

Read 1 JOHN 4:9

Day 1

Draw a line from each language to the phrase you think it matches.

Je t'aime	Spanish
Ya lyublyu tebya	Japanese
Ich liebe dich	French
Te amo	Mandarin Chinese
Kimi o ai shiteru	Gaelic
Wo ai ni	Russian
Ta gra agam ort	German

Do you know what all of those phrases mean? If you guessed "I love you," you're right! These are just a handful of the ways to tell someone you love them. Considering there are around 7,000 languages in the world, that means there are more than 7,000 ways to say, "I love you." But add in all of the ways to SHOW someone you love them, and there's no way to even be able to count all the ways someone can communicate these three little words. In all the millions of ways to say and show "I love you," though, one stands out far above the rest. And it's that God sent His one and only Son into the world to save us from our sins and give us new life in Him.

THANK God for not just saying that He loves us, but for showing it too.

Answers: French, Russian, Japanese, Spanish, German, Mandarin, Gaelic

Day 2

Read 1 JOHN 4:11

It's easy at Christmas to think about compassion and giving. It's a natural response when everyone in is a giving mood to join in the fun of sharing love and exchanging gifts with each other. But compassion doesn't stop when all the Christmas decorations are put away. Because those of us who love God know that He lives in our hearts, and that love should make us want to love others year-round—not just certain times of the year.

Find six sheets of blank paper. Fold the sheets in half and find a way to bind them together (staple, hole punch, or tie them). Write the months of the year in order—one on each of the 12 pages—to create a calendar of ideas. On each month, write or illustrate a way you can show love to someone that month. (For January: offer to shovel the snow off an elderly neighbor's driveway. February: help your mom set the table without being asked. March: ask a parent for help making cookies for firemen or nurses.)

Make it a goal to complete a "love task" each month. You could even tape a photo of what you end up doing so that your list becomes a scrapbook!

ASK God to help you show love to others all throughout the year.

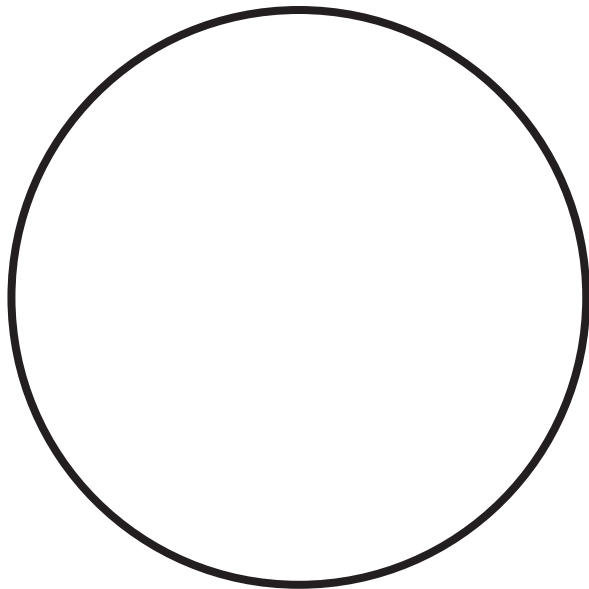


Read JOHN 3:16

Day 3

God loved the world—the whole world—so much that He gave His one and only Son. Sometimes it's easy to forget that He doesn't just love people who look like you or speak your language. God made us and loves us all—all 7 billion-plus of us who live on this earth. That's a whole lot of people and a whole lot of love!

Take 60 seconds and see how many names you can put in the circles below. Think about your family and friends, neighbors in your city, or places lots of people go. How many other people and places can you think of in your state—your country—and in the rest of the world? Before time runs out, draw a giant heart around the whole thing.



God's love is so big it covers all of those people and places, plus anyone else you might have forgotten! God's love for the world is HUGE!

LOOK around at everyone you see today and remember that God loves EVERYONE.

Day 4

Read DEUTERONOMY 15:7, 11

Did you get any presents for Christmas this year? Where are you going to put your new things? It's the perfect time to look through your room and the rest of your house to see what you don't play with or need anymore, like clothes that are too small or toys that are too baby-ish. It's crazy how fast our stuff can fill up our drawers, closets—even our garages!

But there's always someone around you in need. Your stuff can make a big difference. If we all give away a little extra of what God's given us, there's enough to go around!

Ask your mom for a big bag or box. Set a timer and take the Compassion Challenge! Hurry around and fill it up with things that would be a blessing to someone else. (Make sure that broken things end up in the trash.) It's amazing how much more space and time we free up when we happily give some of what we have away.

KNOW that God has given us all enough to share with each other.

