



1 Love Extravagantly

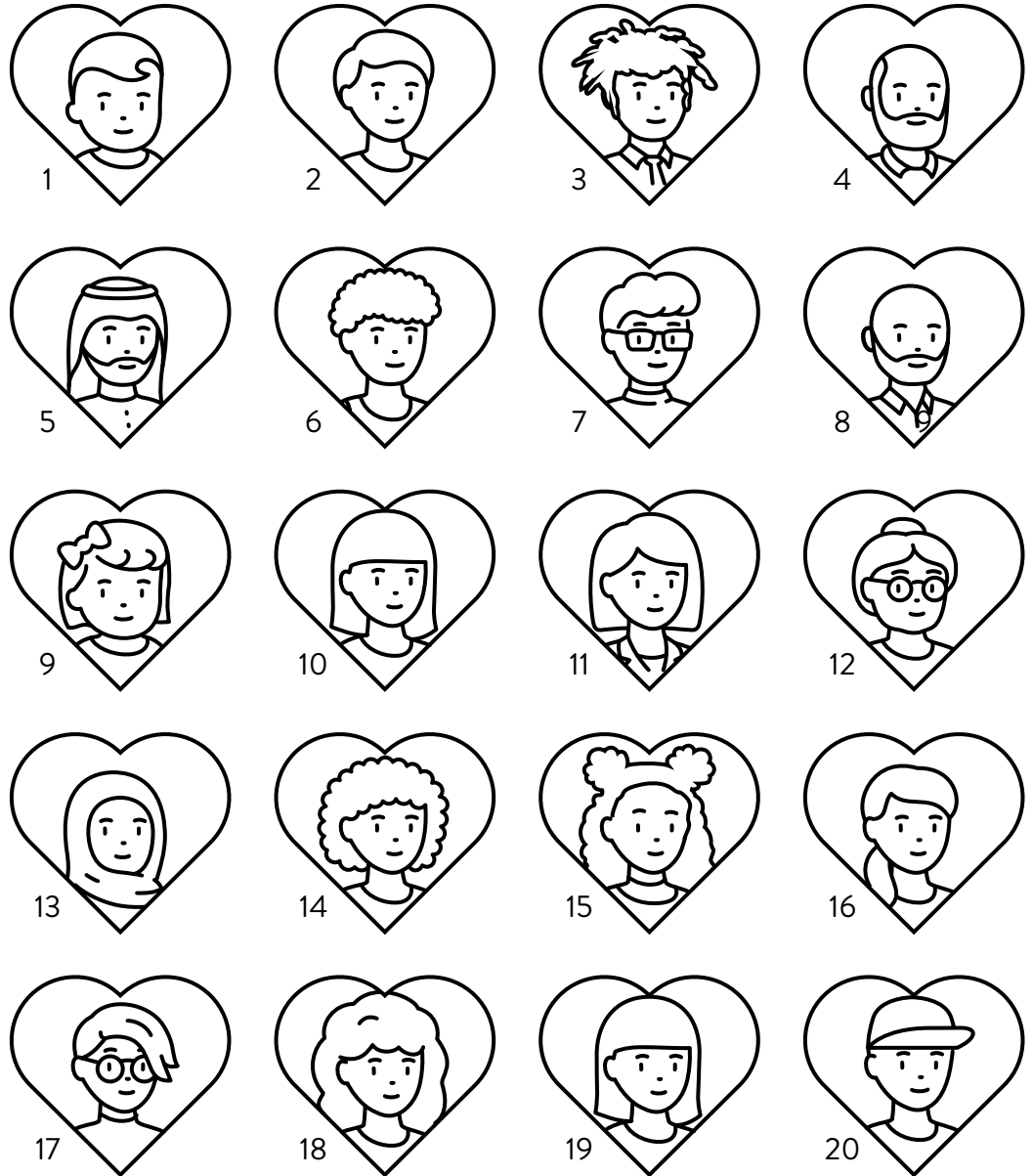
WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

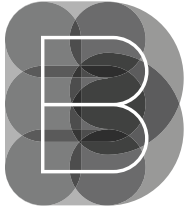
God loves people extravagantly—even the naughty ones. This is good news for those of us who have ever behaved badly. But the same good news gives us pause when we realize God wants us to do likewise and love people extravagantly—even the ones who behave badly or are difficult to love.

- Make a graffiti poster together to remind your family that God loves you all the time, and you can love others too. Using markers or crayons and a piece of poster board, invite family members to complete the prompt with words or pictures: “God loves me even when I . . . , and I love (Name) even when they . . .” Challenge the family to fill the poster board with words and pictures.
- Kindness is love in action. Read together *Kindness Is My Superpower* by Alicia Ortega (Independently published, 2020) or watch the YouTube video “Kindness Is My Superpower Read Aloud” (bit.ly/FMKindnessSuperpower, 8:49). Talk together about acts of kindness. Name ways that you show kindness and how that makes you feel.
- Watch the YouTube video “Danny Gokey—Love God Love People (Lyric Video) ft. Michael W. Smith” (bit.ly/FMLoveGodLovePeople, 3:08). Dance to the music and sing along with the chorus as it becomes familiar.

Dear God, help me to love others, even the ones who are difficult to love at times, remembering that you love me no matter what. Amen.

Jesus told us to love everyone. Not just the people who are like you. Find the two people who are alike.





BIBLE STORY

Based on Luke 6:27–36

Jesus was a very popular teacher. Crowds of people would travel great distances to hear him speak. One day, Jesus decided to have an outdoor story time. He stopped at a large, flat piece of land and began telling love stories, but not the type of love stories the people were expecting. Jesus had some surprising things to say about love. He said:

You have come all this way to listen to my stories; listen up as I talk about love. Love the people who are mean to you. Choose to be nice to them even though they are not nice to you. If a person hurts you, you might hope that bad things will happen to that person. But instead, you should pray for that person. If someone hits you or takes something from you without your permission, do not hit them back. Do not demand they give you back your stuff. Instead, surprise them by showing them a better way to live. How would you like people to treat you? That is how you should treat others.

Why should you get a trophy for loving people who already love you? Why should you get an award for doing nice things to people who already do nice things to you? Why should you get a medal for giving away your stuff to people only after they promise they will eventually give everything back to you? These are all things that anyone can do without much thought and effort—including people who normally do not choose to do the kind and right thing.

Be different. Love everyone, not just the people who love you, but the people who are mean to you and people who are hard to love. Do the right thing and be generous, not because you want special attention, but because it is the right thing to do. Do not copy the actions of other people; instead copy God's actions. God is kind to people who do not appreciate it. God is kind to people even when they are naughty and make bad choices. Choose kind, just as God is kind.



CHOOSE KIND,