

advent

CELEBRATE JESUS

love

God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life – John 3:16

Daily Readings for the Family: (12/2-12/8/2018)

Monday – Luke 1:28 Tuesday – Luke 1:30 Wednesday – Luke 1:31
Thursday – Luke 1:32 Friday – John 1:14 Saturday – Matthew 1:22-23

Family Thought and Candlelighting: (light last week's candle and the next purple candle)

Love is so much more than just having good feelings about someone or something. In 1 Corinthians 13, the apostle Paul uses more than 200 words to describe love. But, to see the clearest example of love we must only look at Jesus, because Jesus IS love. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Jesus knew all he would endure when he came to earth. But, he willingly submitted to death on the cross to rescue us from sin's curse. He turned something ugly into something beautiful. That is love's power. Paul proclaimed in Romans 8:38-39, *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Love for Today:

These days, love is a frequently used word. Kids and adults alike use it to describe how much they enjoy or prefer something: I love baseball. I love ice cream. I love being with my friends. Used in this context, have we depreciated love's true meaning? First Corinthians 13 describes love as selfless and never-ending. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us SO MUCH that He sent Baby Jesus to be born, knowing that one day He would die for each one of us. This kind of love is far more powerful than just liking a sport or a food. In fact, you may love those things today and change your mind in a few years. But, God's love never changes. He loves us every day, now and forever. This is a love worth proclaiming. Jesus came for YOU. Jesus died for YOU. Jesus loves YOU, and His love is true. Let's share His gift of love this Christmas.

Family Activity:

Just as God loves us, we are called to love others. Christmas is a great time to show God's love to others in your community. Help your child think of three to five people that you could deliver cards to this Christmas season.

On the front of each card help your child write out John 3:16. On the inside, encourage your child to draw a picture and to write a note such as “God loves you and I do too. Merry Christmas!” (If your child is a pre-reader, have him trace letters using colorful crayons.) Deliver the cards as a family.

Connection Questions:

- Who loves you more than anyone else?
- What did Jesus do to show His and His Father's love for you?
- How can you share His love with others?