

# SHOW ME LOVE [ Christian love ]

## THIS WEEK

There are different ideas about love among teens. Some think it's a kind of gushy, sentimental emotion you have toward someone. Others think it's a physical act, seen on TV and in movies. Yet others hear that it's an action, not an emotion. Our culture and media is saturated with different ideas of love, many of which are untrue and unhealthy. With the rise in divorce rates, most kids today don't understand what love is. This TalkSheet will help you find out what your kids think about love. It teaches what love is and explains practical ways that your youth can put love into action.

## OPEN

Romantic love is the hot issue in all kinds of music—from rap to swing music to country ballads. Begin this session by listening to a popular song or by watching a music video that deals with love. You can download and play songs from the Internet—check out [www.mp3.com](http://www.mp3.com).

Or start by writing the word love on a large sheet of poster board or whiteboard. Then have your kids list words that describe love—what they think love is and how the media portrays love. You can use this list later to wrap things up.

## THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Compare the different statements and try to arrive at a consensus of opinion on the difference between the worldly view of love and Christian love.
2. Ask the kids to share the reasons for their answers. Why are some easier to love than others?
3. Some of these items aren't examples of love and some are. Ask your groups which statements they chose that were not examples of love. Go through each item with your kids and discuss how (or how not) each item shows love. Answer any questions they may have and leave room for them to debate any disagreements they may have. Be sure to point out that some of these are examples of not only loving others, but also loving ones self, too! God commands that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Luke 10:27). If your kids don't love themselves, there's something missing!
4. How did your kids phrase the characteristics of love in these verses? What other words or actions can describe love, based on these verses? You may want to write a group paraphrase of these verses.

## THE CLOSE

In your close, be sure to point out that love is not a feeling or an emotion, but is a decision people make. The Bible doesn't ask them to like their neighbors—it commands them to love even those people they don't like.

Challenge your kids to look at people the way Christ did. Every person is a child of God, created in the image of God, and who Christ died for. Today's culture teaches people to use people and love material things—Christ teaches them to simply love others.

Close up by reflecting on the initial list of words that describe love. Discuss how the world portrays love and how Christianity portrays love. What major differences are there? How have people messed up the meaning of love? What would God have to say to our society about love?

## MORE

- Who is that one person that each of your kids has a hard time loving? You may want to point out that a good way to show love to them is to pray for them. Prayer strengthens relationships—and makes them right with God. Encourage your group to do something for that person during the week—pray for them, go out of their way to say hello, or send that person an e-mail or anonymous note. What was hard about showing love to that person? How did their perspective toward that person change?
- Dig deeper into the Bible and split your group up into teams. Ask each group to find two or more verses that describe or deal with love. What do these verses say about God's love and the world's view of love?