

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

SESSION
11

A LOVE FOR YOU

 **John 15:5-17 The Vine and the Branches**

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

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Ask each child to bring some moisturising cream (with parental permission) with them to the session.

Start It

Ask one group member to say their name and something or someone that they love. For example, *'I'm Naomi and I love my rabbit, Smudge.'* Then ask the next person to say their name and something they love and then repeat the first person's name and what they love. *'I'm Edward and I love pizza. This is Naomi and she loves her rabbit, Smudge.'* Keep going to include all the group members. Of course, the list will get longer as the game progresses. Can you get all the way round the group without any mistakes? Could you go around twice!?

Memory verse. Ask who can remember the memory verse from the previous session and have one or two people recite it.

● **Say:** We are going to continue with the theme of love from the previous session; today we are going to look at how we love others.

Sing It

This song reminds us of the ways we can show love to each other.

'Love One Another'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYIkcoAFLU4>

Tell It

Share screen: Display the Bible text John 15:5-17 and read it aloud to the group.

With the text still shared, ask: Who can spot the verses in this Bible passage that talk about love?

Allow a group member who wishes to answer the question to annotate on to the text, stamping a heart or underlining where they have seen the word 'love'. You could ask one group member at a time to stamp one place where they see the word 'love'. If your group are too young for this, then you could do the annotation instead.

Ask: Now we have discovered all the times this Bible passage uses the word 'love', what do we discover about who we should love? And how much?

Allow time for response and discussion.

Summarise by reading John 15:12 and 17 again.

🗨️ **Say:** Wow, so we learned two things here. Can anyone tell me what they were?

One - Jesus commands us to love each other. And by each other, he means everyone.

Two - Jesus commands us to love exactly like he loves.

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus said there would be one giveaway clue that would tell the rest of the world who were his disciples. Other people will know that we are Christians when they see the way that we love one another. The way we treat each other is to be so distinctive, so different, so loving that people around us will want to know what makes us different. We can love other people because we know that Jesus loves us.

Ask: What does it mean to love someone?

Allow time for response and discussion.

🗨️ **Say:** Those were some good answers. Let's see what else the Bible has to say about love.

Share your screen and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. You may prefer to share an illustrated version of this text that you could find if you do an internet image search - for example, by searching for '1 Corinthians 13:4-7 child'.

Action It

Before the session, find an online customisable spinner. (This is a good one: <http://www.superteachertools.us/spinner/>) Customise the spinner so that each segment has one of the 'ways to love' from 1 Corinthians: patient, kind, not proud...

Share the spinner on your screen.

Pick one of the children and spin the spinner and see what segment it stops on. The child then gives an example of a practical way that we can demonstrate that 'way to love' in our everyday lives. Continue until all the children have had a turn and all the segments have been discussed.

Alternatively, you could spin the spinner and ask each child to give a practical example of that 'way to love' in turn, then spin the spinner again, until all the segments have been discussed.

From all you have discussed, ask each group member to commit to one practical thing they could do this week to show love to someone else. They could each type their action into the chat function and share it with everyone.

Share screen: Share the following Scripture and read aloud together.

I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you.

(John 13:34 CEV)

Challenge the group to memorise this verse by the next session.

Pray It

Ask everybody to take a small blob of their moisturising cream. Ask them to close their eyes and think of someone that they know needs God's love. Ask them to rub the cream into their arm as they pray that God will enable them to show that person his love through a practical action.

You could say a prayer aloud that the children say 'Amen' to. For example:

'Jesus, please help me to love others. Please give me a chance to show your love to the person I am thinking about now. Amen.'

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.