

Story: Love, Love, Love

Love, love, love. Jesus knew those words. His friends knew those words. His parents knew those words. The teachers knew those words. From the time they were very little children they would all hear those words and know what they mean. Love God with all your might.

One day, one of the religious leaders heard Jesus talking to a crowd of people. The leader moved a little closer and listened. "Mmmm," he murmured. "Jesus is very wise." So he spoke up and said, "Teacher, there are so many rules and laws to teach people. Which rule is the most important?"

Jesus knew the answer. He remembered saying it many, many times as he was growing up. "Love God with all your might."

"Yes!" said the leader. "That's what I say, every day! Love God with all your might.

"It's such an important rule, I have that rule written on my door, so I don't forget it."

"Wait, there is a second part to that rule," said Jesus. "It is important to love others, and to love yourself, too."

The leader looked at Jesus. Then the leader scratched his head. "Yes, yes. You are right! Love is the most important rule of all. Love God. Love others. Love yourself. You are very wise, Jesus. Thank you for listening to me."

All the way home, the leader repeated over and over, "Love God. Love others. Love yourself." The teacher would remember that. He would not forget.

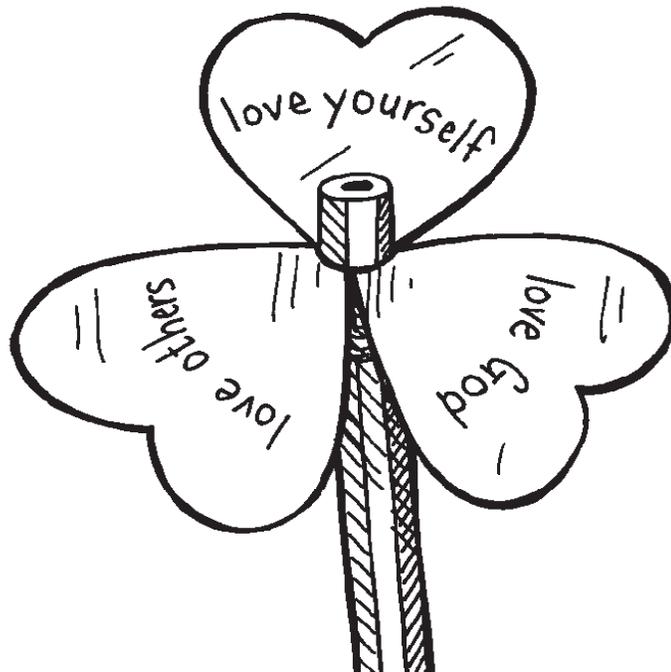
Love flowers

Jesus helped the disciples to grow in their understanding of what it means to love.

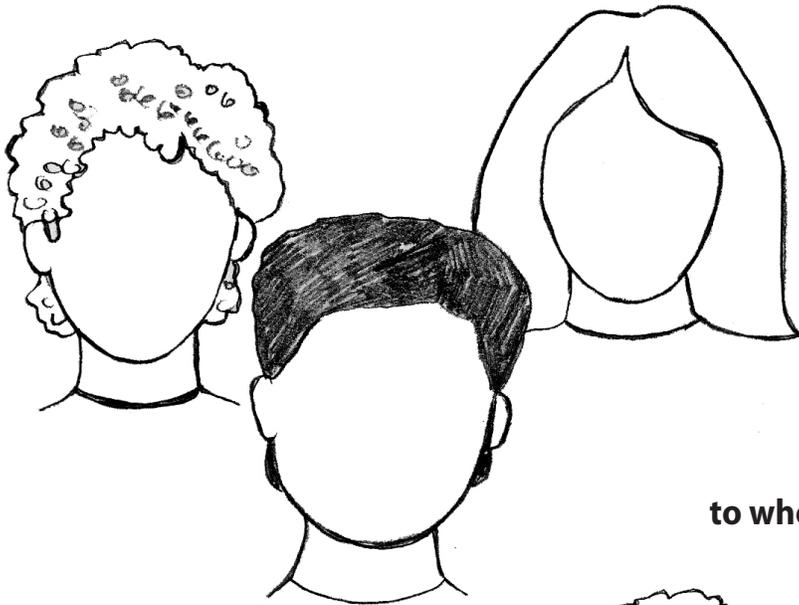
Make heart-shaped flowers to remind you of Jesus' teaching about love.

- Cut three large hearts out of construction paper.
- Write "Love God" on one heart shape.

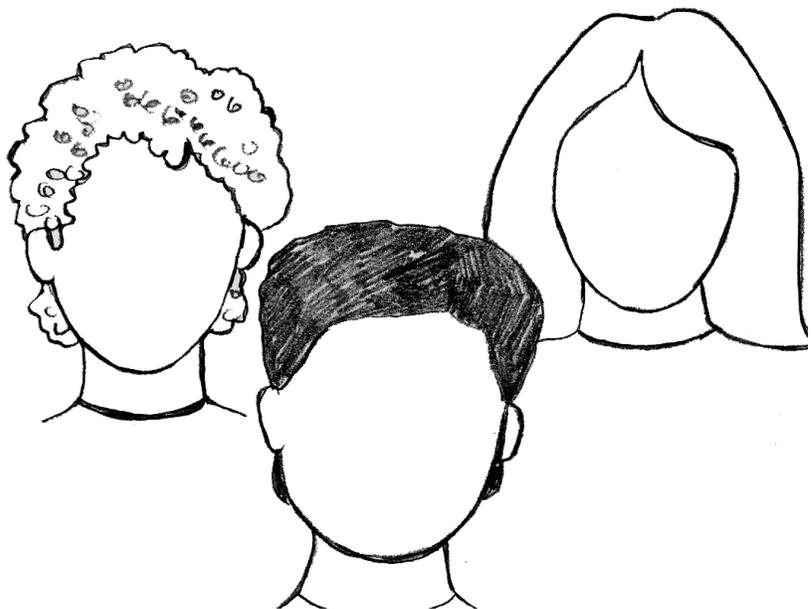
- Write "Love others" on another.
- Write "Love yourself" on another.
- Decorate each heart, then tape the three points together into a flower shape (see illustration).
- Attach your "flower" to a drinking straw or wooden chopstick.
- "Plant" your flower in a cup or flowerpot filled with sand or soil.



Draw in the faces of some people...
who tell you that they love you.



to whom you say, "I love you."



Draw some of the ways that you show that you love others.