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NOTE FOR PARENTS

As long as we are in a group or community of some sort, there will be moments of disagreement. That is a guarantee. You can take that fact to the bank and wait for interest! This is true in workplaces, classrooms, and locker rooms. It's true among spouses, band members, and commuters on the bus. Disagreement appears on political stages and in social media comment sections. **Anytime someone expresses an opinion, an opportunity presents itself to oppose and refute that opinion and dissolve into conflict.**

But what about the disagreements that happen in church? **What about the divisions that take place, not over opinions or points of view, but over what we understand as Truth?** Both Scripture and history offer examples of arguments among prominent church leaders, resulting in partings of ways and creations of new sects and branches of Christianity. How do we tell someone the truth that they are missing out on? **There's a very simple answer; with love.**

We must remember that we are all imperfect people living in a fallen world. But we were all created in the image of a perfect God, our Heavenly Father without blemish, Creator of all things who loves each of us more than we will ever be able to comprehend. **Jesus died for us because of how deeply He loves us.** And this is the heart posture God wants us to adopt in life, even and especially among those with whom we disagree. **Jesus mentions that the measure we use for others will be used for us.** Now, this passage from Matthew 7:2 talks about judgement, but I wonder if the concept is also applicable to love. Speaking the truth to others using fear, anger, manipulation, or shame as the primary motivation does not honor the value that God has placed on their lives. Nor would we feel loved or valued if someone used such tactics to reveal truth to us.

It is not enough that truth is simply spoken. **God's truth, lovingly revealed to us, must be lovingly shared.**

OASIS KIDS CHURCH AT HOME

1. Watch the video together! [Click here!](#)
 - Parent tip: Sing and do the worship song motions along with your child! Don't be afraid to look silly. They are learning how to engage in worshipping God by watching you.
2. Discuss the Talk it Over Questions Below
3. Pray together at the end!
 - Parent tip: You can either pray your own words with your child and let them pray their own words too, or we've included a prayer for you below to say. You can have them read it themselves. Then encourage them to pray and talk to God using their own words. There's no one right way to pray! Encourage them to talk to God by themselves as well, or to journal their prayers to him. There's no one right way to pray! Use this time to talk to God together with your child.

TALK IT OVER

TEACHING OBJECTIVE: WE CAN SHARE GOD'S TRUTH WITH LOVE!

Memory Verse – Ephesians 4: 14-15

1. Why do you think disagreements happen?
2. How does God want you to treat people that you might disagree with?

Answer: God always wants us to treat others with love, respect, and dignity. Every person in the world is His child and created in His image. Even when we make mistakes or think/say/do/believe the wrong things, God's love for us does not change. Since God extends that type of love for us, and if we hope to receive love from others, we must extend that love even to people that we disagree with.

3. Can you remember a time when you disagreed with a close friend or a family member? What did you do to find common ground?

PRAYER

Dear God,

You are greater than I could ever imagine! I believe that everything You say is true, but I am still learning about the truths in Your Word and how to make them part of my life. It isn't always easy, especially when other people believe something different. I know that there will always be opportunities to disagree and argue with others. Holy Spirit, help me to have a humble heart to learn something new about a truth I don't know. Help me to also share the truths I know with others in love, rather than with a mean spirit or a bad attitude. I honor You, and I want to honor others as well. I love You, Lord!

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen!