

A new commandment  
I give to you, that  
you love one another:  
just as I have loved  
you, you also are to  
love one another. By  
this all people will  
know that you are  
my disciples, if you  
have love for one  
another.

John 13:34

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When Jesus ministered to people here on Earth, He healed people, cast out demons, performed many miracles, and taught God's will. He had never done anything wrong, yet the people in power hated Him and feared His followers. So they convinced one of His disciples to betray Jesus for a bag of silver. Jesus was arrested even though He committed no crime. He never even tried to defend Himself. He willingly took the death penalty. On a Friday He went to the cross and bore our sins. And when it was finished, He gave up His life, died, and was buried in a tomb with a giant stone blocking the entrance and with two roman guards standing watch. His disciples ran and hid and pretended they never knew Him for fear that they would be killed too. On Saturday they all quietly hid and trembled and grieved the loss of Jesus. On Sunday, Mary and Martha went to Jesus' tomb. But there was an earthquake, and an angel of the Lord appeared. The guards fainted in fear, and the angel rolled the stone away and sat atop it saying:

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.  
He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.” Matthew 28:5-6

Over the next forty days, Jesus appeared to Mary and Martha and to hundreds of people. He is alive! He is risen from the dead! He even revealed to them the scars on His body from the crucifixion! He then ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father!

He did all this because He loves us.

What are some things that your mom/dad do to let you know they love you?

One of the ways our Father loves us is giving good gifts! But He also teaches us that while it feels good to receive gifts, it's even better to give than to receive!

At Christmas, some of the ways we show our love for one another is through having time together as a family, eating special meals together, singing songs together, and on Christmas morning, sharing gifts with one another!

Tomorrow when someone is opening a gift, try to give them your attention and share in their joy as they open their gifts and wait for your turn to open your gifts. Remember that receiving gifts is of course fun and feels good, but learn how much better it is to give by watching someone else receive! In this way you can learn to love one another even more deeply.

Jesus loves you so much! And I do too!

I pray you have a wonderful and merry Christmas tomorrow as we all celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

**Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior is born**

**Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth**