



**DAY FIVE**

**MATTHEW 22:36-40; 1 CORINTHIANS 13**

Jesus teaches us that the greatest thing we can do is love people the way He loves us.



**REMEMBER THIS:**

"Let us keep looking to Jesus."  
HEBREWS 12:2, NIrV



**SAY THIS:**

Who wants to be your friend forever?  
**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.**



**DO THIS:**



Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, Jesus taught us that the most important thing we can do is love people the way He loves us. Please help me do that. Help me love people the way Jesus loves me. I know [child's name] is going to grow up watching me, and I want him/her to see me following Jesus. I love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

**BASIC TRUTH:**

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.**



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### THE WORK OF TEACHING KIDS TO VALUE EVERYONE

By Lauren Terrell

"I will never be friends with Will\*! He has a funny looking hand, and I will never play with him!" my 4-year-old passionately declared the moment she climbed in the backseat of our car after her first day of pre-k.

I froze, eyes wide, mouth open. My eyes flicked to the rearview mirror where I could see my little girl, scowling, arms crossed over her new navy dress with the words "BE KIND" spelled out in sequins. Where had I gone wrong? How had I missed the signs that I was raising a monster?? What were the magic words I had to say to reverse this immediately?

After every tactic I knew to compel my daughter to show empathy toward Will was met with an outright dismissal, I ended with a clear demand: **"I want you to be kind to everyone because everyone is important."**

"I knooooooww-uh! STOP TALKING!"

Confirmed: I was raising a monster.

That afternoon, as she watched Daniel Tiger (singing, "In some ways we are different, but in so many ways, we are the same" in the background), I ordered no less than 10 Everyone Has Equal Value-themed picture books to subtly slide into our bedtime story rotation.

I added movies to our queue with diverse heroes, researched places we could go

as to expose her to all kinds of people. And I signed our family up for a Meals on Wheels route.

I wish I could say she went back to school the next week and invited Will over for a play date. But I learned that I can't teach love in one day. There were no magic words I could say.

The truth is, my work on this subject will never be done. Not after reading all the books, watching all the movies, and delivering all the meals. Not even after she got in the backseat one day in May and announced, "Will is actually my friend!"

Being intentional about the books we read, the people we interact with, the way I speak to and about others—this is work I should have been doing all along—work I must continue doing the rest of my life.

We all have prejudices, fears, and biases. And we all have to be willing to do the work needed to make sure the next generation is one defined by their ability to see the intrinsic value in every person they meet.



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