

LOVE TAUGHT

*12 ways to intentionally understand
and practice love with your children*

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christian parenting

PERFECTLY, IMPERFECT.

**“Dear children,
let us not love
in word or talk,
but in deed
and in truth,”**

1 John 3:18

1. Assigning / drawing "secret" Valentines among your family, encouraging each individual to give gifts for the person they select and trying to give their gifts in secret - these gifts don't need to be costly. Encourage your kids to be creative with their gifts by doing chores secretly for a sibling, leaving notes under their pillows, etc.
2. Loving Kindness Hearts - have a jar for each individual in your home and a stack of heart-shaped cut-outs where any member can write something they love about another member and drop it in their jar.
3. Random Acts of Kindness - there are countless lists of these on the internet or Pinterest - choose one and let your children lead the way in choosing how to show loving kindness to strangers in this season
4. Love someone lonely - consider friends or family who may have an especially difficult Valentine's Day this year due to the loss of a spouse, or being isolated for various reasons. Discuss with your kids how you can love them well by dropping off a meal, sending a special card, or inviting them to join you for your own celebrations.
5. Love Challenges - write down ideas on strips of paper for how your children can love others in your home through their actions, and place in a bowl or jar for easy access. Consider the five love languages of quality time, gifts, words of affirmation, acts of service, and physical touch as you jot down ideas, and randomly challenge a child to choose from the jar and complete the challenge with a family member.
6. Research together how Valentine's Day began
7. Read through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 together and choose one characteristic of love to discuss at dinner each night. Ask how your children have seen each trait displayed by another family member.
8. Prepare and send grandparents cards or crafts.
9. Write a note to each child expressing why you love him/her.
10. Have a red letter day where you decorate with red balloons, have heart shaped pancakes, sandwiches or other red foods.
11. Start an "I love you because" book for each child and update it every year.
12. Decide how to express love to each child based on his/her love language.