

Love Like Jesus

Elder Ronald A. Rasband, *Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION · SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 · OCTOBER 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE

THE BIG IDEA

When someone I love walks away from Jesus Christ, I can trust Him with them and keep loving them like He does, because He's got this.

You'll need: Eight slips of paper for the sort game (see Interactive moment).

Parent note: This talk is for anyone whose heart aches for a loved one who has stepped away. For kids, that might be a cousin, a friend, an older sibling, or a parent. Keep it kind; no names needed.

1 HOOK

2 MIN

QUICK POLL Someone you love has stopped following Jesus. What works best to help? A) Arguing. B) Lecturing. C) Sending them links to conference talks. D) Something else. Vote.

Then: Elder Rasband admitted people try all of those, even sending links to talks like his own, and that they can make the gap bigger. His answer is D: love, prayer, and trusting Jesus Christ, who, as Elder Rasband put it, says to all who grieve: "I've got this!"

2 KEY TEACHINGS FROM ELDER RASBAND

8–10 MIN

1 Everyone chooses, and the battle is the Lord's

"By divine design, brothers and sisters, everyone must choose for themselves to follow Jesus Christ."

— Elder Ronald A. Rasband · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

In Lehi's dream, many people were heading for the tree of life, which is the love of Jesus Christ. A mist of darkness came, and some wandered off. Each person chooses which way to walk.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

He quoted the Old Testament: the battle is not yours, but God's (2 Chronicles 20:15). "We cannot change their hearts, but He can; He is a God of miracles." His plea: "I ask you to turn over to Jesus Christ your despair for those wayward souls." What would handing that worry to Jesus look like?

2 What love is, and isn't

"Love is not stepping back or sanctioning others' decisions and actions. Love is being interested in their lives, their successes, and their challenges."

— Elder Ronald A. Rasband · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

If a cousin stops coming to church, love isn't a lecture. Love is asking about his soccer game, laughing at his jokes, and being glad to see him.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

He quoted President Thomas S. Monson: "Never let a problem to be solved become more important than a person to be loved." And President Oaks: "Let us avoid what is harsh and hateful. Let us seek to be holy, like our Savior." How do you love someone without approving of everything they do?

3 Pray, and never give up

"We fail only when we give up and stop trying, so never, never give up on those you love."

— Elder Ronald A. Rasband · exact words

FOR AGES 8–11: MAKE IT CONCRETE

Alma the Younger rebelled against God. His father prayed for him with great faith, maybe for years. Then an angel came and said the Lord had heard his father's prayers (Mosiah 27:14). Alma became a mighty prophet.

DEEP CUT · AGES 12–16

The prodigal son came home after wasting everything. Elder Rasband asked what brought him back: "It was love. He knew where to find it." Would the people you love know where to find it?

3 INTERACTIVE MOMENT

2–3 MIN

SORT IT: LOVE IS / LOVE ISN'T Write these on slips and have the kids sort them into LOVE IS and LOVE ISN'T: lecturing; asking about their life; arms open and a cheerful face; ignoring them; praying for them by name; nagging; inviting them to a family activity; sending them twelve talk links.

Reveal: Elder Rasband's love is list: being interested in their lives, being there with arms outstretched and a cheerful countenance, lifting with faith and hope, relying on the Holy Ghost. Arguing, lecturing, and ignoring didn't make his list.

4 TALK ABOUT IT

3 MIN

YOUNGER (8–11)

How can you show love to someone who doesn't believe the same things you do?

OLDER (12–16)

Why might pushing harder push someone further away? What has helped you when someone wanted you to change?

5 RECAP: THE KIDS EXPLAIN IT

2 MIN

Ask the kids to explain: Whose battle is it? What did Alma's father do? What brought the prodigal son home? Then end with Elder Rasband's last words: "Trust Him. He's got this!"

Listen for: Everyone chooses. Only Jesus can change hearts. Love = interest, open arms, prayer, not lectures. Never give up. Jesus is the answer.

6 TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

1 MIN

A parent shares your witness that Jesus Christ knows and loves every person in your family, including anyone who has stepped away, and that there is always a way back. Elder Rasband testified: "He gave His very life to bring them home, all the way home."

7 THIS WEEK, AS A FAMILY

1 MIN

ONE THING TO DO This week, each person picks one person who has drifted (or who doesn't come to church) and does one kind, no-agenda thing for them, and prays for them by name each day.

☐ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat ☐ Sun

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:15; Mosiah 27:14; Luke 15:20 · **Full talk:** churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2026/10/210rasband

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