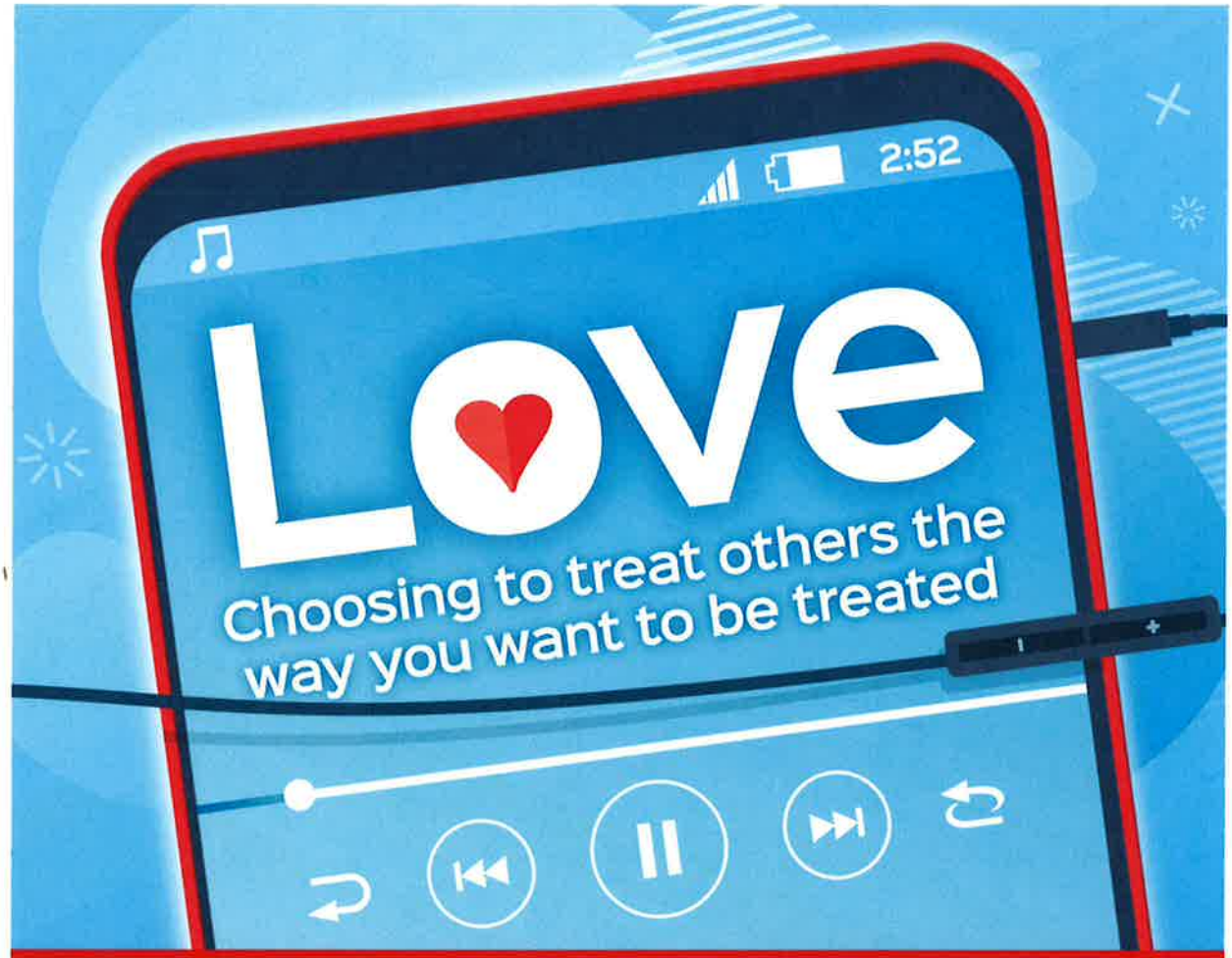


BRIDGE KIDS DEVO

WEEK
ONE
2nd-3rd Grade

BRIDGE KIDS

Read John 13:34-35 DAY 1

This month is all about love! Love is choosing to treat others the way you want to be treated. Easier said than done, right? The truth is, love is a choice. It's deciding to treat others the way you want to be treated, not the way they actually treat you first.

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus used the word "new" when He talked about this idea. Jesus was about to do something no one had ever done, going all the way to the cross to prove His love once and for all. We are to love others, not because they deserve it, or because they've earned it, or even because we feel like it in the moment. We love because Jesus loves us.

Read the scenarios below and think of one way you could respond with love, remembering that Jesus loves you.

Your sister interrupted your story, again.
Your friend at school left you out of the game.
A kid in your class called you a name and then laughed about it.

Think of a time this week when you didn't treat someone else the way you want to be treated. Ask God to help you respond differently so you can love others because Jesus loves you.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2 DAY 2

What is the last thing you learned how to do? Make slime? A back handspring? Did someone show you what to do step by step? Pick one thing you've learned how to do and write step by step instructions below:

When it comes to loving others, we have the best example ever. Jesus didn't just say He loved, He showed it by sacrificing Himself on the cross so that we could have a relationship with God, forever. When it comes to love, the best example to follow is Jesus. Leading a life of love means that you choose to treat others the way you want to be treated, no matter how they treat you first.

Thank God for sending Jesus to show you how to love others.

Read 1 John 3:16 — DAY 3

Finish the following statements from today's verse:
We know what love is because _____
Because we know this, we should _____
_____

Maybe you're thinking, "Wait, is Jesus asking me actually give up my life for someone else?" Jesus isn't asking you to do exactly what He did because He came to do something no one else could do. He died on the cross so we could be forgiven.

Do you know what the word "sacrifice" means? To sacrifice means to give up something valuable to help another person. So to "give our lives for our brothers and sisters" might look like letting someone else go first, or listening before you speak, it might mean giving up what you really want so that someone else can have what they need.

Will you show love like Jesus did? Are you willing to give up what you think you deserve to love someone else? Pray and ask God to help you "give your life" away this week by noticing a need and choosing to do something to help. This might be the best way to love others because Jesus loves you.

Read John 15:12 — DAY 4

When Jesus said these words, He was speaking to His closest friends, the disciples. Jesus was about to face the cross, rise again, and then return to heaven. Before He left them, He wanted to remind them how they should treat each other. Jesus was saying, "When I'm gone, look after each other and don't fight. Remember how I've treated you with love and treat each other the same way." But this command wasn't just for Jesus' disciples. It's for us too. Jesus wants us to love one another just like He loves us. So who are the "one anothers" in your life?

In the space to the right, write down the names of five people that you see most every day. Do you remember the last time you talked to that person? Were you loving with your words or actions? What happened? How could you show love to that person the next time you see him or her?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Ask God to help you show love the people you've listed, remembering that you can love because Jesus loves you.

Love others because Jesus loves you.

WEEK
TWO
2nd-3rd Grade

BRIDGE KIDS

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?

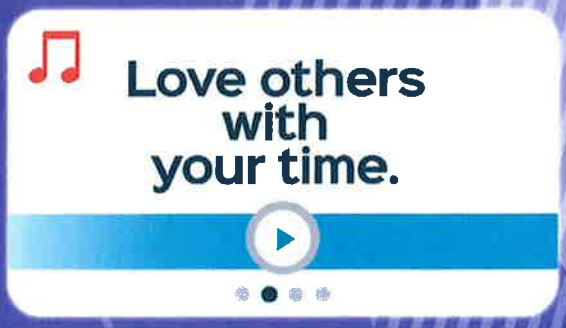
Did you know that choosing to love in those "hard" times is even more important than loving when it's easy? We know this because Jesus loves us at all times. He loves us when we listen and when we think our way is better. He loves us when we say something kind and when we spout off hurtful words we don't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



WEEK
THREE
2nd-3rd Grade

BRIDGE KIDS

Read Galatians 5:14 — DAY 1

What command is most important? To love your neighbor as you love yourself. In this verse, Paul isn't just talking about the neighbor next door or the kid sitting next to you at school. In this verse, a "neighbor" is anyone you meet.

A neighbor is someone who:

Looks like you
Looks nothing like you
Uses nice words
Says unkind things
Knows and follows Jesus
Doesn't believe in Jesus at all

We are to love all those neighbors because that's what Jesus did. Jesus healed people everyone else ignored. He welcomed children. He had dinner with a tax collector who'd stolen people's money. And guess what? When you follow Jesus, His Spirit lives in you. And He will help you love others—even the ones that are hard to love—just as He loves them.

Look around the house for some pictures of family and friends. Look at each picture and ask God to help you love that person like you love yourself this week.

Read 1 John 4:19-21 — DAY 2

Think about the last time you got into an argument with your sibling or friend. Do you remember why you got so mad? Did you apologize to each other and work it out?

When it comes to love, how we love others is connected to how we love God. Why? Because we are loved by God. The first and most important thing you can know about God is that He is love. And because He loves you with a perfect love, a love that never changes or goes away, He wants us to share that love with the people around us.

Write in the words from the verse in the blanks below:

"We _____ because He _____ us first. Suppose someone claims to _____ God, but _____ a brother or sister. Then they are a liar. They don't _____ their brother or sister, whom they have _____. So they can't _____ God, whom they haven't _____. Here is the command God has given us. Anyone who _____ God must also _____ their brother or sister." 1 John 4:19-21 (NIrV)

Ask God to help you show love to the people around you.

Read Genesis 1:27 — DAY 3

You are made in the image of God. That means that of all the things God made, people are most like Him. You can think, communicate, and feel. You can tell right from wrong. But you aren't the only one made in God's image. Every single person you see, every person you meet, every person you will never meet who live in places you may never visit is made in the image of God. We should love others because they matter to God.

Have you ever looked closely at your own fingerprint? Use an inkpad to stamp some fingerprints on a piece of paper. If you don't have an inkpad, color your fingertip with a marker instead. Collect the fingerprints of your family members too. Now turn those fingerprints into drawings of people. You can make your fingerprint the body or head, add arms and legs, hair, eyes and a nose and mouth. Underneath your fingerprint people write "Love others because they matter to God."

Hold your fingerprint people drawing and thank God for creating people in His image. Ask Him to help you love others, knowing that they matter to Him.

Read 1 John 4:8 — DAY 4

Did you notice that today's verse doesn't say "God loves?" Of course, it's true that God loves us. But there's fill in the blank with the one super important word stuck between "God" and "love" in this verse. "God ____love."

You cannot separate God and love. It's who He is.

That means that His response is always love. When you mess up, when you obey, when you win or when you fail, God is love. His love isn't based on what you do or don't do. And that's not just true for you, it's true of every single person He ever created. Because love comes from God.

Think about someone in your world that's been bugging you lately. Is it the kid that sits next to you in class, or your brother or sister? That person, the one who drives you crazy, matters to God. So today, thank God for loving you and the kid that bugs you. Ask God to help you love like He loves, even when it's hard.

BRIDGE KIDS

WEEK
FOUR
2nd-3rd Grade

Read 1 John 4:15-16 — DAY 1

Have you ever used different colors of Play-Doh® to create something? What happens if the different colors get mixed together? It's almost impossible to separate them!

When you believe in Jesus, you become a part of God's family forever! You are "joined" to God just like those two colors of play dough. Nothing can separate you from God and His love. You can depend on His love, always.

We should love God with everything we've got because of the way He loves us!

Grab two different colors of Play-Doh. Pinch off a little of both colors and roll them up together. Now form that play dough into a heart. Poke a small hole in the top of the heart and leave it out on a plate until it hardens. Then run some string through the hole. As you select a place to hang it up, tell God how much you love Him. Thank Him for sending Jesus so you can have a relationship and be joined to Him, forever.

Read 1 John 4:12 — DAY 2

Wouldn't it be so awesome if we could see God face to face? If we could walk and talk with Him like Adam and Eve did in the garden?

Did you know that God has made a way for the people around us to know Him even though we can't see Him with our eyes? Did you know that way is through you? When you put your faith in Jesus, God is in you. And when you choose to love the people around you just as God has loved you, you point other people to God. In other words, the way you love helps others see God!

Finish the sentences below, remembering that loving God with everything you've got points other people to Him:

I will love my sister/brother/friend by _____.
I will love a friend in my class by _____.
I will love the kid that bugs me by _____.

Pick one of these completed statements above as you pray today. First, thank God for loving you and for showing you how to love. Then, ask God to help you show love this week, even when it's hard, so that others can know His love too.

Read Mark 12:30 — DAY 3

What does the word "all" mean? All means everything! We are to love God completely, totally, wholly, entirely. Jesus said to love God, not with just part of our heart or soul, or mind or strength, but with everything we've got. Nothing else should compete with our love for God.

Find a piece of paper. Fold it in half and in half again. Open the page back up to reveal four sections. Inside each section, draw the following four symbols and write the word it represents to the things listed in today's verse:

HEART – Draw a heart.
SOUL – Draw a cross.
MIND – Draw a light bulb.
STRENGTH – Draw a fist.

As you look over your page, tell Him three things you love about Him! Then, thank God for loving you and for sending Jesus.

Read 1 John 5:3 — DAY 4

How do we show God we love Him? By obeying His commands. When you obey your parents, you are showing that you respect and trust them. It's the same way with God. When we read His word and follow what it says, we are loving God with everything we've got.

What do you think the last part of this verse means, the part that reads "and his commands are not hard to obey?" That might seem a little bit confusing. Think about a mom taking care of her newborn baby. Is taking care of that helpless baby easy? Not always. When you're completely responsible for feeding and clothing and protecting a newborn baby, it can be exhausting. But a new mom wants to take care of her baby because of her love for him or her! The same is true for us when it comes to following God. We follow God because we love Him. And when we do, we're showing that we believe His way is the best way.

Think about one of God's commands that's hard to follow. Ask God to help you follow Him in obedience as a way to love Him with everything you've got.