

For My Family

Sharing the Story

A Family's Love

Keesha was snuggled up on the couch with her blanket and teddy bear, watching her favorite cartoons. It was Saturday morning so Mom and Dad were both home from work. Keesha loved Saturdays when they could all have breakfast together.

Dad was reading the paper and drinking his coffee at the kitchen table. Mom was making eggs, bacon and toast for all of them.

"Keesha, do you want cheese in your eggs this morning?" Mom asked. Yum! Keesha loved cheesy eggs.

"Yes, please. Mom. I like it when you and Daddy don't have to go to work. It feels so good to be home together having breakfast. I wish it could be this way every day," Keesha said.

Dad said, "I like it too. Having a yummy breakfast together is wonderful."

Keesha asked, "Mom, why do you cook such a special breakfast every Saturday?"

"That's easy," answered Mom. "It's because I love you both. We are a family. We all do special things for one another. Daddy washes the car and makes our beds. You put all your toys away and make special pictures for our refrigerator. Those are all ways we show our love for one another. Can you think of other ways that we show how much we love and care for each other?"

"Sure," Keesha answered. "You and Daddy tuck me in each night, give me hugs and help me with my bedtime prayers. You and Daddy read stories to me and make me feel better when I get hurt."

As she thought for a minute, Keesha began to remember the story about Jesus' family that she learned in religion class when Mrs. Downing had taught them about Jesus, Mary and Joseph. So she wondered, "Mommy, do you think Jesus, Mary and Joseph did special things for each other?"

"Yes, Keesha. I think Jesus, Mary and Joseph showed us how to be a loving family," Mom answered.

Keesha smiled and turned back to watch her cartoons. She knew she was very lucky to have such a wonderful family.

Reflecting on Our Faith

What are some of the small ways that our family cares for one another and shows our love for one another? When do we thank God for the gift of our family?

Nurturing Our Children

Family chores are not only a way for children to show that they are growing up and becoming more independent but also a way to express their love for their family. Children are often more cooperative when they can choose which chores they want to do or when; for example, asking a child to choose between putting the plates or the utensils on the table. Support your child in fulfilling their chores by asking, "Do you want me to help you clean up now or in five minutes?"

Living Our Faith Together

Here are a few activities to do with your child:

- Retell this week's story, "A Family's Love." Talk with your child about how your family cares for one another and shows its love for one another. Be sure to include things your child does.
- Create a "Our Family's Love" chart. List several helping and caring things your whole family or individual members of your family regularly do that are signs of your love for one another. Leave room next to each action and have your child draw and color the smiley face next to the action on the chart when it is done.

Praying as a Family

Celebrate belonging to your family. Set aside a special time and gather for prayer and thank God for the gift of your family's love. In your prayer name each family member and the loving things they do for the family.

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Stories of God's Love
Ages 4 and 5