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Bringing the 4 L's Home

### **What are the 4 L's?**

In Crossing Kids, children learn the 4 L's to better understand that all behavior is rooted in the heart and when we follow God's laws, that's how life works best.

### **Love God**

### **Love Others**

### **Love to Learn**

### **Love Your Home**

### **All Behavior is Rooted in the Heart**

The way we speak and act reveals our love for God.

In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus tells us the greatest commandment:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

God is worthy of your complete love, praise, and worship. God is perfect. God is loving. He provides everything we have and need. He created all things. Even when we were still sinning, He sent Jesus to die the death we deserved in our place so that we can have new life in Him. It is out of this love for God, we can respond in words and actions. In John 13:35, Jesus says we are his followers if we love one another. It is because we love God, we respond in love to others and to all God has given us in life!

### **How to use this devotional**

This is a resource for parents to consider how they are modeling the 4 L's to their children. It is intended for you to work through alone (or with your spouse) as a way of exploring how to show your child what Loving God looks like, sounds like, and feels like in your home. After working through the parent section, you can move onto the family section with your children.



## Loving Others

What does it...

Look like?	Sound like?	Feel like?
<i>Resolving conflict in a Biblical way in front of our kids.</i>	<i>Speaking well of people we dislike or disagree with.</i>	<i>All people are God's children.</i>

## Loving to Learn

What does it...

Look like?	Sound like?	Feel like?
<i>Reading more books in front of my kids.</i>	<i>Sharing what I am learning in my Bible Study.</i>	<i>Everyone in the family is a life-long learner!</i>

## Loving Our Home

What does it...

Look like?	Sound like?	Feel like?
<i>Cleaning up after ourselves.</i>	<i>Thanking God for your home and possessions.</i>	<i>We are stewards of this home God has given us.</i>



Alone or with your spouse, choose a couple of areas you want to commit to growing in over the next couple of weeks. This is not about being perfect. In fact, the 4 L's aren't about performing and getting everything right. The 4 L's are a simple way to think about connecting your love for God and others to the words and actions in your life. You won't do it perfectly. God knows that and that is why He sent Jesus. He doesn't need perfection from you and neither do your kids.

Be open with your children that you are in process with the 4 L's too. We can always continue to grow in our love for God because there is infinitely more of Him to worship and praise for the rest of our lives and into eternity!

Now, take some time to pray for your child(ren). What do you love about how God created your kids? In what ways, do you see fruit in their lives through the 4 L's? Do you see roots of faith growing? What are areas your child(ren) need help in?

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

What do you love and admire in how God created this child?	What fruit of faith do you see, hear, and feel in this child's life?	How is she/he struggling right now?



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Spend some time praying over each of the things you wrote down for each child. Then find some time to do the family devotional section with your children.



## For the Entire Family

Before you gather your family together, you will need:

A bible

Large piece of paper or poster board

Markers or crayons

A candle

A sweet treat to share (fruit, candy, dessert, or even a spoonful of honey will do)

Read Mark: 12:28-31 together.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.<sup>[6]</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Ask:

What does Jesus say is the most important thing we do? (Love Him!)

And how do we love him? (All our heart, soul, mind, and strength.)

What is the 2nd most important thing? (Loving others like we love ourselves!)

Say: When we have a heart that loves God, it changes the way we think, talk, and act.

Draw 4 boxes on the poster and write each of the 4 L's in each box.

<b>Love God</b>	<b>Love Others</b>
<b>Love to Learn</b>	<b>Love Our Home</b>

These are the 4 L's. You might remember talking about them in Crossing Kids.

Let's work together to think about what the 4 L's would look like and sound like in our home. Work with your kids to draw or write examples in each box. Get creative!

When you are finished, ask kids: Why is it important that we obey God?

Then read: *Psalm 119:103-105*

*"Your words are very sweet to my taste! They are sweeter than honey to me. I gain understanding from your rules. So I hate every path that sinners take. Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me."*

This psalm tells us that God's words, his laws, are good for us.

His words are like a light! **(Light candle.)**

That means like the candle, He shows us the way to go. We won't ever be lost when we follow God.

This psalm also says his words, his laws, are sweet to the taste.

**Let's enjoy our sweet treat now.**

As you eat, remind kids that following God's ways, the 4 L's bring sweetness to your home and family.

This doesn't mean we will always do the right thing. In fact, we will all sin and mess up! God knows that. That's why he sent Jesus to die for our sins and to help us follow God's ways. We can ask Jesus to help us love God with all our hearts so that we can follow God's laws in the 4 L's.

Dear God,

We love you so much. Help us to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Help us to be amazed by your goodness and want to follow your ways. We need your help in Jesus. Make our love for you so BIG, that we want to love you, love others, love learning, and love our home in BIG ways. Remind us there is light and sweetest in following you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Hang up your poster in a prominent space and add to it as new ideas come up.

