

EPHESIANS

Live a Life of Love

Main Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-2

Christ's death and resurrection ...

defines who we are (v 2)
(1 Jn 4:7-8, Jn 11:25-26)

determines how we live (v 1-2)
(Phil 2:13)

Reflection Questions

- What will you do with Jesus Christ?
- Where has God's love yet to impact or shape your identity?
- How can you imitate God's love to those around you?

How to LIVE a LIFE of LOVE

1. Acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that you need Him in your life.

John 14:6, "I [Jesus] am the way the truth and the life,
no one comes to the Father except through me."

2. Be willing to turn from the things that God would not approve of as outlined in the Bible, and instead, decide to live according to His Word; honour Jesus Christ by how you live your life. (Repentance)

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave and accept His payment on your behalf.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life. Expect the Holy Spirit to live with you, live in you and give you power to live His way.

This prayer enables you to live eternally with Christ in heaven.

Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and I trust in You alone for my salvation. I choose to turn away from the things in my life of which You don't approve and now surrender my life to You. I invite You to come and reign and rule in my heart and life and open my spirit. Establish Your presence within me. I want to know the power of the Holy Spirit working in me and live forever with You in the Kingdom of God. I choose to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour.

Heartland Kids Weekend Bulletin

April 3-4, 2021



Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Identity defines who we are

- We call who we are, our identity. Our identity is like the foundation of a house. It's what every other part of our life is built on.
- When our identity comes from anything other than God and His love, it can crack! We can start thinking things about ourselves and other people that aren't true.
- God loves us unconditionally. That means that nothing we do makes Him love us any more or any less. He loves us the most, **all the time**. In our Bible verse, we learn three very important things about God's love:
 1. Jesus loved us so much He gave up being in heaven for us.
 2. We are worth Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
 3. God accepts us before we've done anything to earn it.

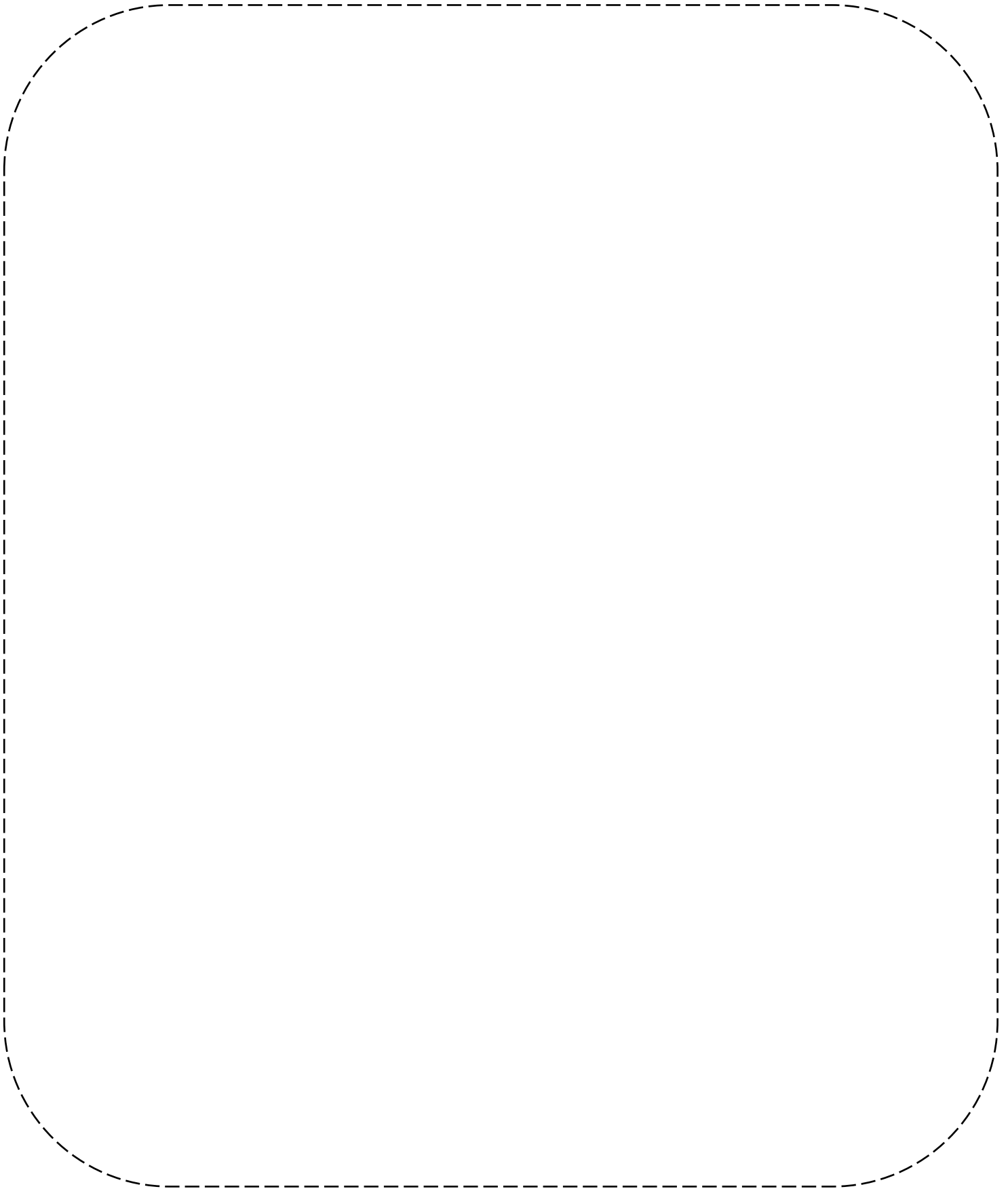
Identity determines how we live

- We are made in God's image. That means we can love the way He does! How do we love like God?
- We start by inviting God into our lives, accepting His love and sacrifice for us. See the Family Challenge page for directions on how to do that.
- Then we live out God's love for us and other people! This can be things like:
 - Forgiving others, even when we don't feel like it, because God always forgives us.
 - Being kind to someone who has hurt us because God always loves us even when we hurt Him.
 - Being a coach (like Pastor Al talked about a few weeks ago), instead of a critic.

Questions to ask as a family.

1. What will you do with Jesus Christ?
2. Where has God's love yet to impact or shape your identity?
3. How can you imitate God's love to those around you?

Draw a picture of what you learned today.



Family Challenge

Have you accepted Jesus into your life? Or, maybe you have and you want to show others how to accept Jesus into their lives. Below is a guide that you can print and keep with you. You can go through it as a family and talk about what each point means for you personally, and talk about how you would use it to help other people.

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Easter Countdown

If you haven't already seen them, we have Easter Countdown videos on our website that will walk your kids through the Easter story. Hop online at heartlandalliance.ca/kids for the videos and corresponding activities.

Show us your crafts and creations by tagging us @heartlandkidsshpk on social media!

“Live a Life of Love” | April 3 & 4, 2021

The Small Group Sermon Study

Ephesians 5:1-2



Opening Prayer: Father, in Jesus’ name, through the Holy Spirit, come and speak to us, teach us and transform us as we read, discuss and reflect on Your word.

1. Big Picture: What did you like or appreciate about this message? What challenged you in this message?
2. Read the key passage(s) of Scripture from the message and review the points from the sermon notes, then answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this tell us about God (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit)? What do we learn about how He feels, what actions He takes, how He views us, etc.?
 - b. How does Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection define who we are as a small group? How does it determine how we live together in community?
 - c. What are some of the ways our small group has shown God’s love well?
 - d. In what ways can we as a small group grow in living a life of love toward others – and more specifically, toward others who don’t personally know Jesus yet?
3. What don’t you understand or what other questions does this passage make you ponder?

Silently re-read the key Scripture(s) from the message, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

4. What emotions does this passage or the key theme stir up in you?
5. What do you need to surrender to Jesus? How will you respond to what God is showing you?
6. What verse, phrase or word do you need to take with you this week? How will you act on what you’ve heard?

Prayer: Spend time praying for one another (that we would grow in our love for God and others, that we would be transformed by what God has revealed, that we would be alert and obedient to God, etc.).