

LETTER FROM HEAVEN

by MaryEllen Uthlaut

Clothes and books were piled high on Andrew's unmade bed. School papers littered his dresser and desk. Andrew sat on in the only uncluttered section of the floor. He frowned at his Bible.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," Andrew read from Matthew 22:37. He wanted to love the Lord. The problem was he didn't know how. Would he love God more by playing soccer or baseball? Should he be a police officer or a teacher when he grew up? The Bible didn't say.

A tap on the door made Andrew look up.

"Look what came in the mail for you!" Mom announced, waving an envelope in the air. "Dad may be overseas, but he hasn't forgotten his family." She waited at the door while Andrew read.

Dear Andrew, On a submarine like this one, there is a lot to do. Everyone has his job, and each job is important. But I

am not too busy to think about you. I hope you are working hard at school and helping Mom all you can at home. Don't forget to pray and read your Bible. I am looking forward to seeing you soon! Love, Dad

Andrew missed his dad, but getting the letter helped a lot. Dad's work sounded exciting. Andrew wondered whether God wanted *him* to work on a submarine someday. *How would I know?* The thought made him





frown again.

"I wish God would write me a letter," Andrew told his mom.

"Then I would know exactly what He wants me to do."

"Whatever you do, you should do it to please God," Mom answered. "But God gives you lots of choices."

"Too many choices!" Andrew moaned.

Mom looked around for a place to sit, finally settling on the end of Andrew's bed.

"I know one way you can do what God wants," she said. "You can honor your parents. Do you remember the verse that tells children how to do that?"

"Sure!" exclaimed Andrew. Ephesians 6:1 was one of the first verses he had memorized. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

"Yes," Mom said. "And 'obey your parents in everything.' That's what Colossians 3:20 says."

Andrew picked up his letter again. "I'm glad Dad tells me exactly what he wants me to do,"

he said. Then he smiled. "Hey, it's almost like I *did*

get a letter from God!"

Mom laughed. "I like the part about helping Mom at home," she said. "You could start by cleaning this room. That would show God that you love your parents—and Him."

Andrew looked around at the clutter. "OK, Mom," Andrew said, with a sigh. But he felt kind of good.

What did Andrew learn?



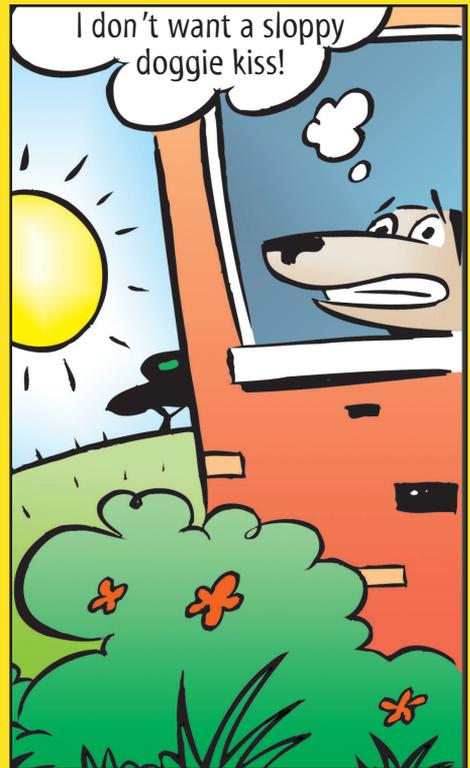
How do you show your love for God?





BY JENNA LUSBY

ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT ANGLE



just for fun

Bible Memory Crossword

Place the missing words from your Bible Memory in the puzzle grid.

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "' (#4 down) the Lord your (#1 down) with all your (#2 down) and (#9 across) all your (#8 down) and with all (#11 across) mind.' (#6 down) is (#10 down) first and (#7 across) commandment. And the (#5 across) is like it: 'Love your (#3 down) as (#12 across)'" (Matthew 22:35-39, NIV).

