

---

# FAITH @ HOME

## WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2020

---

Some ideas for continuing to think about Loving Truth throughout the week

*Speaking the truth in love is a big idea, but it is one that can be put into practice at any age in the contexts that fit the speaker. The concepts and words that are shared in this week's sermon text can all be enough for an entire week-long reflection and application, but none of us – no matter our age or stage – are expected to have mastered this. It's a God-sized ask that Paul is referencing, and we each need to learn (and teach our children) how to apply ourselves to it daily in the power of the Spirit.*

*Parents with littles – if you just need one or two ideas, the don't-miss ideas for young kids are in green.*

*Black font is an all-play for children, teens, and adults*

You can sing this scripture point all week long with a terrific video from Seeds Family Worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLrH1wXV4Yc>

You may also like “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” by a student creative group in TX:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87bJ6w81slk>

## Shared Purpose

### **The Family Name**

- Find out what your family name means. Does it have a meaning? If you are named Smith, do you know if your ancestors were metalsmiths? If you can, ask an older family member about their parents and grandparents. Talk or write about the things your family is known for?
- ? What does it mean to share a name with all the members of God’s family? What are the qualities and shared experiences, practices, and work of the members of God’s family?

### **Rooted**

- Take a look at one of these videos showing the parts of a plant and talk about why roots are important:
  - <https://youtu.be/X6TLFZUC9gl> (cartoon illustrated video - great for littles and still interesting for parents who aren't botany experts)
  - <https://youtu.be/-BNF3rpZUDU> (horticulturist explains in laymen's terms the 4 purposes of a root system).
- ? How do these explanations of a root system fit in with the idea that we are “rooted and established in love?”
- Paint a tree craft
  - Supplies: Construction or printer paper, washable paint, paintbrush (optional: hand and forearm)
  - Holding the paper vertically, fold the top edge to the bottom edge.
  - Fill the top half of the paper with a painting of a tree, making a trunk that goes all the way down to the fold, and a big, full crown of the tree. The artist can use a paintbrush, or you/they can paint the wrist as the tree trunk and their hand as the crown of the tree, pressing the trunk against the fold.
  - While the paint is still wet, fold the paper in half again to imprint the paint below the fold, too.
  - You may want to talk or think about how a tree can be kind of like our faith, or explore the ideas of deep, wide, long, and high, root systems, healthy trees...

- Experimental play: What do full, measure, and fullness mean? Do some water or sand play measuring cups. Fill and dump and enjoy thinking about what it means to be filled up by God. What is the source of our fullness? How can we be filled to the measure of all the fullness of (our infinite, boundless) God? (I don't think we will get an answer to that question in a sand box or water table, but it's an incredible mystery to ponder!)

## Big Ask (Eph. 3:20-4:1)

- Dream Big game (similar to Mother May I?) One person is the Grantor and the other players are the Askers. The Askers' goal is to reach the Grantor by asking questions like "may I please take three big steps?" The Grantor will answer with more than the Asker thought to ask. For example, to the above question, the Grantor might answer, "you may take three leaps." For young children, you want to open the conversation about God's limitless power, and His desire for us to ask Him for our needs. If you are playing with older kids, you could mix it up and the Grantor might not always do more than the Asker asks, so that you can talk about some of the questions below, too.
- ? Tell about a time when you were at the end of your own resources.
- Check out this favorite story about one of George Mueller's prayers when he was (as he often was) at the end of his own resources: <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/church-history-for-kids/george-mueller-orphanages-built-by-prayer-11634869.html>
- ? What is the best thing you can imagine?
- ? How does it feel to know that God is able to do more and better than we can ever ask or imagine?
- ? What is our role in this big idea about what God can do? What about when it doesn't seem like God is doing more than we can ask or imagine? How do we reconcile the truth that He is good all the time?
- ? What would it look like if we all asked for the church – the unified family of God that bears His name – to bring Him glory throughout all generations? What do you think God might do if we ask Him for that?

## Together (Eph. 4:2-3, 15)

- You may have seen this picture circulating on social media. Here is the link to the story behind the picture, the photographer, and the game associated with it. <https://www.connectingdotz.com/circle-game/>



- ? What do these words and phrases mean? What do they look like when we practice them in daily life?

Humble \* Gentle \* Patient \* Bearing with one another in love

- Try out a cooperative game. For people who are extremely competitive, don't worry: these are still fun, and you will definitely win – together!
  - [http://www.mrgym.com/Cooperatives/Stepping\\_Stones.htm](http://www.mrgym.com/Cooperatives/Stepping_Stones.htm) (Can be adapted to use pieces of paper and played in the yard – reinforce the idea of cooperation, process, and shared goal)
  - <https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/cooperative-games-kids-family> (Would also add *Secret Door*)
- ? Read Ephesians 4:32. Why do you think this verse has both actions – love AND forgive in the same sentence?
- ? Do a personal study or a sword drill. How do these verses fit with Ephesians 4:1-3, 15?
  - 1 John 4:7-11; 1 Peter 3:8-11; Galatians 5:22-26; John 13:34-35; Matthew 7:12