

faith at home

Weekly Resources for Collective Worship, Spiritual
Development and Pastoral Care

PHASE: PRIMARY

**WEEK 3 THEME:
LOVE**





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE: Love is a verb! The Bible teaches that Jesus calls his people to love others through their actions and words, something which he demonstrated continuously throughout his life and teachings. Christians call this type of love *Agape*, a practical love that reflects the love God has for his people.

‘We love, because God first loved us.’ 1 John 4:19

BIBLE PASSAGE & STORY OF THE WEEK:

Healing of the paralysed man Luke 5: 17-26

‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.’ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

agape

[a-ga-pei] • Greek

(n.) a selfless, unconditional love; one

that persists no matter the circumstance

TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE

KEY QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“Agape love is selfless love ... the love God wants us to have isn’t just an emotion but a conscious act of the will – a deliberate decision on our part to put others ahead of ourselves. This is the kind of love God has for us.” Billy Graham

LISTEN: Reckless Love by Cory Ashby

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE> This Christian worship song is about God’s unconditional love for mankind. It uses the analogy of the lost sheep to describe the Christian belief that God loves everyone so much, that he will come and find us.

‘Love God, Love people’ by Danny Gokey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-29WLQ3trA> This song is about how people can show their love for God by showing love to others through their words, actions and thoughts.

‘Love Divine, All loves excelling’ by Charles Wesley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw5ZCZeS32M> The words of this favourite hymn describes the love Christians believe that God has for mankind and how they see Jesus as the ultimate demonstration of this love.

WATCH & LISTEN: Something to make you smile: This video might get you in the mood for a week focusing on love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ilEvQNRs_M

WATCH: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/agape-love/> Love by The Bible Project. This sets out an explanation of what Agape love looks like in the Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, we thank for Jesus, the gift that demonstrated your love for us. Help us to share and show this love with others, even when it is difficult. Help us to love those who are difficult to love. Guide us to people who need to know your love. Amen

THINK:



What do these pictures make you think of?

How might it be possible to share or give love away?

I wonder how the Christian symbol of the cross and the heart might be connected?

I. COLLECTIVE WORSHIP - *Invitational, Inclusive, Inspiring.*

GATHER:

Find a place where you can be still, without interruptions. You might like to light a candle as you begin.

I wonder, what love might mean to you?

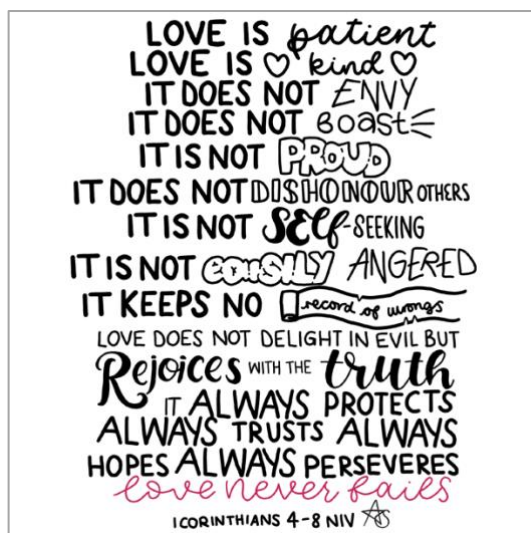
There are lots of different types of love, I wonder if you can think of any?

There is the love between brothers and sisters and other family members, love between friends, romantic love, love you have for your favourite food or the love you feel for your pets.

ENGAGE:

'Love is...' How would you finish off this sentence?

The Bible gives Christians a really clear description of what love is and isn't ... I wonder if you have heard this passage before?



Share the passage together, or you could use this video clip:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F9_A7XIU6k

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

As you read this passage, I wonder which line jumps out?

I wonder if there is a description of love that speaks to you?

What do you notice about how love is described in the Bible?

Love is an action. I wonder what you think about this? Do you agree?

I wonder how you know that someone loves you? Hopefully through their actions, words and thoughts. I wonder if you think this description of love goes across all the different types of love we talked about earlier?

The Bible also talks about different types of love. *Agape* love is mentioned many times in the New Testament as it describes **selfless, unconditional love**. That means, doing something for others without expecting anything in return.

The Bible story for today demonstrates this *Agape* love. I wonder if you can spot it when you hear the story.

Luke 5: 17-26 tells the story of the paralysed man, who is brought to Jesus by being lowered through the roof by his friends.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFCe5iwTtFw> (Song telling the story of Jesus healing a paralysed man)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpcJoPDF3v4> (Video clip telling the story - watch from 55s to 4.50)

I wonder why his friends did this for their friend who was paralysed?
How were they showing *Agape* love?

I wonder where you might have seen this type of love happening in your community, house or school?
Why don't you talk to your family about that now?

REFLECT:

I wonder, how could you love people with your actions? What might they need right now?

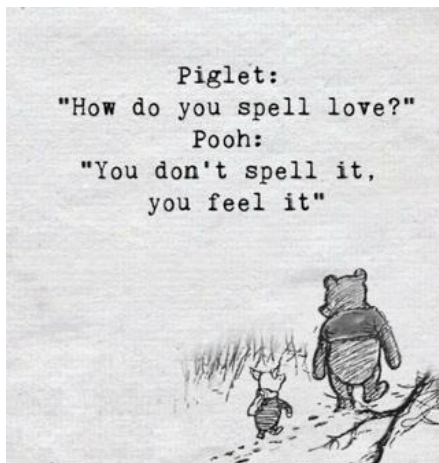
If you would like to, use this format to write or say
a prayer.

S – Sorry
T – Thank you
O – Others
P – Please



Dear God,
Sorry for the times when I haven't loved people through my thoughts or actions.
Thank you for all those that love me and for all those I love.
Help my community to share love with each other through their actions.
Please help me to love people in practical ways, especially those who are harder to love.
Amen

SEND OUT:



Piglet:
"How do you spell love?"
Pooh:
"You don't spell it,
you feel it"

Remember, love is an action.

How could you show love to people with the things
you do?

2. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Add your thoughts and reflections from this week to your journal. Where have you seen love in action within your community?

Reflect again on passage from 1 Corinthians (in the Bible) about love:



Which types of love do you find easier?
What types of love do you find harder?
Why don't you reflect on these with your family?

Write or draw on the visual image of the Bible passage as you pray or reflect.

Talk to someone about how you could be even more, kind, considerate or forgiving with your actions and thoughts.

Use the **EXAMEN** prayer to reflect on love. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for someone you love today
2. ASK FOR HELP to love someone who is hard to love
3. REFLECT on your day and think about the times when you have shown practical love to someone else 😊 or a time when you could have acted in a more loving way 😊
4. SAY SORRY for the times you have acted in a way that didn't show love
5. DECIDE how you will share love with others through your thoughts, actions and words

ACTIVITIES that can help develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Draw around your hands and then cut them out, but keep the two hands joined together. Can you see the heart in the middle of the two hands?

Write the names of people you love on each hand. This could be family or friends. Use this as a reminder of people that you love.

Maybe you could hold this when you are saying your prayers?

I wonder if you could write names on your cut out hands of people that are harder to love, could you ask God to help you share your love further?



Do the Prayer Spaces at home activity 'Love > (is bigger than) fear'

<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/prayer-spaces-at-home>

CONVERSATIONS STARTERS that can help develop RELATIONSHIPS-COMMUNITY:

- Is love always an action? A verb? Something that we *do*?
- Can you love and hate someone at the same time?
- How do you know someone loves you?
- What do you do to show someone you love them? How does their response make you feel?
- How could love help to build our community and the relationships within it? What difference does love make?

3. PASTORAL CARE - ideas for looking after...

Ourselves & Our staff

Listen to 'Lovin' me' by Jonathan McReynolds, which talks about the Christian belief that God's love is unconditional, despite who we are and what we do. May it encourage you that you are always loved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfyVej2OdQg>

I wonder how you can celebrate acts of *Agape* love as a community?

How can we say thank you to those who have acted selflessly towards us out of love and kindness?

Do we share these with one another, perhaps through our staff briefings or newsletters?

Who reminds you that you are loved and valued for all you are doing right now? Try and make a note of the moments when you feel appreciated.



Our families & Our community

Love can mean many things for different people, it may conjure up images of happy times or bring back memories of sad or frightening experiences. Love is a basic emotion that we all crave. I wonder how we can help our families to know they are loved through our words, communications and experiences? The Bible passage in 1 Corinthians 13:8 says 'Love always perseveres. Love never fails'.

How can you remind your families and communities of that today?

Can you share some of your staff members' acts of love and selflessness with your community?

Or examples from your community – asking others to contribute?

Perhaps through your newsletters and communications?

GOING DEEPER/FURTHER RESOURCES

Read 'Because I love you' by Max Lucado. This is a beautiful story that illustrates the Christian belief that God loves everyone he created. You can watch this story being read here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-x2fKihzmOA>

Find out more about Love Languages. <https://www.5lovelanguages.com/5-love-languages/>

Everyone gives and receives love differently, but with a little insight into these differences, we can be confidently equipped to communicate love well. This is true for all forms of relationship – for couples, for children and teenagers, for friends and co-workers, for long-distance relationships, or even – at this time – socially-distanced relationships. Understanding how we give and receive love can help us understand how others might like to be shown love, too.

Watch: There are many examples of *Agape* love in films. I wonder if you can think of any?

Buzz and Woody in Toy Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBaP6BOTwT8>

Elsa saving Anna in Frozen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T38GW7kKQHo>

Sophie and the BFG: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niV6CBd9HgM>

Mike and Sully in Monsters Inc: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IBNZ6O2kMk>

Watch one of these films together as a family.

Read these Bible verses to help you to love others through your actions.

Share some of your actions with your family, school and community

Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?