

This “Fostering Love at Home” activity involves having family members draw papers with acts of love for each other, doing them, and then placing the papers in a gift box to give Jesus at Christmas or an empty manger to soften his bed.

1. Print the ideas for acts of love in the family. Have the kids help cut the papers into strips.
2. Place the strips in a dish or basket in a central location in your house where everyone will see them frequently.
3. Encourage all family members to randomly draw out a slip of paper whenever they want throughout the day. They should read it and try to do the act of love as soon as they have the opportunity.
4. Once the act of love has been completed (maybe you put it in your pocket until you can do it!) the slip of paper can be placed in either
 - A wrapped gift box
 - An empty manger (made of construction paper or a small basket with straw)
5. On Christmas, start your gift exchange or your reading of the Christmas story by
 - Presenting Jesus with the first gift (the gift box full of acts of love done by your family)
 - Or placing a figure of Baby Jesus in the manger (softened by your family’s acts of love)



Give a friendly smile to the next person you see.

Help clear the meal table without being asked.

Pray a Hail Mary for your mom.

Tidy up an area of the house.

Give someone a sincere compliment.

Write a note to an absent family member or relative; tell them how much they mean to you.

Offer to help someone.

Make a point of participating more in your next family time – add to the conversation, laugh along, ask about someone's day, etc.

Hold the door for someone.

Help with unloading groceries or taking out the trash.

Listen attentively to a family member.

Unload the dishwasher.

Think of something you can do to make someone happy and do it!

Ask Jesus to help you to love like him!

Choose some uplifting music for the family, that everyone will like.

Try to have good posture at the table – sitting up to show your attention and courtesy to others.

Practice good manners at the next meal – a little de-tail of love for those around you.

Next time you're tempted to say something negative, don't say it!

Thank God for your family – right now, in your heart.

Thank someone in your family for something specific they've done or something they always do without necessarily getting thanked.

Go to an image of Jesus in your house and pray for each of your family members by name.

Let someone else go first or have their way.

Pray a Glory Be for your grandparents.

During the next time of prayer (even if it's grace before a meal), do your best not to get distracted and really try to connect with God.

LISTEN in your heart –if there's something kind you feel you should do for someone, do it!

Tell a joke or say something funny to make a family member smile.

Motivate your family to take another slip of paper to do for each other/Jesus today.

Try to notice someone's need for help before they ask and help them.

Share your toys.

Remember to say "please" and "thank you."

Take turns.

The next time you make the sign of the cross, do it mind-fully. It is a prayer too!

Clean up your toys.

Organize a tiny "pleasant surprise" for your family. Be creative.

Say "please" next time you need something.

Find one small way to be responsible and do it.

Say "thank you" next time someone gives you something.

Be respectful to your parents.

Clean up your toys quickly.

Forgive someone when they've hurt you.

Don't fight with your brother/sister next time you're mad.

Be the first to apologize next time you've had a disagreement.

Stand by a picture of Jesus and pray for each member of your family.

Tell a family member something you admire in them - by note or in person.

Help your mom.

Pray an Our Father for a specific family member.

Use your words to explain when you're upset instead of shouting or hitting.

Take another slip of paper. (Yep - this one counts too! A bonus!)

Be extra good and try to listen next time you go to church.

Help someone else with their chore.

Thank the cook after a meal!

Help your brother/sister.

Next time you feel like complaining, don't!

Try not to make a mess at the table.

Next time you feel angry with someone, take a deep breath and ask Jesus to help you not say something mean.

Help your dad.

Listen to your mom/dad next time, so they don't have to tell you twice.

Say "I'm sorry" when you've hurt someone.

Color a picture for your Grandma and Grandpa or neighbor to cheer them up.

Let your brother/sister choose the story or show.

Share your snack with your brother/sister.

Give someone a hug.

Forgive someone when they've hurt you.

Be the first to apologize next time you've had a disagreement.

Tell a family member something you admire in them - by note or in person.

Help someone else with their chore.

Thank the cook after a meal!

Next time you feel like complaining, don't!

Choose some uplifting music for the family, that everyone will like.

Share your toys.

Take turns.

Clean up your toys.

Say "please" next time you need something.

Say "thank you" next time someone gives you something.

Clean up your toys quickly.

Don't fight with your brother/sister next time you're mad.

Let someone else go first or have their way.

Pray a Glory Be for your godparents.

During the next time of prayer (even if it's grace before a meal), do your best not to get distracted and really try to connect with God.

Be extra good and try to listen next time you go to church.

Help your brother/sister.

Try not to make a mess at the table.

Motivate your family to take another slip of paper to do for each other/Jesus today.