

12 Seeds Growing in Love is a series published by 12 Seeds International, Inc. 1515 E. 66th St., Mpls., MN 55423

**Purpose:** to help followers of Christ obey His command, recorded in John 13:34: "Love one another."

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**Please pray:** for the families, friends, teammates, students, military personnel, inmates, released offenders, recovering addicts, and others who are striving to increasingly practice the 12 Seeds in their daily living with the Lord and with others.

Willing to love

There's a true story about Johnny, a small boy whose sister Mary needed a blood transfusion. She had the same disease he had recovered from two years earlier. Now her only chance of recovery was a transfusion from someone who had recovered from the disease and who had the same rare blood type.



The doctor asked Johnny, "Would you give blood to Mary?"

Johnny hesitated. His lower lip was trembling. Then he said slowly, "Sure, for my sister."

The nurse inserted the needle into Johnny's arm. He watched the blood flow through the tube. After some time, Johnny asked the doctor, in a shaky voice, "When do I die?"

Johnny had thought that giving blood to his sister meant giving up his own life.

How much do you know about . . .

NURTURE

Select the best answer:

- A brief working definition for nurture is: "care & \_\_\_\_\_, loving support."  
a. joy b. feeding c. happiness d. fun
- I Cor. 13:8a says, "Love never \_\_\_\_\_."  
a. has to say it's sorry b. grows  
c. happens d. fails
- What job title is derived from a similar word origin as the word "nurture."  
a. jackhammer operator b. trucker  
c. nurse d. elevator operator
- Amy Carmichael said, "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without \_\_\_\_\_."  
a. a credit card  
b. blaming c. smiling d. giving

Answers on other side.

NURTURE

CARE & FEEDING, LOVING SUPPORT

Love never fails.

– I Corinthians 13:8a

Nurture is caring for another, providing help and nutrition to promote their welfare and development. It is love – with love defined as *seeking the highest welfare of the one loved* – in action. When nurture grows, relationships grow. Nurture helps fill the human need for *love*.

Nurture others!

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A PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for the many ways You care for me. Please help me to be more sensitive to the needs of others. Help me to lovingly care for them. Please remind me often of Your words, "Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these My brethren, you did it unto Me." In Your Name I pray, Amen.

The 12 Seeds are Biblically based relationship principles that are lived out through five habits in order to love others. All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Consider these verses . . .

Luke 10:33-36

Acts 24:23

I Corinthians 13

I Peter 5:6-7

Consider these questions . . .

How is nurturing a way to love others?

Does nurture help a relationship grow? Why or why not?

What could you do to care more for others?

What *will* you do?

Love seeks one thing only:  
the good of the one loved.

– Thomas Merton

Answers to quiz on side 1:

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. d

Next issue . . . SYNERGY

- Cooperation and Teamwork
- What need does synergy help fill?