

# faith at home

Weekly Resources for Collective Worship, Spiritual  
Development and Pastoral Care

**PHASE: SECONDARY**

**WEEK 3 THEME:  
LOVE**





## KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

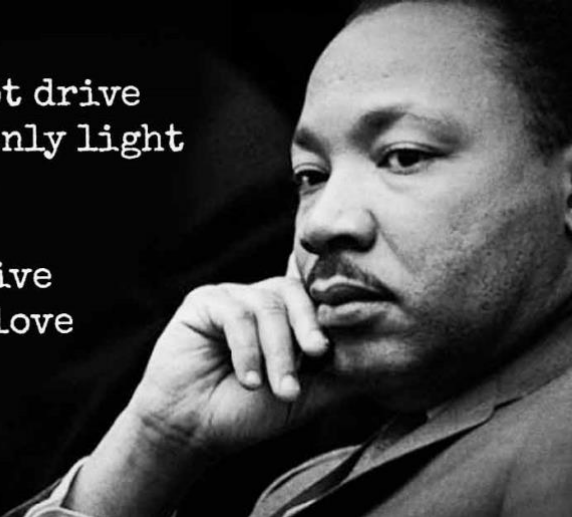
**KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:** Christians believe that Love is the greatest thing they are called to. Jesus said “Love the Lord your God and Love your Neighbour as yourself”. This means loving those who may be different to us, or more challenging to show love to. It may also involve a level of discomfort on our part.

## BIBLE PASSAGE & STORY OF THE WEEK:

**BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:** The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37 & Mark 12: 28-31

“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

But the expert in the law wanted to justify himself so he asked: ‘And who is my neighbour?’



Darkness cannot drive  
out darkness; only light  
can do that.

Hate cannot drive  
out hate; only love  
can do that.

Martin Luther King Jr.

## TO CONSIDER AS YOU PREPARE

## KEY QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

*'Every unselfish act of love whispers God's name.'* Bob Goff, *Restore International*

**LISTEN:** *Where is the Love?* by the Black Eyed Peas asks challenging questions about who we should be showing love to and how:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=where+is+the+love%3F&ie=&oe=>

*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 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:** The Bible Project Shema series: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/shema-listen/>

**PRAY:** Lord God, thank you that you first love us. Help me to love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. Help me to love others as you love me. Help me to communicate your love to others this week by my actions and my words. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## THINK:



What does this picture make you think of?

Is it better to give or to receive love?

How would you characterise the love of the parent, and the love of the child?

Which do you need right now?

# 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 to remind you that Jesus is the Light of the World.

## ENGAGE:

What do you think is happening in this picture?



In today's Bible story, Jesus talks about the Good Samaritan – a stranger who helps an injured person, who would normally be considered his enemy.

**Read** the passage together: Luke 10:25-37 or Mark 12: 28-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+10%3A25-37&version=NIV>

Thinking of the story Jesus told, can you think of a real-life situation where someone has acted as a “Good Samaritan”?

**Watch** this video, giving a modern interpretation of The Good Samaritan, produced by the Bible Society:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/what-we-do/england-and-wales/the-good-samaritan/>

**Discuss** the different ways in which people respond to Sam depending on how he looks. Who are we willing to give help to? Why might we not feel able to help others?

**Look** again at the picture.

Who else would you expect to help the injured man? What might be their excuses for not doing so?

What happens next?

Share a real-life story that you know of, about a situation involving people in need, where help came from an unexpected person or group: perhaps something you have seen in the news.

**Consider** the idea that Christians believe that by loving their neighbour they are communicating the love of God to others.

## REFLECT:

In the Bible story, the expert in the law asks: “So who then is my neighbour?”

### **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR**

THY *HOMELESS* NEIGHBOR

THY *MUSLIM* NEIGHBOR

THY *BLACK* NEIGHBOR

THY *GAY* NEIGHBOR

THY *IMMIGRANT* NEIGHBOR

THY *JEWISH* NEIGHBOR

THY *CHRISTIAN* NEIGHBOR

THY *ATHEIST* NEIGHBOR

THY *DISABLED* NEIGHBOR

THY *WHITE* NEIGHBOR

Who do you think your neighbour is?

Is there anyone whom you don't think counts as your 'neighbour'?

Are there people you find it more challenging to show love to?

Why do you think that is?

What could help you to overcome any barriers you have towards others?

## SEND OUT:

See if there is an opportunity to help someone else this week – to show love for your neighbour. For example, could you contact someone who you think may be lonely or in need?

Highlight things that have caught national attention e.g. Captain Tom Moore.

### **PRAY:**

Thank you, God, for the times I have been helped and shown love by others.  
Help me to spot and act on opportunities this week - to love my neighbour as myself.  
Amen.

## 2. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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

### EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

**Remind** yourself that you are loved: Think of a person, hold an object, look at a photo, find a quote, draw something you remember or a symbol of being loved. You may find it helpful to use the Lord's prayer to remind yourself of God's love.

**Design** a wall design – gather together pictures of people in our world today who may need our help. For each picture, record answers to the following:

“I might not want to help this person because.....” or “I would find it difficult to help because.....” followed by “But, I could show [God's] love to them by.....”

You could add to this each time you notice someone in need. You might like to light a candle for them and/or say a prayer, asking God to help them.

### ACTIVITIES that can help develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Your nearest neighbours are in your family. **Read** about love languages and ask a family member how you can show that you love them today.

<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.

Ideas include: Washing up (act of service), playing a game (quality time), giving encouragement (words of affirmation), giving a hug (physical affection), making a small homemade present (gifts).

Why don't you make up a quiz to find out someone's main love language?

How can you 'speak' their 'love language' and show them you care?



Love Language	How to Communicate	Actions to Take	Things to Avoid
 WORDS OF AFFIRMATION	Encourage, affirm, appreciate, empathize, compliment. Listen actively	Say I love you Write notes saying you are proud of them. Praise them in front of others. Be specific in your praise	Non-constructive criticism, not recognising or appreciating effort.
 PHYSICAL TOUCH	Non-verbal - use body language & touch to emphasize love.	Hold hands, give hugs, pats on the back. Read stories together Give family group hugs	Physical neglect, abuse of any kind.
 RECEIVING GIFTS	Gifts & gestures show that you are known, loved and cared for.	Give thoughtful gifts & gestures. Small things matter in a big way. Express gratitude when receiving a gift.	Forgetting special occasions, unenthusiastic gift receiving.
 QUALITY TIME	Uninterrupted and focuses one-on-one time. Give undivided attention. Watch as they are playing.	Create special moments together. Make eye contact Pay attention to details Eat together as a family.	Distractions when spending time together. Long stints without one-on-one time.
 ACTS OF SERVICE	Use action phrases like "I'll help..". They want to know you're with them and there to help.	Do chores together. Work on projects together. Pick them up on time.	Making the requests of others a higher priority, lacking follow-through on tasks big and small.

BASED ON "THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES", A BOOK BY GARY CHAPMAN

EQ4Kids is part of the *Seeds of Inspiration* movement

## CONVERSATIONS STARTERS that can help develop RELATIONSHIPS-COMMUNITY:

- Who is my “neighbour”?
- Can you love and hate someone at the same time?
- How do you know someone truly loves you? What would you expect them to do for you?
- What do you do to show someone you love them? How does their response make you feel?
- How important is respect in showing someone love? Can you love someone without respecting them?
- How could love help to build your community and the relationships within it? What difference does love make to a community?

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

### Ourselves & Our staff

**Identify** your own love language (<https://www.5lovelanguages.com/5-love-languages/>) so you know how to care for yourself at this challenging time, and also know how to ask for the kind of love you need.

We discover people’s love languages by observing them and noticing what is important to them. What do you notice your staff doing? How might this communicate the way in which they experience and receive love?

### Our families & Our community

Think about who in our school community particularly needs help right now?

Is there anyone who is more challenging to love?

How can we demonstrate our love for one another, even though we are far apart physically?

Share acts of love within our community through the school website, social media or newsletters. Love is contagious – it’s amazing how quickly it can spread!

## GOING DEEPER/FURTHER RESOURCES

**Find** Bible verses and passages about loving God and loving one another. Here are a few to get you started:

Now find a modern day quote you like about love. How do they compare?

Were do you see similarities? Where do they differ?

### 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)

**Explore** what different religious leaders have been during lockdown to show love to their neighbours. Here’s one example of a Church of England vicar:

[https://twitter.com/RuthHulse?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/RuthHulse?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)

**Watch** 'Rich Tea's Love' video which explains the 5 Love Languages in more detail:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HT2PjO94ZAE&t=11s>

**Create** a Tik Tok to a song about a love and try to include the love languages.

**Listen/Watch:** What song would you choose to best summarise your understanding of love? What kind of love is this?

e.g. Mika- Love today- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWiccrTB4LM>

Frank Sinatra- Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmSzRx9RYLk>

Lewis Capaldi - Someone You Loved <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zABLeCsR5UE>

**Watch** Agape Love video from the Bible Project: <https://youtu.be/slyevQ1LW7A>



# 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?