

St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
FEBRUARY 19, 2017—THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
PERFECT LOVE



Jesus said “Love your everyone, even your enemies” Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
Adapted from Matthew 5:43-48

*Are you perfect? I’m sure not! Then why does Jesus tell us to “be perfect”?
He means LOVE PERFECTLY. LOVE EVERYONE. God loves everyone and so should we.
That’s perfect!*

THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

Perfect Love

How can you be perfect? Be PERFECTLY LOVING! That's what Jesus says to us. It's not always easy, and Jesus knows that. It can be difficult to love someone who is mean, who hurts you or who lies to you. Do you know a bully? Talk to your parents, your teacher or your friends about how you can deal with that person, and protect yourself and others. But remember—even if we don't *like* someone, we can and should *love* them and remember that God created us all and God loves us all.

Perfectly Scrambled Words

1. VOLE _____
2. FTPRCEE _____
3. TRBHROE _____
4. TSRISE _____
5. IEFDNR _____
6. YENEM _____
7. SSJUE _____
8. YOHL SIPRIT _____
9. NISDKSNE _____
10. IEGFORV _____
11. CTEPSER _____

LOVE
PERFECT
BROTHER
SISTER
FRIEND
ENEMY
JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT
KINDNESS
FORGIVE
RESPECT

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Jesus said that we should be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. That's a pretty tall order, even for the most saintly of us. So what does Jesus want us to do?

God is perfect. God is pure love. The specific aspect of that love that Jesus has been describing over the past few weeks is that *God's love is unconditional, unending and for everyone*. That's how God wants us to love, that's how God wants us to be perfect. ***Perfect in being all inclusive in our love***—turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, praying for people who hurt us, loving those who hate us. Kids live in a tough world, having to navigate peer pressure and bullies with the demand of Christ to love everyone. As Christian parents, we are called to guide our children through this maze and help them to balance self-giving love with survival at school, work and play.

Dinner Table Conversation:

Who do you love? Do they love you back?

Why does Jesus want us to love people who don't love us? How can you do that?

Have you ever done something nice for someone who has been mean to you? Or who didn't know you did that nice thing? Or who was a stranger?

Talk about how each made you feel. How can you reach out with love to a stranger or an enemy?

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

It is posted weekly on www.stjamesbatavia.org