

VALENTINE'S DAY

ESCAPE ROOM

UNLOCK THE MEANING OF AGAPE LOVE

PRINTABLE



AGES 8 & UP





VALENTINE'S DAY ESCAPE ROOM

Unlock the Biblical Meaning of Agape Love

Your students are on a mission! They are learning about love from the Bible. What a great concept to shed light on when celebrating Valentine's Day! Like most of God's unfolding story, this concept from the Bible contains several mysteries for almost everyone!

Students will solve the mysteries of LOVE and decoding the facts—so they can SEE THE LIGHT of God's love for us!

IT STARTS COMING TOGETHER in THE BIBLE'S LESSON ABOUT LOVE. To discover the LIGHT, students will use ciphers, cryptograms, and other puzzles.

Each of the four mysteries and their codes are unique. Some are easy for younger children; others require guidance or wisdom from older counterparts. The main fun is that codes require critical thinking to determine what secret lies behind each symbol. Each code will reveal interesting facts about love. These exercises will keep your students captivated while competing to find the final code.

The fun for teachers and parents is the lack of prep. This is a PRINT AND GO activity requiring little else! Enjoy solving the codes with the kids without cutting, pasting, and problem solving beforehand.

The best age range for our ESCAPE ROOMS is 8 and up. Younger students can still participate, but they may need some help.

The escape room package includes:

- Teacher Instructions
- Student Instructions
- Four Mysteries
- Four Decoders
- One Final Challenge
- Keys to the Kingdom (Prizes)
- Answer Key

The objective of our ESCAPE ROOM is to read and solve the four mysteries and complete the final challenge in the time allotted, and thereby earn a key.



TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students can complete the escape room alone, in partners, or teams. If you have a child younger than 8, we suggest they are paired with an older teammate.
2. Print out the 4 mysteries and final challenge for each student/team to fill in (pages 6-10).
3. Print out the 4 “decoders” (pages 12-15) and either spread them out so kids can view them as needed or hang them on the walls. Make sure they are placed where several students can congregate at once if needed.
4. Tell students they have [you decide] minutes to solve the 4 mysteries by decoding the answers, answering the multiple-choice questions, and figuring out the final 4-digit code. Between 30 and 60 minutes usually works well, depending on the age and ability of students.
5. Students can solve the mysteries in ANY order. Encourage them by saying, “If you get stuck, just move on and come back to the tricky one later.”

Note: The first time students see the codes, they may find them a bit confounding. That’s okay! Let them exercise their clue-solving skills independently for a bit before you jump in to help them.

6. Students will not be able to figure out the final code without reading through each mystery.
7. After all mysteries are solved and decoded, the four-digit code is cracked, and the Final Challenge is complete, give out prizes (keys). One key (symbolic to the keys to the Kingdom) should be given to each child involved in finding the solutions.
8. If time permits, review the answers to the Final Challenge to help reinforce the material.



ESCAPE ROOM INSTRUCTIONS



SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF LOVE

Our Bible is filled with sound wisdom, great advice . . . and **BIG MYSTERIES THAT NEED SOLVING!**

Today we will be solving four mysteries that have to do with. These are found in the following places in the Bible:

- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
- Psalm 51:1-2, Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 71:20-21
- Colossians 3
- Matthew 22:36-40

Your teacher may want you to read these passages before you begin. Be sure to ask!

THE 1ST MYSTERY: ISN'T LOVE JUST A WARM, ROMANTIC FEELING?

THE 2ND MYSTERY: HOW COULD THE LOVE OF ANCIENT PEOPLE AFFECT US TODAY?

THE 3RD MYSTERY: BUT I CAN'T STAND HIM! DO FEELINGS MATTER?

THE 4TH MYSTERY: WHY IS LOVE THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?

YOUR MISSION: SHED LIGHT ON THE MYSTERIES

Jesus said "YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD." It is our job to understand God's word so we can defend it!

THE MYSTERIES: Mysteries #1, #2, #3, and #4 will introduce you to people, places, and things in the context of the Bible. Each mystery will raise a question you need to answer.

THE DECODER: Visit the decoder for each mystery and SHED YOUR LIGHT (solve the mystery)!

THE KEY: Once you have solved ALL FOUR MYSTERIES using each one's DECODER, you must take one final step and earn the KEY. This KEY is a symbol of the KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN! In order to earn the key, you must decipher the four numbers needed on the four-digit code page.

When you have SHED LIGHT on the four MYSTERIES and obtained the four-digit KEY CODE, you will be given your symbolic KEY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

GO FORTH, SHEDDING LIGHT TO A WORLD FILLED WITH DARKNESS, OBTAINING KEYS TO THE KINGDOM!



MYSTERY #1:

ISN'T LOVE JUST A WARM, ROMANTIC FEELING?

First Corinthians 13:1-13 tells us what it means to love. This can be a confusing topic, so let's look at what is written in Scripture to see what we can learn about the subject. Long ago, the apostle Paul was in Rome, writing to the Corinthian church. These feisty Corinthians were not always loving, so Paul wanted to tell them what LOVE really means. His words describe the characteristics of love:

1. We can say a lot of things, but if we are not loving, our words don't mean anything. We're like a clanging bell, just making noise. We show God's love and our love through our actions. We can be ambassadors for Him.
2. We can be blessed with the gift of prophecy, but if we cannot love, our prophecy is worthless. There are all sorts of false prophets today. We can tell who they are because they prophesy that God will make us rich with money, instead of rich with joy and love.
3. Loving others means that we don't get jealous of them. An example of this is being happy for a friend who has something we don't have. God will be generous once we've mastered that.
4. Real love means not gossiping or hurting others. An example of this is finding something nice to say about another person who everyone else is complaining about. Everyone has good traits!
5. Love isn't easily moved to anger, but it is compassionate. We can put ourselves in another person's shoes. That's called empathy, and it can take practice!
6. Love means protecting others. It means helping, not hurting them! It means seeing the good in them and not focusing on the bad. We ALL make good and bad choices.
7. Love takes work. It is more than just a romantic feeling. It is a commitment to the traits above. As we start with the commitment to love people, we will find some that don't love us back. That's okay, because Jesus had that happen to Him too. As we grow, we learn to keep this commitment to love.
8. Human love is just a small glimpse of the love that God has for us. His love is so much bigger than we can imagine. His love can fill us and take over.
9. Of all the beautiful feelings we feel, love is the greatest. Let's work on that even before faith and hope!

QUESTION

Love does not boast. This means it is not:

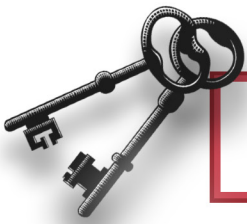
- a. humble b. a clanging bell c. loud d. proud

SECRET CODE

Question: When Scripture says our love cannot compare to God's, it means:

**RBT GKUT KH YKA VCGG EGVEXQ MT
MCYYTO EJA MTRRTO. CR CQ EUCEGEMGT
RK SQ RBOKSYB LOEXT0.**





MYSTERY #2:

HOW COULD THE LOVE OF ANCIENT PEOPLE AFFECT US TODAY?

The psalms were written in ancient times, around 3,500 to 2,500 years ago. Despite the differences from our modern culture, these psalms are STILL very popular! They are often looked to a source for understanding God's forgiveness, strength, and love, thousands of years after they were written. This teaches us that there are principles that remain unchanged and the hearts of men are still the same! For Valentine's Day, let's go back to visit the psalmists who wrote some great stuff about love in Psalms 51:1-2, 18:1-2, 100:5, and 71:20-21.

1. Of these psalms, King David wrote the first two, and the second two are among the 48 anonymous psalms (meaning the author is unknown). They were likely written before King David reigned, one thousand years before Christ!
2. The psalms tells us that God's love is steadfast. Steadfast means God's love stays the same, no matter what. Every day is Valentine's Day to God!
3. King David wrote about how God's love is full of mercy. He not only forgives us, but He enjoys forgiving us! He doesn't want out ability, He wants our availability. All we have to do is want to change and rely on Him and His mercy.
4. The psalms teach us that God's love washes us clean from the wrongs we have done. He forgives us and expects us to forgive ourselves. It's like He tosses our wrongdoings out over the open water and posts a sign: "No fishing allowed!"
5. The psalms teach us God's love is powerful. It can come over us when we have exhausted our own supply of love. We are often our best witness for Christ when we feel like we are too tired. When we are weak, He is strong.
6. The psalms teach that the strength of God's love makes Him worthy of our praise. God can fill us at times of need. We may end up saying, "Wow, God! I couldn't have done that on my own! Thank you for giving me strength!" That is a praise.
7. God's love can rescue us from the worst situations. Even 3,000 years after King David, most of us can think of a time when God saved us from danger.
8. When we find ourselves in situations that can't be fixed or immediately improved, God's love can still be felt in our lives. We can feel joy in sickness, gladness in sorrow, and hope in disappointment. The New Testament authors understood this 1,000 years later. Apostle Paul called it "the peace that passes understanding."
9. God's love continues forever. It never changes. It doesn't sleep. It doesn't give up on us.

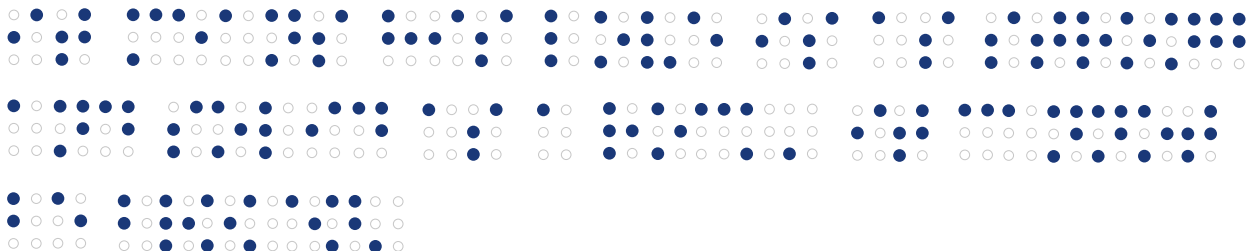
QUESTION

When we make mistakes, God promises to...

- a. remember it forever b. punish us c. tell us how we messed up d. comfort us**

SECRET CODE

Question: When the psalm says God is our Rock, what does that mean?







MYSTERY #3:

BUT I CAN'T STAND HIM! DO FEELINGS MATTER?

Loving others is tricky business, whether it's Valentine's Day or any other day. There are some people that are harder to love than others. We want to love them, but be truthful about feelings. So, how do we love others when it isn't easy? Remember: Love is a commitment, not a feeling. Feelings come and go, but it's important to keep our commitment to show love whenever possible. Let's visit the principles of committed love found in a New Testament passage famous for detailing love: Colossians chapter 3.

1. We are Christians and we should love like Christians. This is wonderful because it means that we have God on our side and He will help us, but we have to be willing to do His will.
2. We should stop doing things that we know would hurt others, especially because they will hurtful. Before we act, we should think how the same thing would feel if it were done to us. Remember the Golden Rule!
3. We should not lie, be greedy, or be jealous. Greed and lying are two of the biggest sins in the world right now. Jealousy is wanting what others have, and it is the root of all unhappiness and bitterness.
4. We shouldn't be mean or full of rage. We should speak to others with kindness and understanding. This is where our commitment comes in. When tempted to speak angrily, it's a good idea to walk away to cool off. We can't take back tomorrow what was said today.
5. It is very important to be compassionate when dealing with others, because the Lord is compassionate to us. Compassionate means feeling sorry about someone's bad circumstances and wanting to help.
6. It's important to be humble. Before growing angry with someone for making a mistake, we should think about our own mistakes. This prevents hypocrisy, which means expecting from others what we won't do ourselves.
7. We should see other Christians as our brothers and sisters. There was a time when Jesus' younger siblings thought He was crazy (see Mark 3). Instead of arguing back with them, Jesus called His followers His family and ignored the feisty ones.
8. We should treat each other with generosity. We should share and give to those in need. God loves a cheerful giver and He will treat us well when we treat others well.
9. In everything we do, we should remember we are ambassadors for Jesus. We should think of Him in our interactions with others. We are the light of the world, according to Jesus. People can see what we do and know that He must be real!

QUESTION

Jesus provides us this; it will help us love. It should govern our hearts:

- a. Lots of money** **b. a long life** **c. excitement** **d. peace**

SECRET CODE

WHISKY ECHO SIERRA HOTEL OSCAR UNIFORM LIMA DELTA TANGO ROMEO YANKEE
OSCAR UNIFORM ROMEO BRAVO ECHO SIERRA TANGO TANGO OSCAR ALPHA
CHARLIE TANGO LIMA INDIA KILO ECHO JULIET ECHO SIERRA UNIFORM SIERRA
ALPHA NOVEMBER DELTA TANGO OSCAR LIMA OSCAR VICTOR ECHO TANGO HOTEL
ECHO WHISKY ALPHA YANKEE TANGO HOTEL ALPHA TANGO JULIET ECHO SIERRA
UNIFORM SIERRA WHISKY OSCAR UNIFORM LIMA DELTA LIMA OSCAR VICTOR ECHO





MYSTERY #4:

WHY IS LOVE THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT? WHY NOT FAITH OR TRUTH-TELLING?

The Jews in the Old Testament lived their lives, following over 600 rules found in Leviticus and other books in the Bible. These laws were very important to the Jews, but Jesus came and taught that LOVE is the greatest commandment of all. Jesus said that if we truly love God and each other, that it fulfills ALL those laws! Let's visit Jesus as He gave the important words found in Matthew 22:36-40 so that we can understand this commandment better:

1. When asked what the greatest commandment was, Jesus said it was first to love God with our hearts, souls, and minds.
2. We should love God with our whole heart. We can show our love to God by keeping His commandments. And even though we can't see or touch Him, we can still talk to Him through prayer. We can do this often and ask Him how we should treat others.
3. We should also love God with our whole mind. That means we should pay attention to our thoughts; if we are thinking mean or hurtful things, we should stop! If we need help, we can pray for it.
4. We should love God with all our soul/strength. Our soul is like our spirit. Our spirit helps us think about what God would want us to. Then it helps us find the answer!
5. Jesus also said we should love others as ourselves.
6. We should love like we want to be loved—this creates a great guideline for knowing how to love others. A wise woman said, "Do you really want something? Give it! That's how to get it!" The principle holds true if we are lonely, need encouragement, need help, need a listening ear, and so on.
7. Jesus said loving our neighbor is the same as loving God. He said what we do for the poor, sick, and lonely here on earth is just like doing it for Him! When we share your sandwich with a homeless person, we are sharing it with God!
8. Jesus said the entire Law is actually about loving each other well. All 600-plus rules show some sort of love.

QUESTION

Jesus said the second greatest commandment is the same as the first greatest. The second one was:

a. loving God

b. loving your parents

c. loving others

SECRET CODE

LTDLOO OOHVOT VPAVEH ILPIHE NEPNIR GAYGM GSTEW

OEOAH DGSCE MOEHN EDEOW AIHTE NTIHL SMSEO TAPRV

RKESE YEOOE ISPWA NGLEC GOELH





4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

FIRST NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #1, the number of verses listed from Corinthians 13, MINUS the number of letters in the word LOVE

SECOND NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #2, the number of letters in name of the Bible book referenced ...

THIRD NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #3, the number of letters in the longest word in point #5, MINUS 4 ...

FOURTH NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

From Mystery #4, the number of letters in the last word of "love your neighbor as ..."

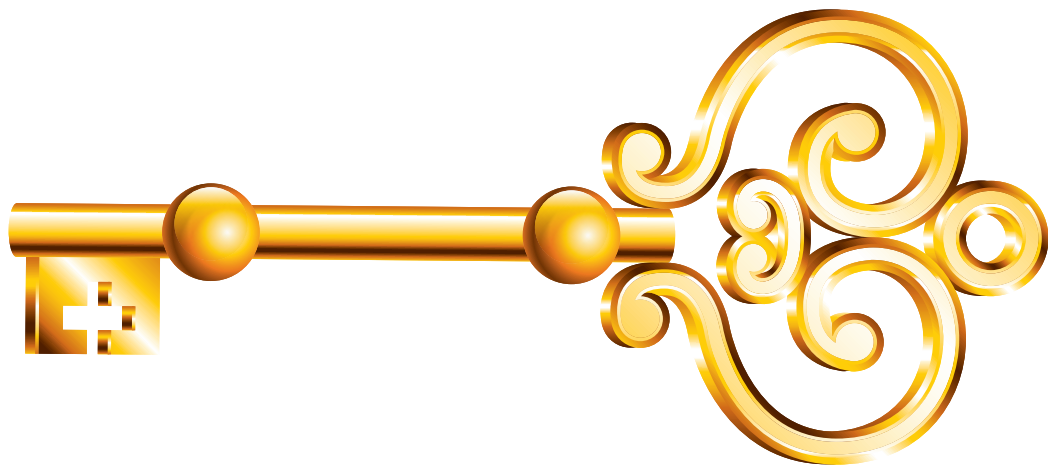
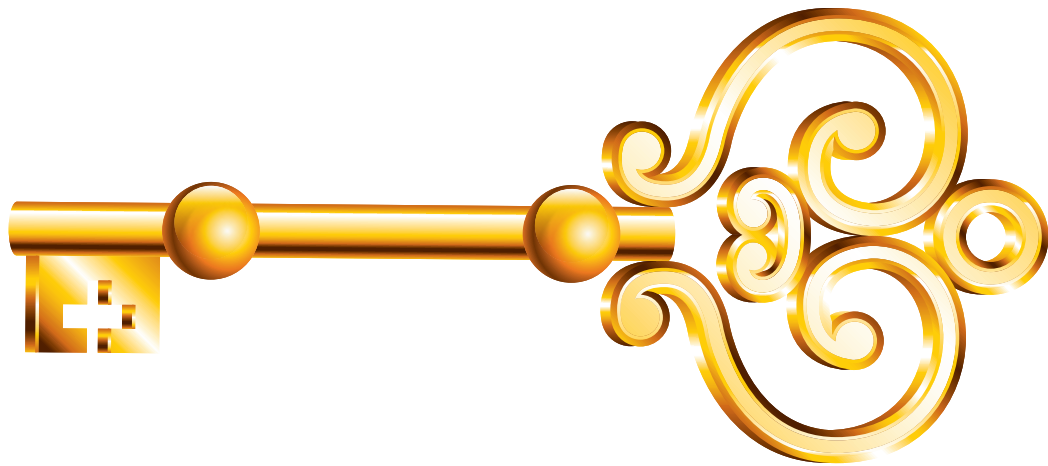
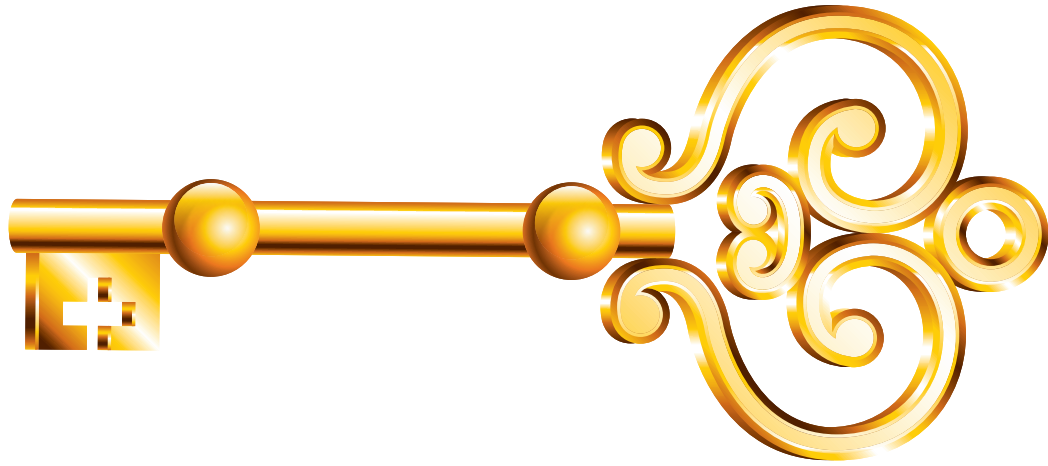
Enter the 4-digit code here to solve the Valentine's Day Escape Room: _ _ _ _

FINAL CHALLENGE

1. Love is being humble instead of a. childish b. reserved c. quiet d. proud	2. Who said loving God and loving others are the same? a. the disciples b. Jesus c. David in the psalms
3. We are held accountable to love when we become a. adults b. parents c. friends d. Christians	4. Everyone makes these and God will always forgive them: a. friends b. mistakes c. messes d. all of the above
5. When we have mean thoughts, we should a. hide them b. dwell on them c. laugh about them d. pray for help	6. Because God's love never ceases, we should always strive to love a. dramatically b. in a way that makes people proud of us c. more d. secretly
7. Being loving can sum up the whole a. law b. Bible c. Sermon on the Mount d. life of Apostle Paul	

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

Print and cut out these keys, one for each person who solves the mysteries.

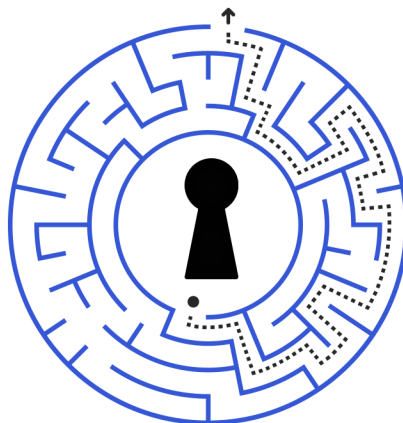




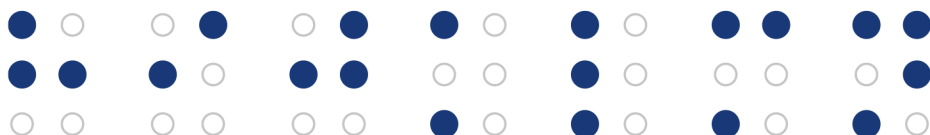
EMPATHY _ _ _ _ _

ABC _ _ _ _ _





A B C D E F G



H I J K L M N



O P Q R S T U

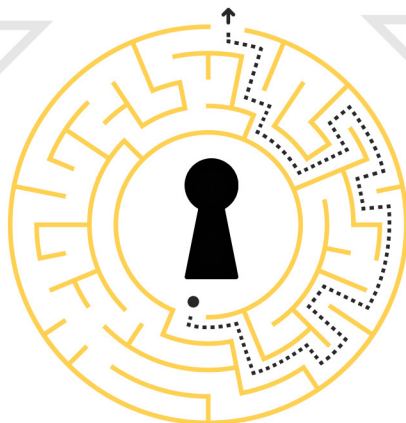


V W X Y Z DOT



ALPHA
BRAVO
CHARLIE
DELTA
ECHO
FOXTROT
GOLF
HOTEL
INDIA
JULIET
KILO
LIMA
MIKE
NOVEMBER
OSCAR
PAPA
QUEBEC
ROMEO
SIERRA
TANGO
UNIFORM
VICTOR
WHISKEY
XRAY
YANKEE
ZULU





FOOD



ANSWERS

MYSTERY 1:

Love does not boast. This means it is not:

- a. humble b. a clanging bell c. loud **d. proud**

Answer: **The love of God will always be bigger and better. It is available to us through prayer.**

MYSTERY 2:

When we make mistakes, God promises to...

- a. remember it forever b. punish us c. tell us how we messed up **d. comfort us**

Answer: **It means His love is as strong and solid as a rock. It cannot be broken.**

MYSTERY 3:

Question: Jesus provides us this; it will help us love. It should govern our hearts:

- a. Lots of money b. a long life c. excitement **d. peace**

Answer: **We should try our best to act like Jesus and to love the way that Jesus would love.**

MYSTERY 4:

Question: Jesus said the second greatest commandment is the same as the first greatest. The second one was:

- a. loving God b. loving your parents **c. loving others**

Answer: **Loving God means trying to please God. It makes God happy to see His people loving each other. So, we love Him when we love each other.**



ANSWERS

4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

Enter the 4-digit code here to solve the Valentine's Day Escape Room: **9698**

FINAL CHALLENGE:

- Love is being humble instead of
a. childish b. reserved c. quiet **d. proud**
- Who said loving God and loving others are the same?
a. the disciples **b. Jesus** c. David in the psalms
- We are held accountable to love when we become
a. adults b. parents c. friends **d. Christians**
- Everyone makes these and God will always forgive them:
a. friends **b. mistakes** c. messes d. all of the above
- When we have mean thoughts, we should
a. hide them b. dwell on them c. laugh about them **d. pray for help**
- Because God's love never ceases, we should always strive to love
a. dramatically b. in a way that makes people proud of us **c. more** d. secretly
- Being loving can sum up the whole
a. law b. Bible c. Sermon on the Mount d. life of Apostle Paul

CIPHER HINTS

HOW TO READ THE CODE WORD CIPHER (PAGE 12)

This is a code word cipher. Following the code word, fill in the rest of the alphabet removing any letters already used in the code word. Match it up to the regular Alphabet to form the key.

HOW TO READ A BRAILLE CIPHER (PAGE 13)

This is the Braille alphabet. Match the symbol to the letter to reveal the message

HOW TO READ A PHONETIC ALPHABET CIPHER (PAGE 14)

This is a phonetic alphabet. Alpha is for A, Bravo is for B, Charlie is for C....

HOW TO READ A BLOCK CIPHER (PAGE 15)

This is a block cipher. Arrange the groups starting on the left and working to the right, into columns from top to bottom.