



WEEK FIVE

1 JOHN 4:9-12  
God Showed His Love

SAY  
THIS

Love others because  
God loved you first.



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1 JOHN 4:9-12  
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Love others because  
God loved you first.

DO  
THIS



BED TIME

Have the following discussion with your kid. Ask: When do you find it difficult to love others? Here's the amazing thing: you don't have to force yourself to show love. God showed His love for you first by sending Jesus. And when you ask, God will help you use His love to show love to the people around you. Pray that the next time you feel you just can't love someone, God will give you His love for them.

**MONTHLY THEME VERSE:** "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIRV)

**WEEK 5 VERSE:** In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16, NIRV

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### 3 RESOLUTIONS EVERY PARENT CAN KEEP

By Jon Acuff

All the Christmas lights are gone, school is back in session and everyone is eating kale. Why?

Because the New Year, we always come up with resolutions. We're going to eat better, exercise more, and break our long-standing addiction to inappropriate amounts of queso. (That last one might apply only to me.) Sometimes though, we set such crazy, far-reaching resolutions that we fail before we even start. What if this year, when it comes to parenting, we could give ourselves some ridiculously easy resolutions? I think we can!

1. This year, not every meal the kids eat will be chicken nuggets.

You probably have the same bag of nuggets we had in our freezer. They call it family size, but they should just name it, "I don't want to fight anymore trying to get my kids to eat something" nuggets. This year, resolve to feed your kids one meal that isn't chicken nuggets. There are 1,095 meals in a year. Surely we can all go 1 for 1,095.

2. This year, I will do a better job hiding sharpies.

If aliens ever discover our planet and look at our Internet they will believe it was designed for the sharing of two things: photos of cats and photos of little kids covered in marker. This year,

let's all promise to do a better job hiding sharpies. Together we can put them on higher shelves, hide them deeper in drawers or keep them locked in our cars instead of the house. Sound extreme? Have you ever tried to scrub a sharpie mustache from a little kid's face?

3. This year, I will convince my kids to wear coats when it is below freezing.

I suspect you know exactly what I am talking about. Nothing makes you feel like an inadequate parent like arriving somewhere in the dead of winter realizing your child is wearing just a t-shirt. I am forever baffled at my kids' ability to interpret 33-degree days as "balmy." It always becomes an apparel negotiation, too. I say, "It's cold outside, you need to wear a coat." They respond, "It's not that cold, what about just a long sleeve t-shirt?" I then counter with, "I need at least a sweater." This year, I'm skipping the negotiations. If it's cold outside, we're all wearing coats.

Those are three resolutions that as parents we can all keep. That last one might be challenging, but I believe in you!

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