

# Family Devotional Guide

*Ephesians 5:1-2 - “1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

## OPENING QUESTION

What kind of breakfast food do you love the most? (have kids begin their answers by saying “I love...” so for example, like this: I love pancakes, I love lucky charms, etc. This will help with your discussion later!)

## PART 1 - READ THE SCRIPTURE & PLAY A GAME

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2 out loud two times or have them repeat the verse after you line by line.
- Verse 1 begins with, “Therefore, be imitators of God...”. What does it mean to imitate someone?
  - Allow each person to answer. Encourage each answer after it’s given.
  - A possible answer: It means to follow their example. To do what someone else does in the same way that they do it. Not just what but how too! Another way: It means doing exactly what someone else does.
- Play a game: Simon Says
  - Have the kids imitate you as you do silly things. Take turns letting someone else be the person imitated.

## PART 2 - WE ARE DEARLY LOVED!

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2 out loud again or have them repeat after you like before.
- Verse 1 says we are “beloved children” which means children that are dearly loved! Is that the same kind of love as when we say we “love” pancakes and bacon? (remember back to our opening question!) What does “love” mean?
- Agape Love - selfless and sacrificial love which proactively seeks the greatest good of the person– no matter how they respond to you.
- Discuss - Give each person in your group an opportunity to answer the questions below.
  - Who is someone in your life that loves you with this kind of AGAPE love?
  - What are the specific things they do that make you feel loved?
    - Some possible answers: They spend time with you, they play with you, they encourage you, they tell you they love you, they give you gifts, they come to visit you, they help you, they show you affection with hugs or kisses.
  - More questions for discussion if you finish the above ones quickly
    - When you are loved, how does it make you feel? Why?
    - What is your favorite way to receive love from others?
    - How could you thank this person for the way that they love you?

## PART 3 - WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2 out loud again or have them repeat after you like before.
- Verse 2 says “...walk in love, as Christ loved us...”. So we should love others like Jesus has loved us!
- Discuss: Give each person in your group an opportunity to answer the questions below.
  - What are some ways that Jesus Christ has loved you/us?
    - Some possible answers: he died on the cross for our sins, he prays for us, he forgives us, he is our friend, he helps us, he heals our hearts, he gives us the Holy Spirit, he tells us the truth, etc.
  - Who is one person that you can show AGAPE love to this week and what will you do to show it?
- Pray
  - Ask a person in the group to pray we would follow Jesus’s example and love others like he has loved us.
  - If you finish praying early/have extra time ask if anyone needs prayer for anything and pray for that!

#### **PART 4 - ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR HELP**

- Read / Pray Ephesians 3:16-21 over your family.
- Take turns having each person get in the middle of the group, lay hands on them, and Pray the following prayer over them. This may seem repetitive, but repetition works with kids! It models it to them, in this case, how to pray!

*“We pray that first name would be rooted and established in love and we ask, Holy Spirit, that you would give first name power to grasp and know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, more today than ever before. Amen.”*

- OR if you don’t have enough time to pray for each person, have one person pray this prayer over the group!

*You finished the family devotional! Way to go!*