



Faith@Home Resource Week 5: LOVE - Caring Selflessly

*Worship *Serve *Play *Read *Love *Create *Pray *Talk *Sing *Eat

⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:44-47

The early church began as one people who did everything together. This summer Our Savior's Way and Open Arms are celebrating that core idea of "together" - how being together in Christ influences who we are as children of God, created for Christian community.

Start each week in worship together as a family - your family and friends. Our church family. This 'At Home or On the Go' Resource packet will give you some weekly theme ideas for you to continue the TOGETHER faith experience with family or friends. No matter where you are this summer. Use the "Together Tracker" to help you go for 3 weekly goals: To do the "One Big Thing" Suggestion, to Take Jesus with you and have fun with the Flat Jesus Challenge, and to do at least one more idea, activity or servant project on the theme. Use an idea from the packet or something of your own!

The One Big Thing: *If you have time for only ONE way to follow up on the "LOVE-Caring Selflessly" theme this week:*
✓ Share God's Love with Someone

Where will you take Jesus with you this week? Take a picture of 'Flat Jesus' and Tweet in to #flatjesusoswlc or post to our Facebook page @oswlc.org Anywhere you go with Jesus is a great opportunity to show His love and take a picture!

Home Scripture Reference for "LOVE": Luke 10:25-37- The Good Samaritan:

1 John 4:7-12 - We Love Because He first loved us

⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii^a and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

1 John 4:7-12 ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Key Point/Summary:

Key Point: We need to love our neighbors as a reflection of God's love in the world that desperately needs Him. God is the source of genuine love. It is His very nature, fully expressed on the cross for our salvation.

Samaritans and the Jews didn't get along. they wouldn't even interact in most cases. So, for the Samaritan to help the man

was a huge step outside of the cultural norms. Jesus upholds this as the way that Christians should interact with everyone in the world. The old saying goes that, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” How can you show the love of Christ that is in you to the world who needs it?

Our word for “Love” is represented by many different words and different kinds of love in the Bible. Check out the online videos from The Bible Project about *Agape* and *Ahavah* love. Go to: <http://oswlc.org/connect/together> for this and other weekly resources.

Conversations Together:

- What comes to mind when you hear the word “love”? Describe the meaning of love and how it can be shown.
- Share about a time when someone demonstrated God’s love for you. How did you know this love came from God?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. We know that God loves us, how can we demonstrate our love for Him? How can we teach others about God’s love and about how to love God back?
- What is the best example of love that you have seen in your life?
- Who was your first love?
- What kinds of things cause you to be afraid in your relationships?
- What causes you difficulty in loving others?
- How can you do a better job at loving others?

Prayer for LOVE Together:

Dear Lord, as we in our congregations and homes journey in worship together, bless us with the courage of faith in you alone, the gift of salvation for the world you love, and a deep and sacrificial love for all people and all of creation. Like the first members of your church, the body of Christ here on earth, help us care for one another both physically and spiritually and join in praise and glory to you in all we do on our own and together in reaching out with the Good News of Jesus Christ, the one who suffered, died, and rose again. It is in His name we pray, Amen.

Other activities and Resources: *Some items are included in the packet or you can find them online at oswlc.org/Together*

- Be extra kind to your family members this week. Maybe this means sending a card to someone. Maybe it means doing your sibling’s chores for them. Maybe it means not complaining when your parents ask you to do someone. Do everything this week with a loving heart.
- It’s VBS week! Volunteer to fill in where there are gaps to help share God’s love with the younger kids, and/or do something nice for the rest of the VBS volunteers!
- Think of a friend or family member who has been stressed or feeling down. Make it your goal this week to love them and cheer them up.
- Send a handwritten note to each member of your family telling them what you love about them.

Other Resources

- <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/bring-love-home/>
- <https://www.seedsfamilyworship.com/bring-love-home-kindness/>
- <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/spiritual-growth-for-kids/character-development-love/is-your-child-a-good-neighbor> First of 3 links (all accessible from this web page) on Character Development-Love, with ideas for kids from young through teens.
- <https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/7-ways-to-love-people>
- <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/evangelism-principles/30-ways-to-show-you-care.html>