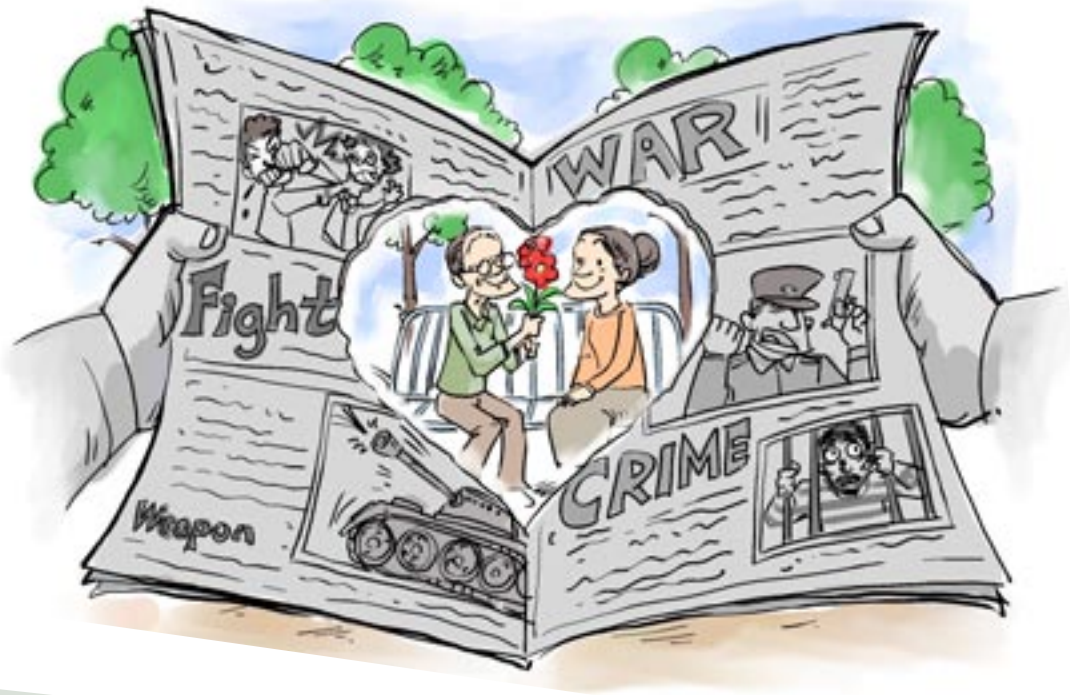


# Love



## Getting Started

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day, a holiday to do something special for the people we love. What kinds of things do you do for people you love? What do you hope they will do for you?

These days, so many people are skeptical that love can last forever. Not many friendships last a lifetime. Divorce rates are rising all over the world. On the TV and in newspapers we see angry people fighting and hurting each other every day. In your opinion, what is the key to keeping a relationship strong and healthy? Is love a feeling? Is love a choice?

## Improving Your Vocabulary

**skeptical (adj)** - doubtful; tending to not believe something is real or possible

**commandment (n)** - something God tells us to do; an order or command

**remain (v)** - to stay or continue in a particular state

**obey (v)** - to do as we are told; to follow an order or command

**conceited (adj)** - too proud; believing that you are better than others

**ill-mannered (adj)** - rude or impolite

**irritable (adj)** - quick to become annoyed or angry

## Reading God's Word

### Matthew 22:36-39

**36** “Teacher,” he asked, “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

**37** Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” **38** This is the greatest and the most important commandment. **39** The second most important commandment is like it: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

### John 15:9-13

**9** I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. **10** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. **13** The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them.”

### 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

**4** Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; **5** love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; **6** love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. **7** Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.

For further study, see John 3:16; John 13:35; Romans 8:35-39; Romans 13:8-10 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-3.

## Taking a Closer Look

1. What are the two greatest commandments? (Matthew 22:36-39) Why are they the greatest? Aren't the other laws important?

---

2. What are some ways to "love your neighbor?" (Matthew 22:39) What if you don't like your neighbor? How can you love someone you don't like?

---

3. What will happen if we obey God's commands? (John 15:10) Do you think that obeying God's commands can help us develop a spirit of love toward other people?

---

4. What is the greatest love someone can have for another? (John 15:13)  
Who has this love for us?

---

5. What are the characteristics of love? (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

---

6. Do you think we can learn to love our family and friends with this kind of love? What about our enemies? How?

---

## Taking Action

1. It is hard to love our enemies, but hating them can make you miserable. If someone has hurt you and you are bitter about it, try praying for him/her. It might be easier than you think, and it might help you release some of the bitterness in your heart.
2. What are some ways you can be more patient, kind, humble, and unselfish?

## Memory Verse: John 13:34

**As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**

## Review the Vocabulary

*Discuss your answers to the following questions with a classmate.*

1. What are you **skeptical** about?
3. What are some of the **commandments** given in the Bible?
2. Have you ever met a **conceited** person? How did that person make you feel?
4. What benefits come from **obeying** God?



This English Bible teaching material is prepared and owned by ORTV, Inc.  
It may be reproduced for classroom or personal use but may not be published or sold.