

## THRIVE AT HOME - February – WEEK 2

### Monday – Love is the ultimate measure of success - John 13:31-35

**Love is the ultimate measure of success.** Jesus said that it is by your love for each other that the world will know that you are His disciples. (see John 13:35) The society that we live in measures the success of people and situations by their performance and efficiency... I believe that the Lord offers us different criteria:

- The quality of relationships
- The love we give to others
- The care and attention we bring to our families, our friends

Our God is the ultimate God of relationships. Jesus loves you in a unique, personal way. He doesn't see you as someone lost in the crowd; on the contrary, His gaze perceives in you everything that makes you distinct, an individual. God invites you to make Jesus your model—to love, act, and speak like Him.

### Tuesday – His love is perfect - Isaiah 54:10

“‘For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,’ says the Lord, who has mercy on you.” (Isaiah 54:10) My friend, the love of God for you is perfect. This means that nothing can be added to it to make it better or sweeter. It perfectly answers the needs of your heart!

- This love is like heavy, soaking rain falling on the arid ground.
- This love is like a light, refreshing breeze in the heat of summer.
- This passion that He has for you is an ardent flame during the bitterest winter.

God loves you! Listen closely...look...the love of God is everywhere all around and in you. Each morning, He's writing you a love letter. He captures all the first rays of sunlight to light up and warm the soil of your heart. I invite you to receive this love, to believe that God loves you just as you are! Believe that this love is limitless. Grasp this powerful truth so that divine love breaks your chains, dries your tears, and heals your heart.

### Wednesday – Words that convey love...- Proverbs 15:1-2, James 1:19-27

The book of Proverbs is overflowing with excellent advice for our daily lives, whether it be about our relationships, lifestyles, or the choices we make... Proverbs 15 shares great secrets with us about how to resolve the circumstances of anger we all encounter at some point every week. It says, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (see Proverbs 15:1) With God's help, you can respond to hurtful words with soft, gentle answers. Rather than letting anger get the upper hand, go to the Lord again and ask Him for strength and the words to say. Another key is found in James 1:19-20, which says, “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

In taking these words to heart, not only will you grow in self-control and the management of your emotions (rather than letting them control you), but you will also be brought into a place of peace in your relationship with the person involved. Yes, God can use you to bring peace into situations where anger would have taken over! Today and in the days to come, I challenge you...be slow to speak, and when you do, answer kindly and gently. May your mouth be filled with words that convey peace and love. Be an ambassador of God's love...may your words bring healing today!

### Thursday – Live in love - John 13:31-35, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

“‘By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.’” (John 13:35) Would you like to ask God to give you His heart? Do great things, accomplish mighty feats for Him, announce the Gospel to all of creation, and make disciples of all nations—but don't forget to live in love. If you are living in love, what God has sown in your life will produce fruits that will surpass your understanding! I invite you to pray with me: “Lord, in all my doing, let me not forget to live in love. As Your Word says, I am bankrupt without it! (1 Corinthians 13) Please give me Your heart today. In Your name, amen!”

## FOR FAMILIES

*Unpack this past Sunday's Next Gen at home to help your kids grow in their faith! Use a talk point in the car or around the table and have fun with the activities! Your home can THRIVE this week!*



### MONDAY - Psalm 147:4

**Question:** What does God know about you?

**Activity:** Draw a galaxy filled with stars. Choose one star and write your name inside it. Add the words: "God knows me."

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### TUESDAY - Luke 15:3-7

**Question:** Why does God search for people who are lost?

**Game:** Hide a small object (sheep/star). Kids search like astronauts on a mission. First one to find it, wins!

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### Wednesday - Titus 3:5

**Question:** Does God love you before you do anything?

**Craft:** Fold paper into a letter. Front: Message from God. Inside: "You are loved." Decorate with planets and rockets.

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### THURSDAY – God's Love Helps Me Love Others

**Question:** How does God's love help you love others when it's hard?

**Activity:** Draw one way you can show God's love to someone in your family or at school. Do it today. Make the paper into a paper airplane and launch it!

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### FRIDAY – God Celebrates Me

**Question:** What's one way you feel God's love today? (could be as simple as the sunshine, etc.)

**Activity:** Draw outerspace. Write: "God loves me." Add the memory verse somewhere on the page - We love because He first loved us." – 1 John 4:19

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