



**Parent  
Cue**

**SMALL  
TALK**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Love...God with all your heart.”

Matthew 22:37, NIV

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus Wants to be My Friend Forever

**BOTTOM LINE**

Love God with all your heart.

**KEY QUESTION**

How do you love God?

**FEBRUARY  
2012**

**WEEK 1 | LUKE 2:41-50**

Mary and Joseph are worried when they realize Jesus is not with them as they travel home from Jerusalem. They go back and find Him teaching in the temple at only 12-years-old.

**WEEK 3 | MATTHEW 22:34-40, ACTS 9:1-30**

Jesus teaches that the second commandment is like the first; love others as yourself. Jesus chooses Saul to spread the Good News of salvation to all people.

**WEEK 2 | MATTHEW 22:34-40**

Jesus teaches that the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart.

**WEEK 4 | MATTHEW 6:5-13**

Jesus teaches us how to talk to God.



**first look  
HOME**



**PLAY TIME:** Kids love making and eating cookies. Look for heart-shaped cookies at the store or make your own. Talk about how to love God with ALL your heart as you make/buy the cookies. (Talk to God, love people, do what God says, etc.) When it comes time to eat a cookie, look at your whole cookie and say, "Look! Love God with ALL your heart." Take a bite and say, "Uh oh! That's not ALL my heart anymore! Some is missing." Each time you get a new cookie say, "Love God with ALL my heart."



**CAR TIME:** Talk to your child about how your good, good friend Jesus teaches you how to love God with all your heart. This being the month of love you should see Valentine hearts just about everywhere you go. Each time you see a heart say, "I love God!" or "Love God with all your heart."



**BATH TIME:** Grab a pack of rectangle kitchen sponges the next time you're at the grocery store. Cut them into heart shapes. Present these new heart-shaped sponges to your child at bath time. As you bathe your child with the heart-shaped sponges, talk about how much your heart loves your child, and guess what? God's heart loves him even more! Because God loves us, we love Him and love others.



**PARENT TIME:**

God loves us. It's true. And, it's not a little bitty love either. It's a HUGE, AMAZINGLY BIG love. God loves us. He loves us so much He sent His Son to die for us. He sent His Son to die for you. Wow!

When His Son, Jesus, was asked what the most important thing we do as commanded by this amazingly loving God, He said, "Love God and love people." We are to love God with all our heart. All of it. And, because we love God, we are to love people also. All people. All of them.

This loving of people begins at home. You would think that would be easy—to love your family. However, sometimes, it's hard to show that love. It's especially hard to show that love when we're angry, when we need to discipline. Then, we want to skip the love part. But, that's the most important part. That's what God said. Loving Him and loving people—those are the most important things.

As we parent each day, we are to love first—show grace first. Then, we discipline. In that order. Loving comes first. Carey Nieuwhof unpacks more of this strategy in February's Parent Link Live on [www.OrangeParents.org](http://www.OrangeParents.org). Listen to this podcast to hear how loving first works at his house.



**CUDDLE TIME:** Cuddle up with your child and pray with him. "Dear God, we want to love You with all our heart. We know loving people shows You that we love You. Help us to love (name people you know). Amen." Note: Try and think of different people like family and friends that your child can love. Be specific about those people in your prayers together.

