



Love Overview

See Separate Weekly Plans

Definition: Love is regarded as the jewel among the virtues - love sums up all the values. Jesus quotes the key commandments of 'Loving God and loving our neighbour as ourselves' - in this way love sums up all that is most important about life. But love must not be 'just words'. It means something only when it is expressed in action and practical care. - To love means putting other people's needs before your own. Christians teach that only when we love like this, can we become the best sort of people we can be. Christians believe that Jesus' life and work are our best examples of love in action. Christians believe that a loving God made people in love, for love and that when this love is missing their wholeness as human beings begins to unravel. Agape - Love - YouTube



Key Bible Character - Key Bible Character - In his Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus made the point that we should extend our Christian love to all people of the world, regardless of race, religion, nationality, or any other artificial distinction.

Questions - Who loves you? Who do you love? How do you know that someone loves you? What is the true test of love? What can I do today to show love to other people?

The Lord's Prayer <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lords-prayer>

Key Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 - Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, 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. Colossians 3:14 (CEV): 'Love is more important than anything else. It's what ties everything completely together.'

Bible stories/verses linked to forgiveness	Bible chapter and verse	Key message
1	The Good Samaritan Lion Storyteller Bible - The Kind Stranger p.104 - Luke 10:25-37	In Jesus' time, Jews and Samaritans were sworn enemies - a deeprooted hatred that went back generations. Because of this, they don't talk to nor trust each other. But this Samaritan stopped and helped. He didn't care that the dying man was a Jew. Instead, he only saw a fellow human being who needed help. This is what makes the Good Samaritan Parable one of the greatest Bible stories about loving others. It tells us that love has no race or borders. If someone is in need and we can extend help, we should. Someone's belief, skin colour, or religion shouldn't matter because we all belong to the same race - the human race.

2	Spur each other on with love/ be like Jesus - Hebrews 10:24 Discuss the different ways that Jesus showed love. Explain that the Hebrews were encouraged in their letter to be more like Jesus.
3	Love your neighbour - Mark 12:31 Talk to the children about what it means to 'love your neighbour'. Ask the children to share some examples of times when they have shown love to their neighbour or that their neighbour has shown love to them. Discuss how we could show love to our neighbours.
4	Jesus sacrificial love for his disciples when he washed their feet - John 13:2-5 Jesus didn't come for others to serve him, but to serve and love others. Washing the disciples' feet was an act of love. He wanted to teach them by setting an example for them to follow. His disciples who had been following Jesus for 3 years must have heard Jesus preach multiple times about love yet, they were still quarrelling among themselves who should be greater.
5	The widow's mite - Mark 12:38-44 Although she only had a small amount to give, her gift was more important than that of the people who were giving large amounts of money. Why was this? How could we be like the widow? Is it always about giving money? How might giving be a show of love to others?
6	Moses and the Pharaoh's Daughter - Exodus 2:1-10 To save his life, Moses' mother put him in a basket and allowed the basket to float down the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughters were taking a bath in the river. When she saw the floating basket, she became curious and asked one of her servants to pluck it from the water. Upon opening the basket, she saw that it was a Hebrew baby. Knowing full well the danger he was in, she took pity on Moses and decided to adopt him. And that's how Moses grew up in the court of the Egyptian king. Just like the parable of the good Samaritan, Moses' adoption story proves that love transcends race. The Egyptian princess was aware of her father's orders. Yet she went against him and risked his wrath just to save the boy. She may not have known it at that time but her act of kindness eventually saved an entire nation.
7	Jesus and the taxman - Luke 19:1-10 In Jesus' time, tax collectors like Zaccheus were unpopular. They took bribes and would often line their pockets at the expense of the people. When Jesus expressed his desire to dine with Zaccheus, he was showing him love and helping him. Jesus accepted him for who he was, regardless of his faults.
8	Love is patient. Love is Kind - 1 Corinthians 13 Love isn't easy. It involves not giving up; taking time; listening; sharing suffering; being thoughtful. It is said that true love is spelled T I M E.
9	The story of Dorcas, who put her love into action - Acts 9 People often remember kind deeds. Although Dorcas couldn't preach or heal people like some of her fellow followers of Jesus, the people of Joppa - especially the needy - loved her. They knew that Dorcas loved them and unselfishly gave them what she could. This was Dorcas' way of sharing her love for Jesus.
10	Jesus shows compassion healing a blind man - Mark 10.46-52 Jesus showed compassion many, many times in the Bible.