

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT MEANS TO BE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE?

The reason mirrors work is because they don't absorb or soak in light. Instead, the light bounces off the surface and reflects the image back at us. That's why you can stare at a cereal box or the sidewalk all day long but you'll never see your face reflected in it. Anything that's not shiny and smooth soaks up the light rather than reflecting it.

God created us in His image because He wants us to reflect Him to those around us. He gave us an individual personality, skills, talents, and abilities to do that.

Do you still have the list of words from yesterday that describe God? If so, pick five of the words you circled. Think of a way you can use those qualities to make a difference today.

To help you get started, write a word from your list here: _____

Next, finish this sentence: I can reflect God with this quality by _____.

If you didn't do yesterday's activity, here are a few words that would have probably been on the list. They describe qualities of God that He has also given to us: Pick some to use in the activity above.

LOVE KIND FORGIVING STRONG HELPFUL CREATIVE COMPASSIONATE

DAY 4

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name _____

Parent Signature _____

LIVE FOR GOD



INDIVIDUALITY DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

MIRRORS. EVER WONDER WHERE THEY CAME FROM?

A long time ago people would look at their reflection in a pool of calm, clear water. Eventually, someone figured out how to polish up copper, bronze, or stone to create a shiny surface that would reflect their image. Finally, around 1835, a German chemist named Justus von Liebig, developed a process for applying a thin layer of metallic silver to one side of a pane of clear glass. Shazaam! The modern-day mirror was born.

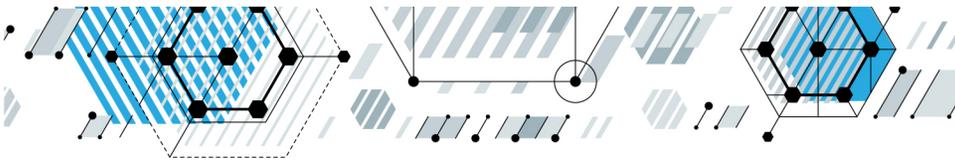
This week, we'll use a mirror to remind us of the way we're made to be a reflection of God's image. We don't look like God—not even on our best day. But we do share some of His traits. For example, we can think, love, create, and forgive. We won't ever be a perfect reflection of God—only Jesus could do that—but those who follow Jesus can grow to be more like Him every day.

READ GENESIS 1:26-28 OUT LOUD IN FRONT OF A MIRROR.

Whenever you say God's name, look up and smile because that's what God does when He says YOUR name.

DAY 1





Have you ever looked in the mirror and didn't like what you saw? Maybe you were having a bad hair day or your outfit wasn't working just right. We might not look our best all the time, but thankfully that's not the way God sees those who are His children. He looks at us and sees someone created in His image.

**PSALM 139:14 SAYS,
HOW YOU MADE ME IS AMAZING AND WONDERFUL.
I PRAISE YOU FOR THAT. WHAT YOU HAVE DONE IS
WONDERFUL. I KNOW THAT FULL WELL. (NIRV)**

PRAY PSALM 139:14 BACK TO GOD—SORT OF LIKE THIS:

"God, how You made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise You for that. What You have done is wonderful. I know that full well."

The next time you look in the mirror, remember, you're looking at an amazing creation from God.

DAY 3

Find a piece of plain paper and a pen or marker. Write "GOD IS . . ." at the top of the paper.

Ask some people you know and trust to tell you one-word descriptions of God. Write their words and as many words as you can think of on the page.

Next, use a pen or marker to circle each word that also describes you. You're obviously not God, but because you're made in His image, you share some of the same qualities.

If it's okay with your family, attach the list to a large mirror in your house where you'll see it often.

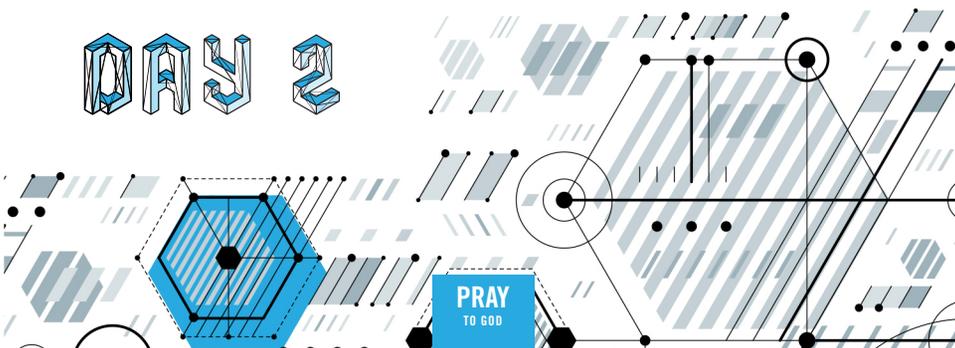
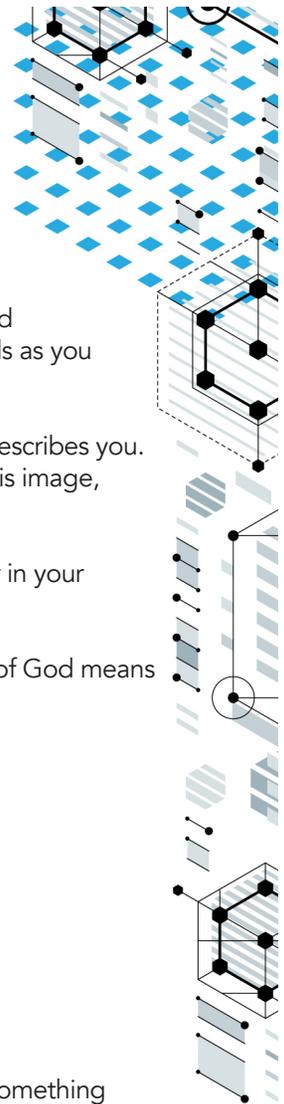
When you do, remember that being made in the image of God means **ONE THING FOR SURE:**

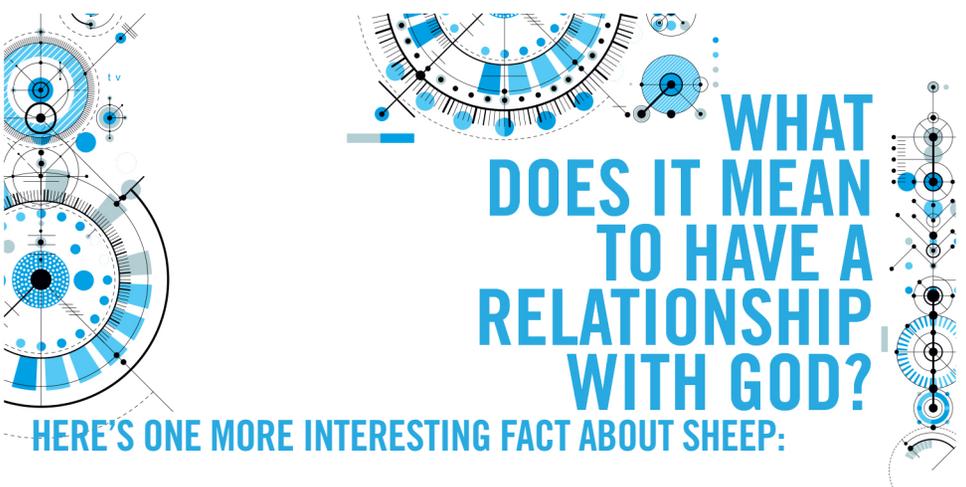
YOU MATTER.

YOU HAVE PURPOSE.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Wait. That's more than ONE thing. Proof that you share something else with God: you're AMAZING!





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

HERE'S ONE MORE INTERESTING FACT ABOUT SHEEP:

Sheep have an insane knack for recognizing their shepherd. They know his voice and what he looks like. Which is a good thing because without the protection and help of the shepherd, a sheep would not make it very long on its own. Unlike other animals, sheep don't have super great survival skills. They can't find food and water, fight off predators, or figure out how to get back to the flock if they wander away.

SHEEP NEED A SHEPHERD.

The same is true for us. We need our Good Shepherd, Jesus. We need to know Him and grow in that relationship by learning to listen to His voice and follow Him. What will you do this week to get to know God or to grow your relationship with Him?

If you're reading this, you're already taking a step in the right direction. We get to know God best by reading the Bible and talking to Him. Maybe you can start a journal as an on-going conversation with God. Or memorize a verse. Or spend time each day in the Bible.

If you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus yet, or if you have questions, ask a trusted adult to help you understand why knowing Jesus is so important.

DAY 4



BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

Parent Signature

LIVE
FOR GOD



INDIVIDUALITY

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

Did you ever get lost as a little kid? Maybe it was in a store or a park. If you were like most little kids, you probably started to panic and cry. Being lost in a strange place can be a scary thing for a kid.

Truth is, you weren't the only one freaking out. The people who lost you were panicking, too! Nothing else mattered at that moment except finding you.

TAKE A LOOK AT LUKE 15:1-7. It's the story Jesus told of a shepherd who lost one of his sheep. As you read the story, picture yourself as the sheep and Jesus as the shepherd.

That was one cool shepherd, right? He knew when a sheep wandered away. He dropped everything and took off to find it. He hoisted the sheep onto his shoulders and carried it back to the flock. He couldn't wait to tell everyone that his lost sheep was found.

If you're lost right now, if you don't believe Jesus is who He says He is, or maybe you don't know what you believe, Jesus is looking for you. He's looking because He loves you. How amazing is that! The God of the universe knows YOU and He wants you to get to know HIM.

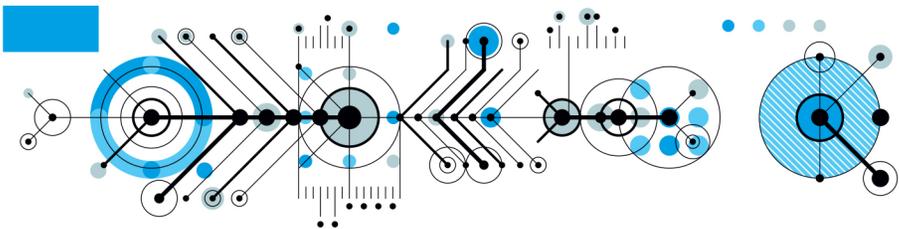
DAY 1



PRETEEN

HEAR
FROM GOD

WEEK 2



LET'S TALK ABOUT SHEEP FOR A MINUTE. DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- A lamb can identify its mother by the sound she makes.
- Sheep can't see well but they have an excellent sense of hearing.
- Sheep are timid and nervous. They are easily frightened That's why they flock together.
- If a sheep rolls over on its back, it can't get up. It will die if someone doesn't help it back on its feet.

God gave sheep some cool abilities, but there's one thing they will ever be able to do. A sheep will never have a relationship with God the way you can. Sheep might know the sound their mother makes, but they can't talk to God. They can huddle together when they're afraid, but they can't trust God with their fears.

But we can.

A HUGE PART OF BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS TALKING TO HIM. TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO DO WHAT SHEEP CAN NEVER DO. PRAY.

- THANK God for something.
- TELL God about something that's on your mind.
- PRAISE God for something you love about Him.
- ASK God for help with something that needs to change in order for you to have a better relationship with Him.



PRAY
TO GOD



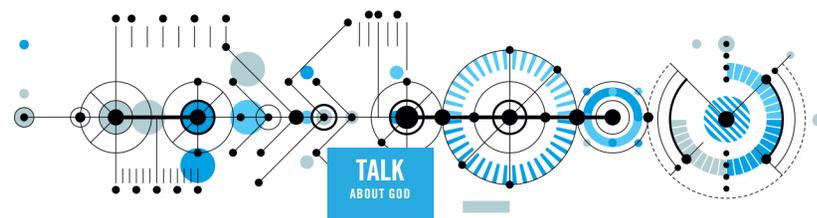
Ask some friends or family members to tell you about a time when they were lost. Maybe it happened when they were a kid. Or, maybe as an adult they got lost while traveling to a new place.

WHAT DID THEY DO? HOW DID THEY FEEL? WHO HELPED THEM?

Getting lost isn't fun. It can be scary. If you've ever been lost, you know what it's like. The good news is that if you're reading this, you were found. Someone made sure you didn't stay lost.

That's what Jesus came to do. He was given the job of rescuing every lost person who believes in Him. No one stays lost and separated from God when they put their faith in Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

We were made to be in a relationship with God, not separated from Him. Jesus made the way for that to happen. Sin makes us lost and far from God. Jesus took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. Now, like a shepherd looking for his lost sheep, Jesus looks for those who will believe in Him.



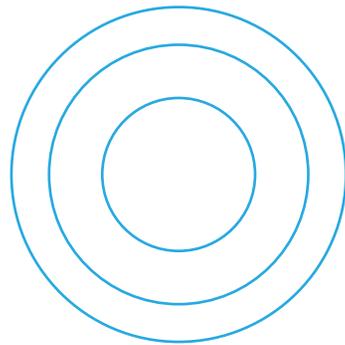
TALK
ABOUT GOD

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE RIGHT NOW?

You were made to make a difference and it can begin today. You don't have to wait 20 years. You don't have to be a grown up. You can make a difference in the world right now.

DRAW THREE CIRCLES THAT LOOK LIKE THIS:

Inside the first circle, write one way you can make a difference at home. In the second circle, write something you can do at school or church to make a difference. In the third circle, write a way you can make a difference in your community or other parts of the world.



If you need some ideas, think back on the things you prayed on day two or the things you talked about on day three.

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name

Parent Signature

DAY 4

LIVE FOR GOD



INDIVIDUALITY

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

The church in Ephesus was very confused. There were teachers who were telling people things that weren't true about God. Paul had given Timothy the tough job of helping the people in the Ephesian church to recognize what was false teaching and to follow what was true. Not an easy job for young Timothy.

Paul sent Timothy a letter that gave Timothy instruction and encouragement. It contains this verse: 1 Timothy 4:12.

Read 1 Timothy 4:12 then rewrite it in your own words on the lines below. Paraphrasing a Bible verse helps you think about what it means.

Timothy was a very young leader, but he used his gifts and made a big difference. You can make a difference, too—right here, right now. Every follower of Jesus has a job to do and the gifts to do it with God's help.

If you'd like to read more about Timothy, check out the following verses:

- Acts 14: 1-13; 16:1, 3b
- Acts 16:1-5
- 1 Timothy 4:14
- 1 Corinthians 1:11; 4:17; 7:1a; 16:10

DAY 1



PRETEEN

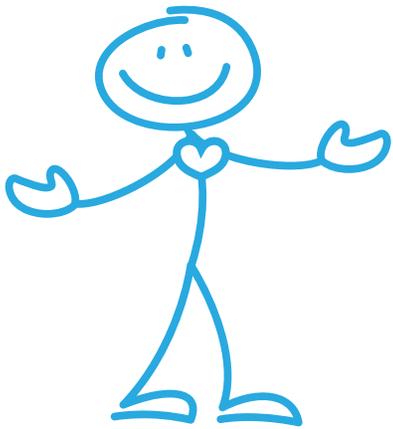
HEAR FROM GOD

WEEK 3

DAY 2

You're probably not able to pack up and move to the jungle to serve God while you're in fifth grade, but there are plenty of other things you can do right now that will make a difference.

Take a few minutes to pray about what it might look like for you to make a difference for God in your part of the world. Draw a stick figure like the one pictured below. As you draw each part, talk to God using the prayer prompts next to the steps.



1. Draw the head of your stick figure: Invite God to help you know Him better.
2. Give stick figure a mouth: Ask God to help you use your voice and words to tell others about him.
3. Add eyes and ears: Invite God to open your eyes and ears to ways you can make a difference today.
4. Draw the main body then add a heart: Thank God for his love then ask him to help you grow in your love for him.
5. Give your stick figure arms and hands: Offer back to God the gifts he's given you in order to serve him.
6. Finish by drawing legs and feet: Tell God that you want to stand strong for Him so that you can make a difference.

IN JESUS NAME, AMEN.

PRAY
TO GOD



DAY 3

Kids your age who follow Jesus can (and should) make a difference. You don't have to be any older, taller, smarter, richer, or cooler than you already are.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS . . .

- asking the new kid to sit with you at lunch
- taking time to memorize a promise from God's Word
- choosing to tell the truth
- being willing to share your stuff
- using your words to build up instead of tear down

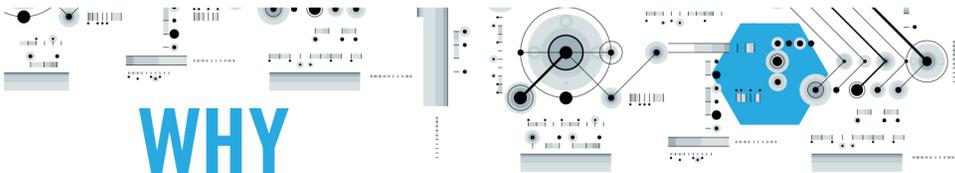
To get some ideas of ways YOU can make a difference, ask a trusted adult who knows you to finish the sentences below. Then talk about what he or she says.

(Insert your name here) could make a big difference in the world by _____.

(Insert your name here) could make a big difference in the world by not _____.

THINK OF SOME WAYS YOU CAN PUT INTO PRACTICE WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT.

TALK
ABOUT GOD



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LOOK ON THE INSIDE?

1 Samuel 16:7 is one of the best verses in the whole Bible. It's worth remembering. Here's how it goes:

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have not chosen him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outside of a person. But the LORD looks at what is in the heart, (NIV)."

See if you can memorize the last sentence of 1 Samuel 16:7 by repeating it five times. It's the part that's in bold letters above. Each time you say it, use a different voice.

1. robot
2. chipmunk
3. whisper
4. opera singer
5. rap

DID YOU DO IT? SAY IT ONE MORE TIME IN YOUR REGULAR VOICE.

Congratulations! You just hid God's Word in your heart. Don't be surprised if God brings it to mind the next time you're tempted to write someone off before getting to know them. If you only look at the outside of people, you'll miss the most important part of everyone.



BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name _____

Parent Signature _____

LIVE FOR GOD



INDIVIDUALITY

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

Have you ever heard this phrase, "Don't judge a book by its cover?"

It means that the outside of a book isn't the most important part. It's what's inside that counts. The cover might look boring or ugly but the story that's hidden in the pages can be interesting and exciting.

When God sent Samuel off to find the right kind of king for Israel, he didn't use the example of a book cover but he did say something much like it.

READ 1 SAMUEL 16:7 TO FIND OUT WHAT HE TOLD SAMUEL THEN WRITE IT HERE.

When Samuel was choosing David, God helped him understand that true worth isn't found in what someone looks like on the outside, but who they are on the inside. That's what really matters to God. And that's what should matter to us as we get to know people, choose our friends, and treat others the way we want to be treated.





DAY 2

IF WE'RE HONEST, AT SOME POINT, WE'VE ALL LOOKED AT A PERSON AND FORMED AN OPINION ABOUT THEM BASED ON WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

Even before we know their name, we've decided whether we like them based on how they dress, how old or young they are, or any number of things that seem cool or uncool to us.

We've all been guilty of looking only at outward appearances and forgetting that there's so much more to someone than that. On the flip-side, we also know how it feels to be the one someone decides not to like before they even get to know us.

No matter what you see on the outside, everybody is uniquely created by God in His image and that makes them important.

TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY LIKE THIS:

1. Think of kids or other people you've ignored or treated badly because of the way they look. Ask God to forgive you.
2. Think of kids or other people who've ignored or treated you badly because of the way you look. Ask God to help you forgive them.
3. Thank God for making you in His image then ask Him to help you remember that everyone has an inside that's worth getting to know.

PRAY
TO GOD

DAY 3

HERE'S A CHALLENGE FOR YOU:

Talk to one or two of your closest friends about ways you can get to know some of the kids that others often ignore at school or in your neighborhood. Brainstorm some ways you can know them better. Until you know what's in a person's heart, you really don't know that person.

IT COULD MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE IF YOU ...

- asked how they're today
- invited them to sit with you
- found out what they like to do after school
- learned what love (and don't love) about school

God looks at what's in the heart of a person. And that's what we should do, too. Look for the things in that person that are important to God then treat them like they matter. Because they do.

TALK
ABOUT GOD

HOW DO OTHERS KNOW YOU LOVE THEM?

Have you ever filled a glass so full that it overflows and spills out onto the table? It drenches everything around it, right? Picture that overflowing glass . . . minus the part where you make a mess and get in trouble.

Just like that glass, a heart full of love for God overflows into love for others. If you are a follower of Jesus, your love for Him will grow and grow and then love will show up in the way you treat people.

So, let's see how much of God's love you can spill out into the lives of the people you're with today.

If you worked on the calendar project yesterday, you probably came up with a bunch of great ways to live out Jesus' command to love God and love others. Put those ideas into action today and you'll be making a difference in someone's life.

LOVE GOD FIRST THEN LET THAT LOVE OVERFLOW TO OTHERS BY LETTING THEM KNOW YOU CARE.

BRING THIS BACK NEXT WEEK!

Name _____

Parent Signature _____

DAY 4

LIVE FOR GOD



INDIVIDUALITY

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE MEANT TO BE

The Pharisees tried to get Jesus in trouble by asking Him a trick question. They wanted Him to pick a commandment that He thought was the greatest or most important. Then, they would use His answer to accuse Him in some way.

But the trick was on them. Jesus gave an answer that no one could find fault with.

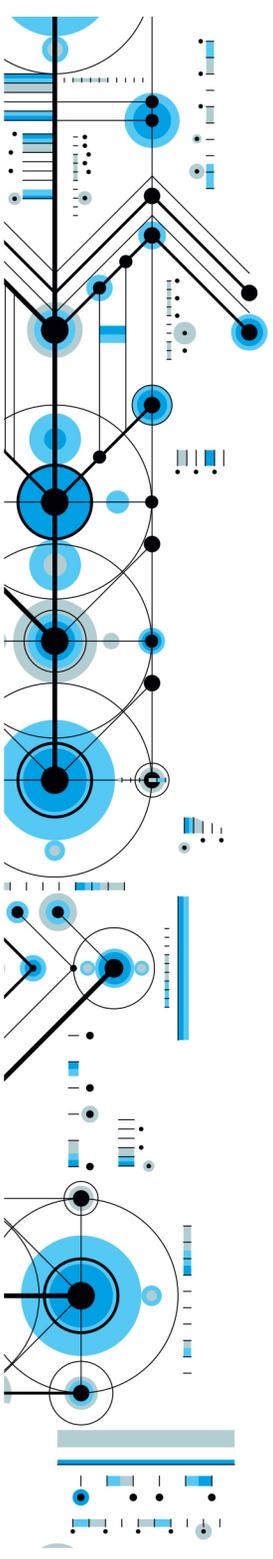
READ THE CONVERSATION IN MATTHEW 22:34-40.

Jesus made it clear that loving God was the most important command of all. Not even a snarky old Pharisee could argue with that. Then, He went on to add that the next most important command was to love others. One of the ways we show our love for God is by caring about the people He created.

Can you imagine the difference it would make if everyone did those two things—loved God and loved others? Go ahead. Close your eyes and picture what it would look like in your home or school if people put God and others first.

Now that you have that picture in your mind, go make it happen by doing what God made you to do—love Him and love others.





DAY 2

JESUS MADE IT CLEAR HOW MUCH WE SHOULD LOVE GOD.

WITH *ALL* OF OUR HEART.

WITH *ALL* OUR SOUL.

WITH *ALL* OUR MIND.

Even if you're not good at math, you know that ALL adds up to EVERYTHING.

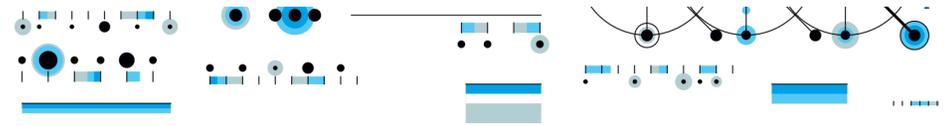
He also said to love others as much as you love yourself.

God made us to love Him and to love others, but He knows we can't do it on our own. We need His help which is one of the reasons we pray.

Raise your hands in the air and ask God to help you love Him more and more every day. Reach out to the side and ask God to help you love those around you. If there's someone you're struggling to love right now, talk to God about that person and give God a chance to change your heart.

A HEART THAT LOVES GOD WILL LOVE OTHERS AND THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PRAY
TO GOD



DAY 3

FIND A WALL CALENDAR OR PULL UP THE CALENDAR ON YOUR PHONE.

Brainstorm with your family or other trusted friends ways you can show love to others. Write each idea on a different day of the week. See if you can fill up a whole week with an idea for each day. They can be as simple as giving up the TV remote for a day or as elaborate as hosting a surprise party to encourage someone who's going through a tough time.

When you're done with that, pick another week and brainstorm ideas of way you can show your love for God. Again, it can be as easy as praying before a meal or as big as sharing your faith with someone who doesn't know Jesus.

For an even greater challenge, fill up a whole month with ideas. But don't just put the calendar back on the wall and go watch TV—get busy doing what you were made to do.

PUT YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION EACH DAY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

