



WEEK FOUR

A WOMAN POURS PERFUME ON JESUS AT BETHANY • MARK 14:1-9



ASK THIS:

HOW CAN YOU SHOW LOVE TO GOD?



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



DO THIS:



Ask your preteen, "Who is someone in your life right now that is hard to love? What have you done recently to show that person love?" Remind them, you can show God love by loving others—try it out!

LOVE:

CHOOSING TO TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED



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LOVE ON DISPLAY

By Sarah Anderson

Growing up, I had one of those old blue rectangular Kodak cameras with the orange "point and shoot" button. It came everywhere with me—including a trip my family took to Disney World. While there, I captured an image I still have a copy of. As we exited the park, I watched as my parents—oblivious to our watching—took each other's hands. At eleven years old, even I understood—I was witnessing magic. That was worth capturing. So, I snapped a picture. Two actually.

It may sound unremarkable. A small display of affection that caught a kid's attention. But I think what I tried to memorialize represented more than a husband and wife stealing moments of warmth under their children's watch. To me, it was a stabilizer. It was a security. It was a chance to exhale a sigh of relief. "There is something right in the world," it told me. Love was on display.

I am one of the lucky ones—privy to purposeful displays of love between my parents, observing a good marriage—and ultimately witnessing Jesus in the midst. But my parent's 40-year marriage isn't typical these days—the storybook plotline of familial bliss is more rare than common

But I also know this. All hope is not lost. **Though family circumstances may be less than ideal, our potential to display**

**something big—for the sake of our kids and in the lives of our kids—is not diminished.** Though our families may look different, though the dream of what we wanted to be may be a far cry from where we currently are, there is an achievable end for every one of us—and by extension, our kids. Love—intentional, directed, consistent love.

We don't have to have perfect circumstances, relationships, marriage, or kids for love to show up and for love to matter. The world is watching—but also and *always*, our kids are watching. What if we gave them something to watch? To marvel at? To be intrigued by? To be inspired to imitate?

What if our love on display matters more than we ever thought? More than our dysfunction? Disappointment? Disenchantment? Because we never know who's observing, desperate for a picture of something good. Something real. Something magic. In your commitment to display love, you may give someone—especially those you share a roof with—the opportunity to snap a mental picture of **you**—and give them **Jesus** in the process.



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