



# Sabbath Keeping Youth

## God's Love

As a father loves his child,  
guides its faltering, baby steps,  
when it falls, wipes tears away  
and helps it try again --  
even so does God love me!  
Through my child His love I  
see.

As a mother gently trains,  
helps her children to obey,  
nourishes a love for truth  
and inspires to kindly deeds --  
even so does God help me!  
Through my child His love I  
see.

As a father sadly yearns  
over his rebelling child,  
welcomes back with open arms,  
gladly pardons all mistakes,  
even so God pardons me!  
Through my child His love I  
see.

As a mother stops to hear  
childish confidences sweet,  
listens to each plea for help,  
and shares each happiness,  
even so does God hear me!  
Through my child His love I  
see.

-Author Unknown

Source: <http://www.glow.cc/cg/18-GodsLove.htm>

◆  
◆ Someone who has shown a whole  
◆ lot of love, to a whole lot of people,  
◆ for a long time is God! He is the  
◆ ultimate when it comes to love. God  
◆ knows how to love better than anyone  
◆ and He loves you more than anyone  
◆ else does. In fact, did you know you  
◆ were created by God to love and be  
◆ loved?

◆ How do you know what God's  
◆ love is? Is it possible to see God's  
◆ love? What do you think His love  
◆ looks like? Maybe it comes in the  
◆ shape of your heart. Maybe it tastes  
◆ like chocolate. Maybe you can buy it  
◆ at the store and keep it in a box.  
◆ These are all silly answers. The real  
◆ answer to the first question is simple.  
◆ God is love! Everything He's ever  
◆ done speaks of His love for us! The  
◆ greatest love ever shown in history  
◆ was God's love.

One of the most famous verses in  
the Bible tells us this. "God so  
loved the world that he gave his  
only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

It's important to remember  
God is always loving you. He  
doesn't stop when you do  
something wrong. He doesn't stop  
when He's got other things to do,  
or other people to worry about.  
God loves you all the time!

God wants you to show others  
the same love He has shown you.  
To love is a choice. You don't  
have to do it. But when you  
choose to love, people can see  
your loving heart. Your actions  
will show your feelings. This  
month make a decision to let  
God's love show forth in your  
actions more than ever before.

## The Parents Corner

Dinner is often the only time family is all-together in one room. Take advantage of this opportunity by saying more than, "pass the bread please." While everyone is together "pass a little love." Make dinner a positive time for sharing and encouraging one another. Here are a few appetizers to get you started on the right fork (oops! foot).

- Talk about God.
- Talk about the church service.
- Encourage everyone to share something about his or her day.
- Share some jokes.
- Ask your children about their heroes, and tell them who your heroes were or are.

Before long, love will be dished out by the plateful as you spend time getting closer to your family. Oh yes, don't forget to turn off that TV! Happy dining.

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## Have You Had An Influence On Your Child Today?

Teaching and training children in the ways of living a Godly life require applying foundational biblical principles. These principles are to be used at every opportunity. Parents are entrusted by God to generate and nurture physical, mental, moral and spiritual growth in the children He has granted to their care. So, how have you done today in having a positive influence on your child? Do you show your child unconditional love?

God has a plan and purpose for all of mankind and this includes children. God's ultimate goal for all of mankind is to be in His family. God is committed to what He began. The gift of children requires a parent to prepare thoroughly and be committed. The attitude of the parent plays a huge role in the teaching and training of a child's heart, mind and soul. God shows a fatherly love of care and concern no matter what we do. This is unconditional love. The love we show our children should be a reflection of God's love.

David wrote Psalm 103, which tells about God's great love and what He is like. This is a beautiful psalm, which focuses on God's glorious acts of love for all of us. David's list in this psalm gives us plenty to praise God for and an outline on how to show our children unconditional love. As you read Psalm 103, think about how each gift is given by God, even though we are undeserving. Then ask yourself, if this is how God takes care of His children, do I follow His example and treat my children the same? Here is the list.

- He forgives us
- He crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies
- He gives us good things
- He executes righteousness and justice
- He makes known His Ways
- He is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in mercy
- He pities those who fear Him, just as a father pities His children
- He knows our frame, and remembers that we are dust

Here are some suggestions on how you can show your unconditional love to your children:

- See your children for who they are—blessings from God. Never take your children for granted.
- Spend time with your children.
- Make your children feel special and never like a nuisance.
- Listen to them no matter what time of day it is.
- Appreciate and see each child's God given gifts and talents.
- Pray for your children. Ask God to teach and show you how to nurture the gifts He gave your children and how to build their strong moral character.
- When you have not handled a situation correctly, ask your child for forgiveness.
- Respect your children. Negative attitudes and words can result in feelings of rejection.
- Consider your tone of voice when talking and disciplining.
- Have house rules that are not burdensome and hold firm to them. I John 5:3 says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

There are no perfect parents. One cannot be flawless in this life, but one should strive toward parental perfection. The influence you have on your children today will mold who they are tomorrow. If yours is a home of Godly love, your child will seek to love you, and others as completely as God loves him.



## Samson and Delilah Judges 16:4-31

Samson was a mighty man of Israel who fought successfully against the Philistines. He was an Old Testament judge who, as one chosen by God to deliver Israel from the Philistines, took a special vow to keep his life pure for God. Samson was a Nazirite, which meant he could not drink alcohol, cut his hair or touch a dead body. To violate this vow in any way would be disobedience to God (Judges 13:1—16:3).

Samson loved a woman named Delilah (dee-LYE-luh). Delilah was a wicked Philistine woman who pretended to be in love with Samson. When the Philistines found out Samson loved Delilah, each of the Philistine rulers offered her eleven hundred pieces of silver if she would find out the source of Samson's great strength.

Three times Delilah asked Samson his secret. Each time, he made up an answer. First, he told her to bind him with seven fresh cords that had not been dried. She tied him up and told him the Philistines were upon him; he broke the cords easily. Next, he said that if he were bound with new ropes, he couldn't break free. She tried it, but the ropes snapped like thread. Then, he told her he would lose his strength if she wove the seven locks of his hair into a web. But this proved untrue as well.

Finally, she wore him down. "I am strong because I am a servant of God. My long hair is the sign of my promises to God. If my hair should ever be cut, my strength would be gone."

One day while Samson was sleeping, Delilah called for a Philistine to come and cut off his long hair. When he woke up, Samson's strength was gone because "the Lord had left him." His enemies seized him, put out his eyes and made him to grind at the mill in the prison.

The Philistines gathered to offer a sacrifice to their god Dagon (DAY-gon) for their victory over Samson. They called for him to be brought out so they could mock him. A little boy led Samson into the temple. The Philistines were so busy enjoying themselves they did not notice Samson's hair had grown while he had been in prison.

"Put my hands on the pillars," Samson whispered to the boy. Then Samson prayed to God. "God, remember me. Make me strong. Let me fight the Philistines once more. I am ready to die with them."

Samson pushed with all his strength. The pillars began to give way. They crashed to the ground. The walls and the roof fell down on the people. All the people, including Samson, died in the ruins of the temple. He suffered the consequences of this failure to keep his life pure before God.

Samson was given tremendous strength and wasted it on practical jokes and getting even with others. Eventually he gave it all up to satisfy his love for a woman. Samson's life was made up of many wrong choices and not keeping his life pure for God. Remember his strength was not in his long hair, but when he allowed it to be cut he violated his Nazirite vow, which was in disobedience to God.

The story of Samson leaves us thinking about what he could have done to strengthen the nation of Israel. He wasted much of his life, but in the end he realized God's love for him and his dependence on God. In the New Testament, Samson is not remembered for his failures. In Hebrews 11:32,33 he is listed with the men and women of faith, "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises." The lesson for us today is it is never too late to begin again. Samson's story is an awesome example of God's love. Just because your friends are doing something and you know it to be wrong, don't do it. Each new day brings the opportunity to make right choices. The Bible says in I Timothy 5:22, do not "share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure." In prayer, ask God to help you make pure choices, to strengthen you moment by moment. No matter what happened yesterday, it is never too late to put your total trust in God's love.

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## Crazy Little Thing Called LOVE!

Love can make you do, say, or even sing some pretty goofy things. Different men and women in the Bible got together because of that crazy little thing called love. Some of these couples were matches made in heaven, but others could have used some help from heaven. See if you can match up all the couples below. For an extra challenge, see if you can figure out which ones really made a good couple in God's eyes.



Answers: Adam & Eve, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Rachel, Joseph & Mary, Samson & Delilah, Ahab & Jezebel, Boaz & Ruth, Zacharias & Elizabeth, Ananias & Sapphira

## In the Name of... Jesus!

Jesus places a high value on acts of kindness. Jesus said, "When you give someone a glass of water in my name, it's like giving me a glass of water." WOW! When you do something kind for another person and you let them know it is because you love Jesus, it's like doing something kind for Jesus himself. Here's how that works. What Jesus wants more than anything else is to have people know how much He loves them and for them to fall in love with Him. One of the kindest things you can do for Jesus is to show someone how much He loves them by doing something kind for them. So start loving people in the name of Jesus with the acts of kindness listed below.

- When you are standing in the lunch line, let the person behind you get in front of you.
- Share some candy with a friend.
- Make cookies and then give them to a neighbor who needs a smile.
- Help mom and dad wash the car.
- Play with your little brother or sister while your mom prepares dinner.
- Smile a lot, and say "please" and "thank you" more than ever before!

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