

Name _____

MONDAY: Love Gives

What are some of the best presents you've ever received?

What are some of the best presents you've ever given away?

Everything God made when he created the world was a gift to us. God positioned our planet at just the right distance from the sun so that we are not too hot or too cold. God designed our atmosphere just right for us to have air to breath.

Think back through all seven days of creation. When you think of all God created, what good are some of your favorite things?

Did you remember to include the seventh day? On that day God gave us the gift of rest. God didn't rest because he was tired; in fact, God never tires. He rested because he was finished. Why do you think God made humans so we would need to sleep at night and to have days of rest?

Every day of our lives we have had air to breath, a sun that shines, moon and stars at night. Birds and fish, animals and humans, our own body and brain—we get so used to having all God created that we often forget these are all gifts from God. If you know God, take a moment to write out a brief prayer thanking him for what he has given you.

TUESDAY: One Condition

Imagine that you have a young adult friend named Savannah. She has always wanted to visit England. One day Savannah's Uncle Brad tells her that he wants to do something nice for her. He's going to buy her a ticket to spend an entire month in England. Since a trip like that would be more fun to do with others, Uncle Brad tells Savannah to pick three friends to go with her to England. He will pay the round-trip airfare for all four of them. Clearly, they will need hotels and money to travel and eat while they are there, so Uncle Brad explains that he is giving them all the funds they need for that as well. In fact, instead of taking buses, Uncle Brad decides to buy a new car and have it waiting for Savannah when she arrives. Since Savannah and her friends might want to buy souvenirs to remember their trip, Uncle Brad provides them each a prepaid Visa gift card just for that.

Uncle Brad has one thing he would like Savannah and her friends to do while they are in England. He has a longtime friend who is elderly. He wants them to just spend one hour visiting his friend who lives alone in London.

What would you think about Savannah if her response to Uncle Brad was to complain and get angry because he was asking her to invest one hour out of the entire month in England to visit Uncle Brad's friend?

That would be crazy, right! Uncle Brad is giving her everything she needs. What he is asking her to do isn't even a hard thing.

How would you feel if you were in Savannah's place and Uncle Brad was your generous uncle?

What do you think about Savanna's response of being angry about being asked to do one kind deed while in England?

How is this story like the story of Adam and Eve?

WEDNESDAY: The Truth About Rules

If you want to win at basketball, you have to develop skills to play the game. You also have to submit yourselves to the rules of the game and to the referee, who is enforcing the rules.

You can't say, "My team wants to play with ten people on the court tonight against your team of five." You can't decide to run down the court carrying the ball. You don't get to make up the rules as you go along. The only way for the game to work is to follow the rules.

Americans like freedom. We fight wars for it. We write declarations about it. But often Americans (and all humans) are confused. We think that freedom means there is no authority telling us what to do. Basketball doesn't work without rules and referees.

We think that we would like the idea of having no one in authority over us, yet we want to live in a world where drivers stop at stop lights. We want a world where those who try to steal our stuff or hurt us are stopped by an authority.

Freedom is not being free *from* authority. Freedom is getting to choose how we respond when faced with rules and the authority of those who make the rules. The person who makes up the game has the right to make up the rules of the game.

Reread Genesis 2:16–17. What was the one rule God gave Adam and Eve?

1 Timothy 1:17 tells us more about the God who gave the rule. What three things does this verse tell you about God?

Why did God have the right to make the rules? _____

You honor the rules of basketball when you play by the rules. How could Adam and Eve honor God?

THURSDAY: Love Is a Choice

God is not a bully who makes us do what He wants. God did not create humans to be robots who had no choice but to do as they were programmed. In addition to all the other things God gave Adam and Eve, He gave them the freedom to choose.

Love is a choice. If you are a young man, someday you might find a girl you really want to marry and spend the rest of your life with. You may buy her a ring and then ask her to marry you. She will choose to say yes or no.

Young ladies, you should never say yes to a man who wants to marry you because you fear he will beat you up if you break his heart by saying no. Anyone who says he loves you will not beat you up to get the answer he wants. He will let you choose how you respond.

We get confused because songs, books, and movies often talk about love as if it is just a feeling. Love certainly can have feelings connected to it, but the truth is—**Love is a commitment to the good of the other person.**

“**God is love,**” 1 John 4:8 tells us. God—in His very nature—is consistently committed to the good of others. We can see that God is love in how He was committed to Adam and Eve (and all the human race in them). God literally gave them the world. He gave them a chance to show they were responding in love by committing to doing the one thing He asked of them.

How could God have been showing love for Adam and Eve by telling them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

Have you ever had someone pretend to care about you only to find out the person really just wanted something from you? How did that make you feel?

Satan is talking to Eve as if he just wants Adam and Eve to have the special knowledge and be exalted high like God is (to be the one who decides the rules). Do you think Satan was acting out of love for Adam and Eve?

What had Satan done to show loving commitment to the good of Adam and Eve?

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FRIDAY: Reflect

As you look back on this week, what is something you learned or thought about in a new way?

Remember Satan's big lie? In Genesis 3:4–5 Satan told her she would certainly not die and she would find out things she didn't already know. Satan wanted Eve to think God was holding out on her by not giving her something that would be a good thing for her. Do you ever feel like God is holding out and not giving you something you think would be good for you? Explain.

What does Numbers 23:19 say that God can't do? _____

Have you experienced being lied to by someone?	Yes or No
Has someone disappointed you by changing his or her mind?	Yes or No
Have you had a human not keep his or her promise?	Yes or No

What would it be like to have one person in your life who was never dishonest or changing?

What would it be like if that always honest and consistent person also loved you?

What would it be like to have a friend who always keeps promises?

Do you think of God as one who is good, honest, and consistently loving you? Explain.

No matter what happens in life or what Satan tries to get you to believe—don't get confused.