

How can I show love for my roommates in practical ways?

“True love requires action. We can speak of love all day long—we can write notes or poems that proclaim it, sing songs that praise it, and preach sermons that encourage it—but until we manifest that love in action, our words are nothing but ‘sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal’” (1 Corinthians 13:1; Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “You are My Hands,” *Ensign*, May 2010).

Prepare yourself spiritually

Why is it important to love our roommates? In what practical ways have roommates shown love to you? What are some things you have done to show love in your apartment?

Prayerfully study the following scriptures and resources. How can you help group members recognize that their love for roommates can be manifested in everyday practical ways?

- John 13:34-35 (Love one another)
 - 1 John 3:16-18 (Love in deed)
 - Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “You are My Hands,” *Ensign*, May 2010
 - Video: Troy Dougherty, “Love” segment from “The Practical Work of Building Zion in Your Apartments and Homes,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, Jan. 21, 2014
 - “Practical,” Merriam-Webster Dictionary, www.merriam-webster.com
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Begin the learning experience

Choose from these ideas or think of your own to introduce this lesson:

- Read President Uchtdorf’s quote found at the beginning of this lesson. Ask group members to share something that a roommate has done for them that made them feel loved.
 - Discuss the meaning of “practical” and identify specific ways in which love can be practical among roommates.
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Learn together

Each of the activities below can help Home Evening group members learn how they can build Zion in their apartments. Following the inspiration of the Spirit, select one or more that will work best for the group.

- Divide the group into two or three smaller sub-groups and assign each of the sub-groups to read one or two sections of President Uchtdorf's talk "You are My Hands." The sections are: "We are the Hands of Christ," "Our Hands Can Embrace," "Our Hands Can Comfort," and "Our Hands Can Serve." Ask members of each sub-group to share what they can do to embrace, comfort, and /or serve roommates in their apartment. In what practical ways can roommates become the hands of Christ?
 - Watch the 5-minute "Love" segment of Brother Dougherty's talk "The Practical Work of Building Zion in Your Apartments and Homes." Review a few of the "I love God by" statements from the talk. Which statements resonate most with group members? Why? What are they doing now in their apartments to show love for their roommates? What would they like to do? How can even the smallest acts of smiling, sharing, and serving foster a spirit of love in an apartment? What are some other practical ways we can show love for our roommates?
 - Read together 1 John 3:16-18. Ask group members how they sometimes "shut up [their] bowels of compassion from [their roommates]." What changes in their lives do they need to make to become more compassionate and loving? What does it mean to express our love to our roommates "not...in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth"? How is this accomplished on a day-to-day basis?
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Live what we are learning

A lesson is not complete until an invitation or challenge is extended that inspires and motivates participants to apply what they have learned. "It's in the doing, not just the thinking, that we accomplish our goals" (Thomas S. Monson, "A Royal Priesthood," *Ensign*, Nov. 2007, 59-61).

- Invite each member of the group to write the following statement on a piece of paper; "I will show my love for [*consider the name of a roommate*] by [*consider something practical*]." This

statement can be written two or three times according to the inspiration of each group member.

- Ask each group member to fill in the blank of the following statement: "I have felt the most love from a roommate when _____." Now, invite group members to perform that very act for one of their current roommates.