

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever watched the programme *The Price Is Right*? In the gameshow contestants compete to guess the price of items such as televisions, kettles, fridges, cars and holidays. If they guess correctly or their guess is the nearest, they win that prize.

In our homes we have lots of items that are of great value in terms of money. Over time, as things get old or stop working, we have the opportunity to replace them and in some cases buy items which are better than the previous one.

But what about other things in our homes? Photographs, memory boxes and family members are all of great value, but we are not able to put a price on them as they are priceless and irreplaceable.

PREPARATION

- ✦ Make sure you have been given the *Love Looks Like* sheet and *John 3:16 Colouring In* take-home sheets.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

Throughout the Bible we hear of the importance of love. 'Love your neighbour', 'Love yourself', 'Love your enemies', 'Love each other', are just a few. But the most quoted verse comes from John 3:16:

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

God gave Jesus to us, and he paid the ultimate price for each and every one of us; a sacrifice that was immeasurable, irreplaceable and incredible.

This was a sacrifice God made, in which we see the extent of his love for each of us, by giving his Son so that we may have eternal life.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Here are some ideas to help you this month think about love and how you can do that as an individual and/or as family

LOVE LOOKS LIKE...

'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

Use the *Love Looks Like* sheet you will have been given. Around the heart write words that describe what the word love looks like to you.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

JOHN 13:34-35

Show your love for others by offering your help. A few ideas could be: to offer to go shopping for someone, help in the garden, help in the house, wash the dishes, run the vacuum cleaner round the house, knit or sew a gift, or make a card. There are lots of ways you can show your love for others.

LOVE IN ACTION

‘Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.’

1 JOHN 3:18

For a month, could you give the cost of something you would normally do or buy? The money saved each week could be given towards the Helping-Hand Appeal – ‘Waves of Transformation’ – which is raising money towards Salvation Army international water projects.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

‘But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’

MATTHEW 5:44

This is not always easy to do. This month bring the people who you find really difficult to love to God in prayer. Ask him to help you to love them despite your differences.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

‘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 [most important commandment] is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’

MARK 12:30-31

Why not invite your neighbours around to the house for a cup of tea or coffee, and take time to get to know them a little more in that time?

LOVE YOURSELF

‘For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.’

PSALM 139:13-15

Spend some time this month for yourself: go for a walk, visit your favourite place, go to the hairdressers, or buy yourself a treat. Take time to thank God for who you are and the person that God has made you to be.

FOR GOD SO LOVED

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’

JOHN 3:16

Play some worship music in the background and take some time to colour in the take-home sheet. Spend some time thinking about the sacrifice that God made for all of us.

SONG TIME

Spend time listening to, reflecting with, or singing along to...

- * ‘Flow gently sweet Afton’ by Paul Sharman
- * ‘Compelled by love’ by Stephen Pearson / Andrew Blyth
- * ‘I stand amazed’ by Phil Bailey

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/faith-at-home

REFLECT

How has this month made a difference to others? How has loving others made a difference to you? How has loving others made you feel? How has loving made others feel? Is this something that you can make an everyday part of your life?

SHARE

Share your favourite way of showing love to others both as family and as an individual. Share these things also with the person who gave your family the Faith@Home Challenge. Discuss with others who are using this month’s challenge and see if there are any other ideas that you could use.