

Epic: A love story for the ages



Use this guide to help your family learn how we can share God's love with others.

Activity

The Gigantic Turnip

What You Need:

A device where you can play the read-aloud version of *The Gigantic Turnip* by Aleksei Tolstoy and Niamh Sharkey: <https://bit.ly/3jPVzHg>. This can also be found by searching "The Gigantic Turnip read aloud" on YouTube.

What You Do:

Invite your child to listen as you read *The Gigantic Turnip* (or play the read-aloud video). Prompt your child to think about or write down what they think the main idea of the story is. If your child has trouble concentrating, invite them to doodle or take notes as you read (or as the story plays).

When the story is finished, ask your child to sum up the point of the story. The man and woman thought it would take their strength, along with all the larger animals, in order to pull the turnip from the ground. But what caused the turnip to actually come up from the ground was the strength and hunger of the little mouse. The little mouse is the one who made the difference!



Talk About the Bible Story

Today, we heard how Jesus took a long, complicated list of laws people were expected to follow and made the list shorter. How is what Jesus did similar to the story we just listened to? (*A focused effort from a small source [or a short list] can make a huge difference.*)

In our story today, what was the question Jesus answered that got Him talking about the two greatest commandments? (*Someone asked Him, "Which is the most important commandment in the Law?"*)

How can we show that we love God? (*By loving others*)

What are some practical ways you can show love to others around you? (*Forgiving others, treating others with respect, showing kindness, being a good listener*)

When you love others, what does that show them about God? (*That God's love is big; God's love includes everyone; God is a Father worth following and obeying*)

Parent: Tell your child about a time you showed love to someone, even when it was difficult.

Love: Showing others how much they matter to you

Memory Verse

"Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins."
1 John 4:10, NIV

Bible Story

Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:34-40

Key Question

What do you love?

Prayer

Use this prayer as a guide, either after talking about the Bible story or sometime before bed tonight:

"Dear God, thank You so much for sending Your Son, Jesus. We're so thankful that Jesus made a way for us to connect with You and have a relationship with You. Thank You for showing us what love looks like. We know it sounds simple—to love You and to love others. But in reality, that can be hard to do. Give us opportunities to show Your love to those around us, and to keep growing in our faith by loving You. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen."