



Helping Kids Choose Love God's Way

When "Me First" Turns Into "You First"

Raising Christ-Centered Kids | Character | The Fruit of the Spirit: Love

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"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
(John 13:35, *ESV*)

Key Takeaway

Love puts others first and helps them follow God's way.

The Biblical Meaning of Love

Love is the first fruit of the Spirit. It reflects who God is, because God Himself is love (1 John 4:8). When His Spirit lives in us, His love begins to grow in our hearts. All other fruits (joy, peace, patience, etc.) flow from love rightly ordered toward God and neighbor.

True love is not only a feeling but a choice to seek what is good for others. Jesus showed this love perfectly when He gave His life for us (John 15:13). Because He first loved us, we can love others (1 John 4:19).

The Holy Spirit teaches us to move from "me first" to "you first." Real love acts through serving, forgiving, sharing, and speaking truth with kindness. When we love this way, our lives begin to look more like Jesus. Proverbs 11:24 reminds us, "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer."

Understanding Love: From "Me First" to "You First"

Children often want the first turn, the biggest cookie, or the last word. That is the "me first" part of the heart. Jesus shows us a better way through His humility and servant heart.

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He taught that love means choosing another person's good before our own. This is the pattern of heaven with a love that moves outward. When we



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give love, we do not lose anything; we gain joy and peace. Love grows stronger every time we share it.

God Himself shows us this kind of love. The Father gives Himself to the Son, the Son gives Himself back to the Father, and their love flows out as the Holy Spirit. God's very nature is self-giving love. And because we are made in His image, we find our truest selves when we love the way He does. When we give ourselves away in kindness, forgiveness, and serving others, we don't become less, we become more of who God created us to be.

Practical Steps: Choosing Love with God's Help

1. **Pray Together** – Begin the day asking, “Holy Spirit, help us love like You love.”
2. **Notice Love in Action** – When your child shares, helps, or forgives, name it and celebrate it.
3. **Practice “You First” Moments** – Take turns letting someone else choose first or go first.
4. **Speak Truth Kindly** – Encourage honesty paired with gentleness. Ask, “Was that true and kind?”
5. **Serve as a Family** – Do one small act of service together each week. Write cards, pick up litter, or help a neighbor.

Scripture for Parents and Kids

- “We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19, *ESV*)
- “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13, *ESV*)
- “Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14, *ESV*)

Encouragement for Parents

Children learn love by watching it in action. When you serve, forgive, and tell the truth with kindness, your child begins to see what God's love looks like. Each small act of grace and patience is shaping their heart to reflect Jesus.

Love is not lost when we give it away. It multiplies. In God's Kingdom, every “you first” moment makes room for more joy and peace. When we love others the way Jesus loves us, our homes become places where His Spirit can grow.

CTMP Corner: Kingdom Kids in Action

- **Connect:** Talk about a time someone put you first. How did it make you feel?
- **Teach:** Love means choosing what is best for others.
- **Model:** Try the *You First Challenge* this week—find one way each day to put someone else first.
- **Pray:** “Jesus, thank You for showing us how to love. Help our family to love like You, serving and caring for others from the heart.”