



WEEK THREE

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LOVE YOUR ENEMIES • MATTHEW 5:43-47

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SAY THIS:

LOVE OTHERS BECAUSE THEY MATTER TO GOD.



DO THIS:



Some people just seem harder to love than others. But we are all made by God, in His image every person matters to Him. That means that we are called to love everyone. But you don't have to do it on your own. God can give you His love, even for those people in your life who are hard to get along with. Pray that God would help you to show love to the difficult people in your life.



REMEMBER THIS:

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins."

1 JOHN 4:10, NIV



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LOVE:

CHOOSING TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED

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FOUR QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT RACISM

By Parent Cue

As parents, we have an incredible opportunity to promote racial reconciliation through the influence we have on our kids—who are watching, listening, and taking it all in. As you think about how to talk to your kids about the realities of racism, we encourage you to ask yourself a few questions:

1. What are your feelings about the issue?

In order to have honest conversations with our kids, we need to be honest with ourselves. Check your heart and your thoughts. Be sure to take a step back and identify how you might need to change in your prejudices and in your interactions with others. Reflect on what it really means to love those whom God loves, and unrelentingly pursue forgiveness and reconciliation.

2. Do you celebrate diversity?

Some parents may be tempted to try to teach their kids to be blind to color, to shy away from acknowledging differences or just ignore them altogether. But the truth is that we are all very different in the way God made us—in our skin color, in our genetic makeup, and in our culture. And that's something to be celebrated, not ignored. Do you model the belief with your words and actions that God made each of us unique and beautiful even in our differences? Do you demonstrate respect towards those

you disagree with? How diverse is your circle of friends and the people you associate with? How can you widen that circle for your family?

3. Are you talking about racism?

Racism is a difficult and sensitive topic, but it does exist, often in the form of subtle comments and prejudice, but sometimes it's outright hatred and violence. Not talking about it doesn't make it go away. Discover the truth from various outlets and seek to understand other perspectives. When you find the right words that honestly and respectfully express how you think and feel, choose your words carefully.

Then talk to your kids so you can equip them with the values and the words they will need to respect, celebrate, and stand up for those who are being discriminated against.

4. Are you focused on love?

It's important to talk to your kids about how your family can respond to racism in a positive way. As you navigate these important conversations, focus on what matters most: LOVE. Put love into action, and rest in the hope that is found there.



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