

Questions and Family Activities



Comprehension Questions:

- How does Alexander's mom show love for him?
- How does Alexander show love for his mom and for the baby? (by helping his mom and taking care of the baby)
- How did Soloman and Holoman's father show love for them? (he gave them gifts that could help them do well in life) How did the two brothers use their gifts from their father in different ways? (one uses what he has to get more; one just hoards his)
- How does Soloman try to show love for his brother? (he sees that he's sick and needs food and provides it for him in a way that he'll accept it) Why doesn't Holoman want to accept his brother's help and love? (he feels like things are unfair and is resentful of his brother)
- Why is Holoman Skiezer mean and unloving? (He looks for what's bad about everything)
- Why is Soloman Skeizer kind and loving? (He's grateful and sees what's good about everything)
- How does Alexander show kindness and love for Holoman?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to love someone?
- What are some ways that we show love? How can we show love through words? How can we show love through actions?
- It's easier to show love to someone who seems to love us. Can you think of a time when it was hard to love someone but you loved them anyway?
- Can we ever run out of love? Why not?
- What are some ways we show love in our family? What does mom do to show love? What does dad do to show love? What do you do to show love?

Scenarios:

Let's say there's a kid at school who pushes other kids around and is often getting in trouble. What might be some of the reasons that kid is mean?

Let's say your brother is in a really bad mood and kicks you hard when you just barely



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bumped into him. Why do you think your brother would be mean to you? What might have happened to make him in a bad mood? How could you respond with love?

Let's say your sister gets a big award for getting great grades at school. You've been struggling with your grades and you feel a little jealous and sad when she gets the award and everyone is talking about how great she is. How can you use love to help yourself feel better?

Let's say you catch your 2-year-old brother making a big mess in your room. How can you respond with love?

Let's say your mom got really mad at you for something that really didn't seem like a big deal. What might be happening with her? How could you respond with love?

Family Activity Ideas:

Secret Buddies

Write everyone's name on a slip of paper and put them in a hat. Have everyone draw a name out of the hat. For one week, everyone does secret services for the person whose name they've drawn. Examples of secret services might include making that person's bed, doing their dinner job, leaving a little treat or note for that person on their pillow, etc. Everyone is supposed to do at least 3 things for their secret person during the week.

After a week, gather together and have each person try to guess who their secret service person was and then reveal who was serving whom. Talk about how it felt to do kind and loving things for those we love all week. Talk about how love creates more love.

Valentine Thank You Cards

Brainstorm a list of all the people outside your immediate family who do nice things for you (could include teachers, grandparents, neighbors, moms who drive carpools, the mail man, the garbage man, you name it . . .). Then each family member can choose a few (2-3 works well) people they want to make a nice Valentine for. Get a pile of red and pink construction paper plus paper doilies if you like so kids can create their own unique Valentines. Or just get some blank Valentine cards to use. Write -- or dictate in the case of pre-writers -- a nice little personalized thank you note on each Valentine. Ooh and aah over each other's cards. Deliver them to happy recipients before Valentine's Day!

Additional Ideas:

- **Parents – Daily Love and Praise:** Tell your children one thing you especially love about each of them as you tuck them in bed every night for a week – see how this affects your feelings towards them as well as their behavior!
- **Parents – Love Letters:** Write each of your children a special “love letter” for Valentine's Day this year. In the letter, tell them what you especially love about them, what makes them unique and special to you, what potential you see in them, that sort of thing.
- **Older Children – Top 10 Lists:** Have children make special Valentines for each member of their immediate family, detailing their “top 10” list of what they love about each person.



- **Family – Hugs and Kisses:** Have a contest to see how many hugs and kisses each person can give to other family members over the course of a day. Make a point all month to give extra hugs and kisses – even to older kids who may not seem quite as “huggable.” Say “I love you” a lot – perhaps every time you say good bye to someone in your family.
- **Family – Showing Love:** At the dinner table every night for a week, have everyone write down or share at least one thing they did that day to show love for someone.
- **Family – Loving Ourselves:** Have everyone make a list of things they love about themselves (can include the things they feel they are good at). Share your own list with your children so they can see through your example that it’s important to love ourselves and to recognize our own unique talents and abilities and qualities
- **Family - Service:** Decide on a special service you can do for a neighbor or friend in need to show your love. Make cookies for someone and drop them off with a kind note. Invite the little children of a young couple over so you can babysit them together as a family and allow that couple to go out to dinner on their own. Invite someone over to dinner who might enjoy the chance to eat with your family. Shovel someone’s snow. Get creative!



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