



CONFERENCE SUNDAY

INFO AT IM.MENNONITE.NET

Practicing God's Love

*"Live a life of love...
just as Christ loved us!" 1 John 4:19*

Home is the place of greatest potential for children to learn about God's love. As children experience

God's love in daily family life, they embrace that they are beloved children of God. A child's innate awareness of God and God's love for them can be developed as we talk with them about God.

1. Remember that Jesus loves each of us!
Sing "Jesus loves me" with motions...

Jesus (*point up*)

loves (*arms across chest*)

me (*point to self*)

This I know (*point to head*)

For the Bible tells me so

(*hands cupped to make a book*)

Little ones to him belong

(*right hand about 2 feet from floor*)

They are weak but he is strong.

(*show arm muscle*)

Yes, Jesus loves me! (*see above*)

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so!

2. Bedtime blessing:¹ Consider including this in bedtime prayers with your child:

"You are my daughter (or son).

You are special. I love you!

And Jesus loves you!"

3. Tell your children often: "I love you!"

Children who know they are loved are invited to a deeper understanding of God's love for them.

4. Spend quality time with your children.

Consider a family night once a week. Setting this time aside for family communicates your love and value for them.

5. Listen deeply to your child when they talk; communicate that they and their words matter!

6. Practice God's love in ordinary family life.

Children learn about God's extravagant love

as they watch others share generously.

Children learn about God's love and compassion when caregivers respond to their needs.

Children learn about God's love and comfort as they are consoled in the death of a pet.

Children learn about God's love and respect when they are valued by others.

Children learn about God's love and forgiveness when apology is genuine after a tiff.²

7. Check out this website for more ideas on nurturing faith development at home:

<http://www.mennoniteusa.org/ministry/faith-formation/>

Created by Sharon Witmer Yoder 2017; Updated 2020.

¹ Rachel Miller Jacobs, AMBS class, August 15, 2016.

² Laurie N. Bowen, *Food for the Family Spirit: a Sourcebook for Religious Education* (Kansas City: Sheed & Ward, 1997), 2-3.