

Bible Story: Matthew 5:13-20

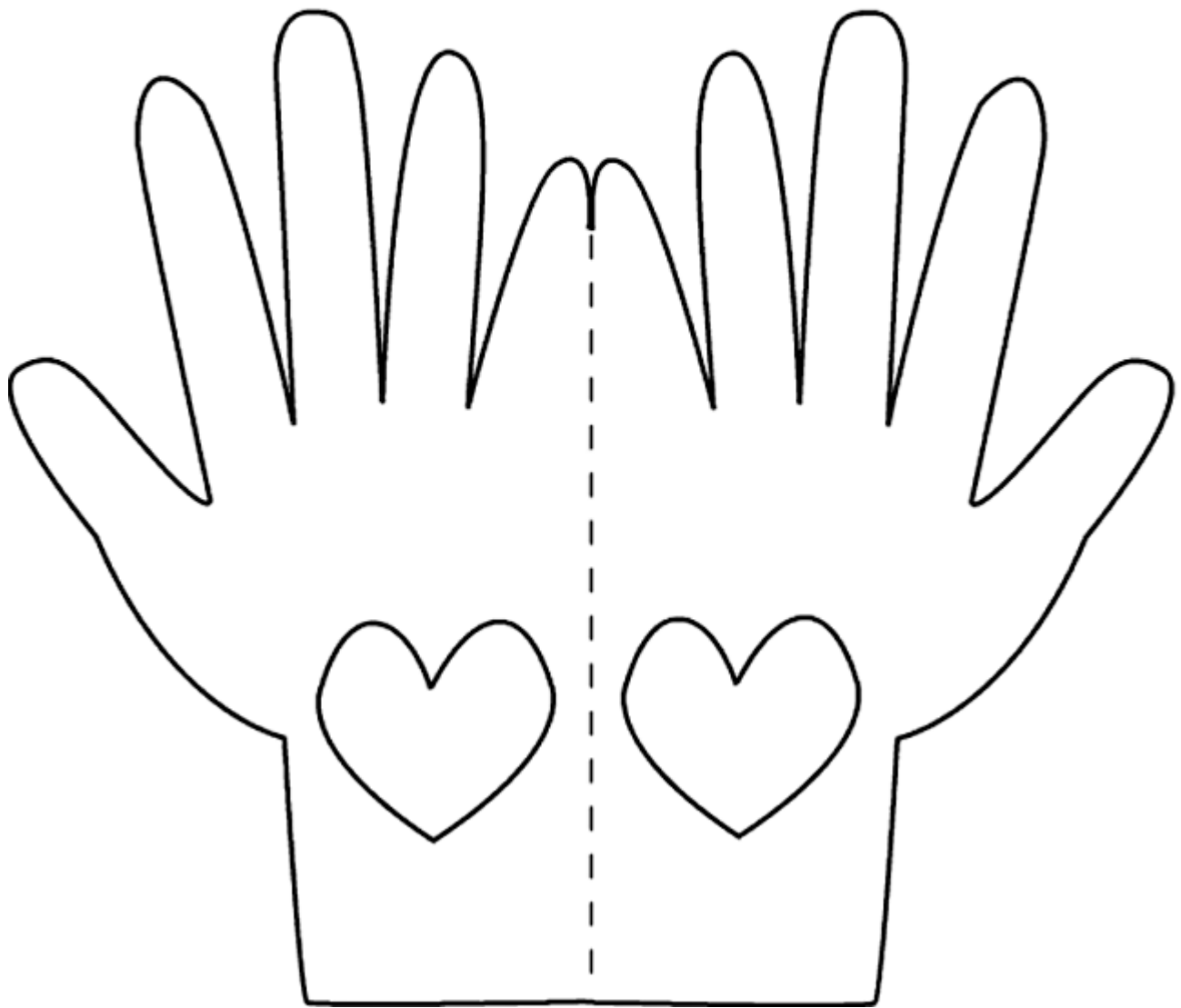
Wonder: Do you ever help your mom or dad cook or bake in the kitchen? If so, do you ever get to see the secret family recipes? When I look at the recipes that I use in cooking—some complicated, some simple—some sweet, some spicy, some savory—I have found something in common. What ingredient do you think might be the same whether I am making buffalo chicken dip, corn chowder, macaroni and cheese, chocolate cupcakes, or sugar cookies? Do you think they all have hot sauce? Flour? Chocolate? Nope. It'd be really strange for all of these items to share an ingredient, and yet they do. They all have salt! The thing with salt is that it is a magic ingredient. While it has a taste on it's own, when mixed with other ingredients, it just makes those ingredients taste better or stronger. Salt is like an ingredient booster. And you don't need much at all—most of my recipes it's a pinch of salt, or a quarter teaspoon. Tiny amounts. But if it's missing—I can tell. The dish just doesn't taste right.

Today we hear from Jesus that we are the salt of the earth. That means we are essential earth boosters. We make the world a better place and if we're not there the world knows. The thing is—we don't do that as flavoring. But we do that with love. In following God's rules, as God's children—we bring love into everything we do—or we try our best to. We are God's heart and hands in the world—so as long as we follow God's recipes for living, we are always sprinkling love no matter where we go. Which is perfect timing to be talking about this with Valentine's Day. This week especially we remember how we get to be love in the world.

Create: On the next page is a Crayola Activity sheet. This sheet helps you make a very special Valentine's day card. Here you can decorate hands however you'd like—but what is important is the heart in the middle. It reminds us this week, during a time we intentionally remind others that we love them-- we are spreading God's love. That work is in your hands. And it's in the hands of whoever gets your card too. So, color your card and cut it out. You can fold it and include a special note of encouragement on the inside for when you give this to someone this week!

Hands Love Card

Decorate the hands with Crayola® crayons or markers. You can draw rings on the fingers or add colorful nail polish. Inside the heart write the name of the person you are giving this to. Cut out the card and fold in half on the dotted line. Write a message inside for the special person.



© 2019 Crayola. Serpentine Design®

Find everything imaginable at [Crayola.com](https://www.crayola.com)