

Parent Encouragement: Families who have regular, biblical faith practices at home can leave a strong legacy of loving Jesus with all their heart and lives. This summer, we will practice just one faith practice mentioned in Deuteronomy 6: God-talks while sitting at home. Our prayer is that your summer @home activities will turn into a permanent part of family life. *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house...”* (Deuteronomy 6:5-7a).

Parent Preparation: Read through the entire activity sheet before your meal time to see if there are any preparations you need to make. Adapt this to your family’s personality, ages of your children, and anything you’d like to add. Read through **“FPL EXTRAS”** on the back for preparations required for any optional activities you might choose. Gather your family around the table in keeping with Deuteronomy 6:7. Be sure to have the FPL placemat, FPL Envelope, everyone’s own Bible, and these other preparations ready.

THE BIG IDEA: God proves how much He loves us by Jesus’ death on the cross

Parent Say: “What did you like about our family time last week?” Listen for answers and discuss. Say, “Last week, we looked at 5 Old Testament Kings who each had different kinds of love for God—but only one kind of love was pleasing to God—love with a whole heart that turns into obeying God in everything. God wants us to love Jesus with a “supreme” love—our very best and strongest love—so that Jesus would come to have first place in everything (Colossians 1:18). Today, we are going to be talking about God’s love *for us*. The kings from last week had different kinds of love for God. So we need to understand what kind of love God has for us.

Play “I Love You, Because...”

How to play: Take several slips of paper (1 per family member) and write a name on each slip. Fold each slip several times and place them all in a cup. Start with the person whose birthday is closest to today to go first. That person will pick a slip out of the cup. Using the name they drew from the cup, they will say out loud: **“I love _____, because....”**. [Instruct your family ahead of time to complete the sentence with encouraging statements and to resist the urge to be sarcastic.] Statements can be fun or sentimental, spiritual or unspiritual — just say what you love about the person. Pass the cup around until it is empty. Refill the cup and play several rounds as desired.

Someone Else Say: Family relationships are created to be the most special relationships on earth. God gave us family to know, enjoy, and love one another like nobody else. It’s super easy and fun to love people who are so great and loving. Even people who hate God and the church love family members with lovable characteristics. Have everyone find Matthew 5:46 and 47 and read aloud. Explain that God is not impressed by the love we have for lovable people; the proof of being God’s child is loving those who are *not* easy to love. Why? because this is what God’s love is like!

Have Everyone Find Romans 5:7-10 in Their Bibles. Take turns reading these four verses aloud.

Parent Say: Let’s look at these verses one more time. Verse 7 says that people might love a good or a righteous man enough to die for them. And there’s a good chance they would die for a dearly-loved family member! Would you die for a family member? How about someone who was a good person? Verse 8 explains that God’s love is so great that He died even for sinners! Verses 9 and 10 say that before we were saved by Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, God’s wrath was on us (John 3:36)— we were His enemies because we turned away from loving and obeying Him — we were sinners. God proves how much He loves us by Jesus’ death on the cross. We never have to wonder or doubt again, even in times when we don’t feel it. We can be sure that the cross proved once and for all that His love for us is the deepest, truest love in the whole universe.

Someone Pray John 3:16: *“God, we are so thankful that You loved the world so much that you sent your Son into the world so that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but will have eternal life. We want to return first place love back You.”*



Congratulations! You have completed your the Week 5 First Place Love Envelope Activity! Have a child take the sticker provided in the envelope and place it on the treasure map side of the placemat over the Week 5 position. In conclusion of the challenge: Take a creative selfie of your family holding up your envelope activity and placemat marked with a sticker. We will use this picture to redeem your family prizes and to encourage one another. Post the picture and creative comment on the [FBCW Young Families](#) facebook page followed by this hashtag: **#FPLEnvelopeWk5**



FPL EXTRAS

Extra Gospel Invitation: Last week we had an Extra Activity to use a small Christmas tree to put our paper hearts under to symbolize giving Jesus our highest love and worship. Whenever I think of Christmas, I think of gifts. Gifts can be given, but they don't really have the full effect until they are received and opened. Some people understand that Jesus is God's gift to sinners, but the gift is never received. It is understood but not received. They haven't chosen to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus saved us to bring us back to God—not to just forgive us of our sins, but to restore us to a relationship with God where He is worshipped, and Jesus is our first love and first place. Jesus saved us to that *"they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf"* (2 Corinthians 5:15). John 1:12 says *"But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."* Ask a family member that has not been saved if they understand they are separated from God by their sin, and that God sent Jesus to pay for their sins and to make Himself their Savior and Lord. Ask if they would like to receive Jesus. If so, invite them to pray and ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. (If they pray silently, ask them to describe what they prayed silently.) Assure them that the Bible says in Romans 10:13 that *"Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Celebrate together and encourage them to speak with the pastor for greater understanding, public profession and baptism followup.

IMPORTANT!! Parent, you need to know that your children want to make you happy. It's very possible for a child to "pray the prayer" for this reason. Or because they want to see Great Grandpa in heaven one day. It may not be because God was at work in their heart. Here are some questions to keep your eagerness in check: *is there evidence that the Holy Spirit is convicting them of sin? is there persistent desire to accept Christ as Savior and Lord? can the child verbalize the need for salvation? can the child verbalize the plan of salvation and their desire for it?*

Extra Teaching: Matthew 5:43 and 44 have a couple of great teaching nuggets in them. The first is the phrase "hate your enemy". There is no such verse in Scripture that Jesus is referring to. "You shall love your neighbor" is from Leviticus 19:18, but it makes no mention of "hate your enemy." Jesus said this because the Pharisees and religious leaders were most wrong in their interpretation of the law, not in observance of the law as it was actually written. "Hate your enemy" was the religious leaders' understanding of what "love your neighbor" meant. Jesus explained that "neighbor" is everyone, including those who are not our own countrymen, or like us in our worship practices.

The second nugget is in Matthew 5:44, where it says to love and pray for your enemies (and persecutors) "that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven." This is **not** saying that in order to become a son of God, you have to love your enemies—it's **not** a works prerequisite for salvation. However, it is a fruit and a proof of salvation. If you love those who hate you, it is an indication that God is your Father and you have truly encountered His radical love for you and extend it to others. 1 John 4:7-8 says that everyone who loves is born of God, and the one who doesn't love isn't born of God. vv. 12 and 17 say His love is perfected us. vs 20 says the person who declares love for God but hates others is a liar.

Extra Music: Introduce your family to the **Greatest Commandment (Mark 12-30-31)** song from Seeds Family Worship. This song is available on YouTube. Discuss the truth that Love for God always results in loving others. Remind each other that God loved those who were enemies and that our concern for others should include everyone.

Extra Family on Mission: The **"4xfour Challenge"** is a prayer and friendship challenge issued by our pastor last year. The challenge is for every Christian to do 4 things to 4 people who are far from God until God saves them. The first is to 1) **INQUIRE** - that means to ask Jesus who He wants you to share His love with. Once the Lord brings that person to your attention, 2) **INTERCEDE** - that means to pray for that person every week — for their salvation and for opportunities to love them like Jesus does 3) **INVEST** - that means to prayerfully reach out and start building a relationship with the person as the Lord gives opportunity and prompts you to get to know them and serve them 4) and **INVITE** - that means to invite the person to key events at the church, or into your home, and into a relationship with Christ. The challenge is to start with step 1 and work all the way to step 4 with 4 different people, as the Lord brings them to you. Start with 1, step 1. Add along the way.

Families can also take the 4xfour challenge as a family and begin to ask God for four people you can be praying for and reaching out to as a family. Brainstorm together some ways that your family could have fun reaching out other families God brings into your life.

Encourage your family members to each take the 4xfour Challenge as individuals. Encourage them to take the 4xfour Challenge together. Pray that God will stir you to take this individual or family challenge. As He leads, respond to His loving leadership with your loving obedience. If your family would like to take the Challenge, add **#4xfourchallengefamily** to your selfie post. If individuals in your family will take the challenge, have them take a new selfie together, post it to the **FBCW Young Families** facebook page and add **#4xfourchallengeindividual**