

Read: Colossians 1:3-8

God's Powerful Word Bears Fruit in Our Lives

Colossians 1:4-6a

We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

How did you serve Jesus today?

That might not be an easy question to answer. Sometimes we think that if we didn't go to church, read our Bible, have a devotion, or pray that we didn't serve Jesus.

But that's not what God says. He says that when you believe in him, you have hope because of Jesus, and that you show your faith by loving others. Jesus says that you serve him this way: "Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters . . . you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Jesus loves every single person. When you love others, you are serving Jesus and showing your faith. It lets people know that your heart is so full of Jesus' love that you can't help but share that love with others.

That's why people who love Jesus look for ways to serve others. Maybe they help a classmate who dropped their books, volunteer to do the dishes, or pick up someone else's trash. Or maybe they write letters to people who are lonely, help bake cookies for a friend, or mow the neighbor's grass. They might show their love for Jesus when they give Christmas presents to a child whose dad is in jail, cheer up a friend who is sad, bring flowers or cookies for the teacher, or sing at a nursing home.

While you are looking for ways to love others, make sure you look for ways to love the people in your house too. Show love to your parents, your grandparents, and brother or sister (if you have them)! The people in your house are the first ones you get to love.

This week, let's look for ways to show our hope and faith by loving and serving the people Jesus loves.

The questions below are to help families discuss this devotion. The questions are divided by age group as suggestions, but anyone could reflect on any of the questions as they desire.

Questions for the Younger Children

- Tell one way you served Jesus today.
- Tell one way someone served Jesus by serving YOU today.

Questions for Elementary Age Children

- Tell one way you served Jesus today.
- Tell one way someone served Jesus by serving YOU today.

Questions for Middle School and Above

- Tell one way you served Jesus today.
- Tell one way someone served Jesus by serving YOU today.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus so that I am a part of your family. Thank you for giving me hope and helping me share that hope with others. Use my life and words to bring others to love Jesus too. Amen.

Hymn: CW 521:1,2 – Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

Lord of all nations, grant me grace To love all people, ev'ry race,
And in each person help me view My kindred, loved, redeemed by you.

Break down the wall that would divide Your children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbors' good let me pursue; Bind them to me and all to you.