

God is Our Loving Father

GOD INVITES US TO SHARE WITH HIM PERSONALLY

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

John 15.10

KEY IMAGE:
LARGE HEART AND SMALL HEART

YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER EXPRESSES HIS LOVE FOR YOU

God created us to love us. He loves you dearly! The Bible says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us..." (1 John 3.1). God also demonstrates His love to each of us in many practical ways:

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH
THESE POINTS

1 God shows us His love for us through _____.

God created people and gave us everything we need (Genesis 1.26–30). We can trust that He will continually meet our needs and teach us to be content in all circumstances.

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
— Philippians 4.19

2 God shows us His love for us through _____.

Our Heavenly Father loved us enough to die for us so we could be forgiven and reconciled to Him.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
— John 3.16

3 God shows us His love for us through _____.

Loving parents must sometimes punish their children to teach them right from wrong. In a similar way, God often expresses His love through painful situations or punishment to train us in the right way to live.

Do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.
— Hebrews 12.5-6

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.
— Revelation 3.19

EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

The Bible teaches us, "We love, because He first loved us" (1 John 4.19). God loved us first, showing us how to love Him and one another. There are many important ways that we can show our love for God:

1 Show your love for God through _____.

If you really love someone, you spend time with them. God wants you to meet with Him each day. In the busyness of life it is good to devote some "quiet time" just for God, to talk with Him through prayer, and listen to Him through reading His Word. We do this to strengthen our love relationship with God, and to grow to become like Jesus.

Our purpose for doing this is to strengthen our love relationship with God, and to grow to become like Jesus.

From the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son.
— Romans 8.29 (LB)

2 Show your love for God through _____.

In Matthew 6.9-15, Jesus taught us how to pray using what we call “The Lord’s Prayer.” This is actually a model that teaches us what Jesus wants us to include in our prayers:

VERSE 9 Jesus wants us to give God our _____.

VERSE 10 Jesus wants us to seek God’s _____.

VERSE 11 Jesus wants us to request God’s _____.

VERSE 12 Jesus wants us to ask for God’s _____.

VERSE 13 Jesus wants us to desire God’s _____.

USE YOUR OWN STORIES TO TEACH THESE POINTS

! Stop now and use the TFT Prayer Worksheet (handout) to write a prayer to God.

A few things to remember when you pray:

JAMES 1.5–6 Pray without _____.

JAMES 4.2–3 Pray without _____.

LUKE 18.1 Pray without _____.

1 THESSALONIANS 5.17 Pray without _____.

3 Show your love for God through _____.

The ultimate test of love for our Heavenly Father is our obedience to Him. Every day, examine yourself to be sure you are obeying Him. You must remember that you can never have intimacy with God without obeying Him!

If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching...

— John 14.23-24

YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNAL

In Old Testament times, memorials were an important way for the people of God to remember what the Lord had done for them. Some memorials were nothing more than a simple pile of stones to signify a milestone in their journey with God! Offerings, prayers, writings, special holidays, and elaborate objects made of gold are other examples of memorials which were used by people in Bible times.

It is good for us to have reminders of what God is doing in our lives. A useful memorial is a journal where you can record your special experiences and insights from God. This can be as simple as a little notepad where you can jot down your thoughts. You will find that God will often speak to you while you are reading His Word and while you are praying.

You can also use your journal to write your prayers if you find it difficult to pray verbally. This week, start keeping a journal as a memorial of your experiences with God.

ASSIGNMENTS

OBEY at least one thing you learned from this lesson:

WRITE your thoughts and experiences of God—Start keeping a Spiritual Journal.

SHARE your personal story or the Gospel story with at least one person this week.

MEMORIZE the memory verse:
John 15.10

READ from the Bible:
Matthew 6.19–34 Colossians 1.9–14
Colossians 2.6–14 1 John 2.5–17

TRAIN at least one believer outside this group, just as you were trained.