

HOW CAN YOU LOVE OTHERS LIKE GOD DOES?

DAY 4

What are a few ways that God has shown love to you? Write them down as a list.

Ask a parent if you can use a few drops of food coloring. Grab a clear glass and fill it with water. Then slowly read off the list of ways that God has shown love to you, adding a drop for each thing on your list.

Watch as the drops slowly spread throughout the water and eventually color the water the same color as the food coloring.

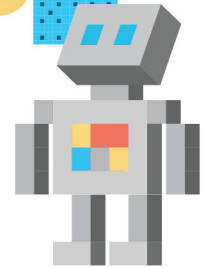
If we pay attention to the way God loves us and allow it to change our lives, the way we love others will start to look like the way God loves us. We will be patient the way that God is patient with us. We will never give up on others, just like God never gives up on us.

As you pour the glass of water down the sink, say a prayer to God, asking Him to help you pour out your love to everyone around you, just like He has done for you.

LIVE
FOR GOD

LIFE APP

WHAT GOD IS DOING IN YOU TO CHANGE THE WORLD AROUND YOU



DAY 1

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

First Corinthians 13 has long been referred to as the “love chapter” of the Bible. If you’ve ever been to a wedding, you’ve probably heard at least part of these verses read out loud or seen them printed in a program.

But the wedding kind of love is really not what Paul had in mind when he wrote this letter to the church in Corinth. There were some disagreements and conflicts among the Jesus followers in the church and Paul was writing to encourage the believers to live out “agape” love, which is a selfless love—it implies putting the needs of others ahead of your own.

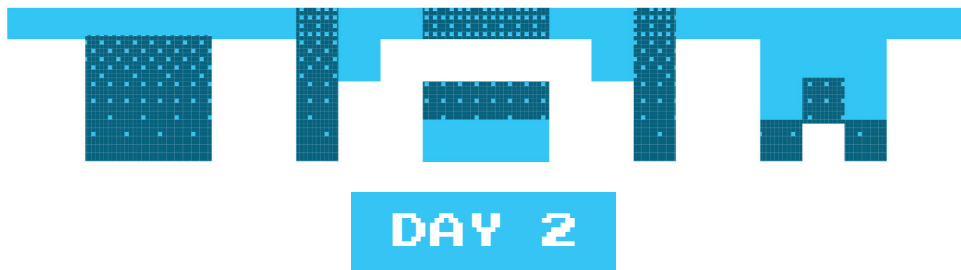
Go back through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and circle the things that this kind of love is or does, and underline the things that it isn’t or doesn’t do. Then put a box around the one or two characteristics of love that are hardest for you.

Now, read the first sentence in verse 8. Underline it three times. Love. Never. Fails. That almost seems impossible to believe, doesn’t it? That’s because the only time we’ve ever experienced this kind of love is . . . well, let’s save that for tomorrow.

PRETEEN

HEAR
FROM GOD

WEEK 1

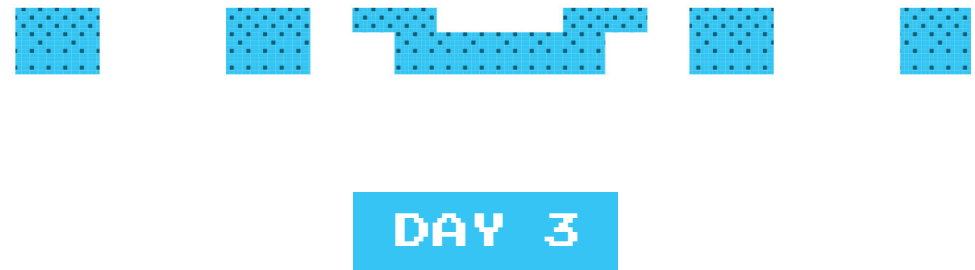


Go back and look at what you did on Day 1. Look back over what you've underlined and circled—who do you know that loves like this all the time? Who do you know that loves you with this kind of love?

No matter what, we all have someone who loves us like this, and it's God. How does it make you feel to know that God loves you like this? Talk to God for a minute and thank Him for His love. Be specific and thank Him for a couple of ways that you've felt His love in your life.

Now look at the one or two things that you put a box around yesterday—those things that are harder for you to live out when it comes to love. Is it one person that you have a hard time being patient or kind to? Is there a time of day or a situation where you find yourself struggling with anger? Talk to God about it. Confess to Him that you have a hard time with that, and ask for His help in powering up so you can live out that kind of love.

THEN CLOSE YOUR PRAYER, ASKING HIM FOR A SPECIFIC CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT KIND OF LOVE TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TODAY.



Try saying this sentence out loud in different ways.

"I LOVE YOU." (SWEETLY)

"I LOVE YOU." (ANGRILY)

"I LOVE YOU." (BEGRUDGINGLY, AS THOUGH FORCED)

"I LOVE YOU." (APATHETICALLY, AS THOUGH YOU DON'T CARE)

That same sentence seemed to mean four totally different things based on the way you said it, didn't it?!

When it comes to love, some people say "talk is cheap"—in other words, that your actions mean more than just your words. But the way we speak to each other is a huge part of love. Words can show love as much as any kind action, and we can also cancel out our kind and selfless actions if we aren't careful with our words and how we speak them.

On a small piece of paper, or even your hand, write this short list of words, with a box beside them where you can check each word off.

True

Helpful

Kind

Those three words can sum up the "love list" found in 1 Corinthians 13, and are a great way of testing how loving you are being as you talk to others. As you go throughout your day today, think about the way that you speak to others. Are the things you say true, helpful, and kind? And is the way that you speak them also loving? Think before you speak, and if you can't check off all three boxes, it's probably more loving to not say them.

